

UtahMentor.org – Utah’s Premier College Access Web Portal

Start-Up:

Utah’s College Outreach Program originated in 1999 under the direction and guidance of the Utah System of Higher Education. In 2007, this program has expanded to include other state wide collaborative partnerships, and a staff of five dedicated to grass roots efforts relating to college access and outreach. UtahMentor.org, intuitively connects, guides, and assists Utah students with proper academic and financial information allowing for proper preparation for college. This program is funded and sustained by the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, a subsidiary of the Utah System of Higher Education.

Mission Statement:

Utah’s College Outreach & Access Mission is to inform, educate, guide, and assist all students and parents with making informed decisions about preparing, participating, completing, and paying for Higher Education in Utah, with a priority and emphasis in serving low-income, first generational, and ethnic minority students.

Partnerships:

K-16 Alliance

Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)

Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA)

Utah Education Savings Plan (UESP)

Public & Private Two and Four Year Colleges and Universities

- Offices of Admissions, Recruitment, School Relations, Financial Aid, & Student Services

- GEARUP, TRIO, Upward Bound, and ETS

Utah’s College of Applied Technology (9 campuses)

Utah State Office of Education

Utah School Districts (Middle and High Schools)

Utah’s Department of Workforce Services

Adult Education

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Issues and Hurdles:

Marketing and branding (name recognition and web portal address)

Aligning philosophy, objectives, goals, and rigorous curriculum, between public and higher education

Aligning cohesion between the Utah System of Higher Education and UHEAA

Creating and sustaining informational, educational, and professional development for Utah Educators

Aligning state web based systems (Choices and Mentor)

Building and sustaining trust with State constituents

Sustainability:

School, Student & Outreach Services Team

State wide “Buy-In”

College Access Initiative (HERA), State Guaranty Agency required to deliver by Federal law

State agencies recognizing the “VALUE” in state wide collaborative partnerships

Non-duplicative efforts (combined funding and resources)

Measuring and evaluating usage, success, and application to educational policy

Funding: Guaranty Agency, Legislature, Grants, Federal Perkins (or combination thereof)

Future Projections:

An enhanced College Access Web Portal with one universal message, “Prepare, Participate, and Complete Higher Education.”

- Education Pays, work demographics have shifted, sustaining a family of four, and quality of life

Ongoing Legislative funding

State wide GEARUP partnership (collaborative web portal and training)

State Agency shared funding contribution, marketing, and resources

Re-branding from UtahMentor to a new program, alliance, URL, and/or foundation name to represent all agencies

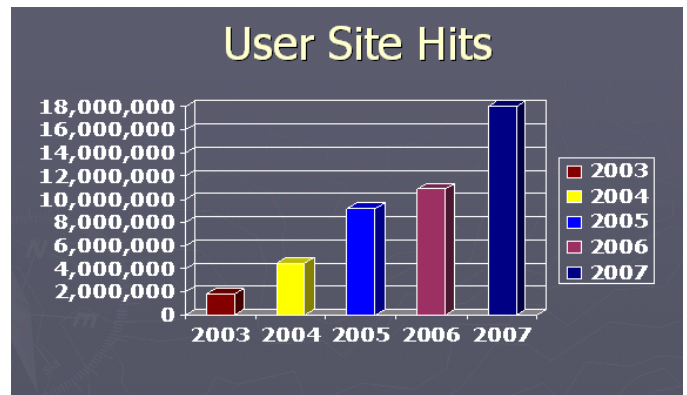
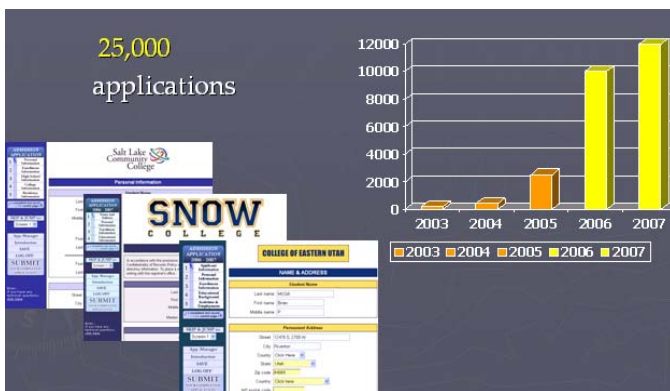
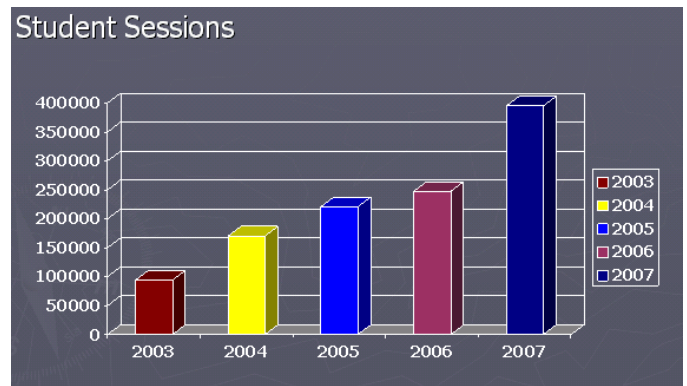
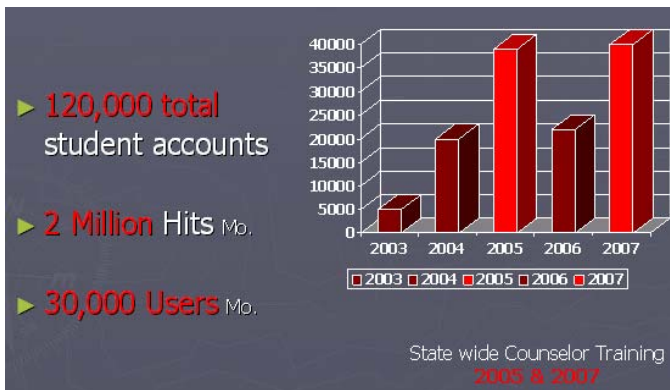
- Consolidating many current related college and career planning web sites into one
- UtahMentor, UtahChoices, UtahPathways, UtahMajors, & UtahCTE

Utah Scholarship Database

Measure and evaluate association of services with enrollment, participation, and completion rates using StudentTracker

Web Site Delivery and Methodology:

- **Connect** Careers to Majors to Colleges
- **Plan & Prepare** Academically for College
- **Select and Visit** a Campus
- **Apply** for Admissions
- **Search** Scholarships
- **Research & Apply** for Financial Aid
- **Save, Add, and Edit** your information in your **eBackPack**



UtahMentor

Utah's Premier Guide for College, Career, and Financial Aid Planning