

Improved College Access the Goal for Utah Education Leaders, REL West, Southwest Comprehensive Center

To strengthen and accelerate efforts to increase college readiness, access, and success for all Utah students, REL West and the Southwest Comprehensive Center at WestEd, in partnership with the offices of the Utah Governor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Commissioner of Higher Education, hosted an event on January 10, 2011, in Salt Lake City that brought together the state's K-16 education leaders.

Some 150 invited participants heard a keynote address by William Tierney, Professor of Higher Education and Director of the Center for Higher Education Policy at the University of Southern California, who presented the research-based recommendations in *Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do*, a Practice Guide published by the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education. Pamela Perlich, Senior Research Economist in the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, and Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Utah, presented current demographic, education, and economic data, as they relate to the recommended practices.

To frame discussion on policy issues, three recent reports on recommendations to improve college access and success in Utah were presented by a panel that included Superintendent of Public Instruction Larry Shumway, Commissioner of Higher Education William Sederburg, and Mark Bouchard, Senior Managing Director of CB Richard Ellis Salt Lake City, who represented Governor Gary Herbert's Education Excellence Commission.

For further details and resources, including text of each of the three reports, go to: <http://relwest.wested.org/events/23>

For a copy of the *Practice Guide, Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do*, go to: http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practiceguides/higher_ed_pg_091509.pdf

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