

# 2025 Legislative Affairs Priorities

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

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### **Position Statement**

We recognize and appreciate the support and commitment to education by the legislature. Quality education and training is a priority, it is the key to the success of economic prosperity. We encourage the Legislature to implement and fund proven programs for educating our future workforce and creating the framework for future generations to enter and excel in the job market. We support the objective of Utah school children ranking in the top ten in all fundamental subjects and in graduation rates. We encourage the Legislature to promote achievement in traditional education subjects and in career and technical education in order for Utah students and businesses to remain globally competitive.

### **Support Funding for Education**

We support improving the quality and quantity of educational outcomes. Secure and sustained funding should support growth, higher achievement, improved instruction, and more effective programs to generate higher graduation and completion rates. We encourage the Legislature to consider our education systems, crafting a balanced approach to community growth and density.

### **Quality Education is a Priority**

We recognize that education is the very foundation on which Utah will build its business strength and vitality. We support the Utah State Board of Education and the Utah System of Higher Education's (USHE) efforts to adopt and improve high standards for student learning. We support Local Education Agencies in meeting the needs of their students by delivering instruction in-person, online, or through hybrid programs, while maintaining high quality standards.

### **Jobs for Economic Prosperity**

Meeting the needs of Utah businesses is a principal goal of ChamberWest. Any company wishing to begin, expand or relocate to Utah requires a dedicated, well-trained workforce in order to be successful. We support stronger ties between educational entities and the business community. We also support collaborative efforts with government agencies and nonprofit organizations whose programs lead towards enhanced employment and training. We support state legislation that promotes programs and systems that prepare students for college and/or career readiness. We also note the role a business-friendly regulatory environment has played in Utah's economic success and urge restraint and balance when considering additional legislation impacting business and the workforce.

### **Support Career and Technical Pathways and Competency Based Education**

We encourage the development of an educational pathway in which every student, no matter the background or family situation, can receive a world-class education and training, leading to a degree or certification, in both K-12 and post-secondary education.

Students that demonstrate competency should be able to convert experience into credit toward completion of workforce certificates or towards completion of a degree.

### **Higher Education Funding**

We support funding for USHE institutions that reward certificates and degree completions, efficiency, and addresses high-demand workforce needs.

### **Subcommittee Members**

Tim Sheehan, Salt Lake Community College, Chair  
Anna Barbieri, Councilmember, Taylorsville City  
Scott Brown, Salt Lake Community College  
Kory Holdaway, KMH Consulting & Government Affairs  
Trish Hull  
Stephanie Lyon, Stratus HR  
Steve Pluim, TalentTeam  
Bryan Scott, The City Journals

Mike Anderson, Jordan School District  
Ron Bigelow  
Becky Guertler, Utah Veterans BRC  
Ben Horsley, Granite School District  
Jordan Larson, Varex Imaging  
Mike Pace, Cookietree Bakeries  
Brent Scherzinger, Zions Bank