

Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

House Room 25

Commission: Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rep. Becky Edwards, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Ann Marie Wallace, Judy Barnett, Kathy Bounous, Melissa Freigang

Excused: Sen. Deidre Henderson, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Anne Burkholder

Staff Support: Gail Tilson with additional support from Jen Jankowski

Attendees: Ann Austin, USU

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	<p>Welcome (Rep. Becky Edwards)</p> <p>The minutes from our last meeting were approved.</p>	<p>A motion was made to approve the minutes from our Feb. 1, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.</p>
2016 Utah Women and Higher Education Research	<p>Commissioner Robinson, Research Sub-Committee Chair, presented this committee’s <u>Women in the Economy Commission Proposal: 2016 Utah Women and Higher Education Research</u>. (See proposal at the end of the minutes)</p> <p>Research consistently demonstrates that a college education contributes in critical ways to more successful life outcomes. How are we doing in Utah when it comes to increasing the educational attainment of our population, especially women?</p> <p>Proposed Details and Budget: Amount of time – 6 months; Hours – 20 per week; Cost -- \$24,000 (as an independent contractor where no employer taxes are withheld).</p>	<p>Catherine Jeppsen, a scholar at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the U of U (on contract until June) would be a great asset to this research.</p>

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<p>Co-Chair Edwards</p> <p>Sub-Committee Updates</p>	<p>This research would need to be funded and we would like to investigate the possibility of a grant. Something along the lines of the Walmart grant we received for our focus group study.</p> <p>Co-Chair Chavez-Houck raised the question of how it would be for the Research Sub-Committee to have the focus groups and this proposal going on at the same time. Commissioner Robinson answered, saying the group would be fine with both projects. This work can be done simultaneously.</p> <p>Co-Chair Chavez-Houck told the commission that Sen. Davis has secured \$25,000 for our use and that money could be used to compliment research efforts. Susan Koehn, who was instrumental in getting our Walmart grant, mentioned to Rep. Chavez-Houck that she has other vendors as well who we might qualify to receive funding from. Not wanting to have all of the money go toward research, we could use it for events, booths and presentations.</p> <p>Welcomed Melissa Freigang to the Women in the Economy Commission. She is our newest member. Melissa is the director of Workforce Development at Logistic Specialties, Inc. (LSI). Welcome, Commissioner Freigang!</p> <p>Public Policy Sub-Committee: (Co-Chair Becky Edwards) -- Four bills which were passed during this legislative session are: 1) HB54 (Sen. Bramble), Removal of the sunset for the commission; 2) SB117 (Sen. Escamilla), Interior Designer’s Certificate,</p>	<p>Discussion guides are currently being put together and focus groups will be up and running in June and July. Analysis will be completed in August and the draft will be presented to the commission in September.</p> <p>Co-Chair Chavez-Houck will arrange to meet with Susan Koehn and discuss details for applying for another grant.</p> <p>Commissioner Freigang and Commissioner Robinson discussed ways of enlisting the help of grad. students to do research. The cost is \$16,500 for one year, which gives us a lot of bang for the buck.</p> <p>The WIEC voted previously to support each of these bills.</p>

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<p>Judy Barnett</p>	<p>provided by DOPL, which expands the scope of practice by interior designers; 3) SB108 (Sen. Henderson), Birthing centers – streamlined licensing and expanded facility size from 1 room to 2-5 rooms; 4) SB59 (Sen. Weiler/Rep. Edwards) Anti-discrimination bill that allowed for and made reasonable accommodations for breastfeeding and pregnant women in the workplace.</p> <p>Bills we’re watching: Paid Family Leave, Discriminatory Back Pay</p> <p>Communications Sub-Committee: (Ann Marie Wallace) We have a draft of the news release that will accompany the launch of the website.</p> <p>We are looking at the possibility of surveying women in Utah and having them tell us in a word or two, creating a wordle, of how they feel. This would mean piggy-backing on the focus group activity.</p> <p>Research Sub-Committee: (Commissioner Robinson) A timeline has been set up by this sub-committee for the next six months to get the focus group research completed. April/May will be when the discussion guide will be created. There will be 7 or 8 focus groups created from Logan to Kanab and out to Vernal. June/July is when the focus groups will meet. Analysis will be finalized in August and a report to the WIEC will be given in September. This group will have the information to give report in an interim meeting in October or November.</p> <p>Commissioner Barnett is the Executive Director for the Utah Labor Community Services with the Utah AFL-CIO. Through her work, the WIEC has the opportunity to go visit four schools (career centers) for non-traditional jobs. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to see when would be the best time for the tour. It will take about 4 hours and transportation will be provided. These are 4-year schools.</p>	<p>We are working on getting the photos and content for the website. That includes a call to action for individuals, companies and non-profit organizations.</p> <p>Ann Marie will be meeting with Utah Interactive on Monday regarding the logo.</p> <p>In our April meeting, Commissioner Robinson would like the commission to look at the discussion guide.</p> <p>Let’s do some press around this tour.</p>

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Next Meeting	<p>Gail will send out a Doodle Poll.</p> <p>Women in the Economy Commission Proposal <i>2016 Utah Women & Higher Education Research</i> Date: March 29, 2016 From: WIEC Research Subcommittee Representatives: Anne Burkholder (CEO, Utah YWCA), Susan R. Madsen, EdD (Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership and Ethics, Utah Valley University), and Pamela S. Perlich, PhD (Director of Demographic Research, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah)</p> <p>Need Research consistently demonstrates that a college education contributes in critical ways to more successful life outcomes. Educational attainment is positively associated with improved health, household economic success, marital satisfaction and duration, parenting skills, child wellbeing, civic engagement, and social and cognitive development. At the societal level, a more educated population is a more productive workforce. Worldwide, countries with greater gender equity in education have higher workforce participation, higher GDPs, better health outcomes (including lower infant mortality), and lower gender-based violence. We strengthen families, communities, and the economy as more Utah women participate in and complete college.</p> <p>How are we doing in Utah when it comes to increasing the educational attainment of our population, especially women? We need accurate, comprehensive data describing the current status of women in order to answer this question. These data are requested and needed daily. And because of the scope and scale of Utah’s ongoing demographic, economic, and cultural transformations, contextualizing research is critical. In the midst of these transformations, data sets change and categories evolve. So much is in motion. It is not surprising that recent interpretations of data and research have resulted in contradictory information, perhaps even misinformation, about educational participation and attainment of Utah women, leading to overall confusion. The bottom line is that no single source has the data that’s needed to accurately and comprehensively describe the current state of women and education in Utah. This is hampering our understanding and continued progress.</p> <p>Initial Study</p>	

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	<p>To meet the current need for better data, we propose an initial study that would answer the following research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is women's educational attainment in Utah (by major/program, institution, county, region, and statewide)? How does this attainment compare to US women? • How has this changed throughout time and across generations? • What is the higher education context in Utah generally (e.g., how many adults by gender have technical, associate, bachelor, graduate, and professional certificates and degrees)? • What is the pipeline for students attending Utah schools and universities? • How can we explain and reconcile different results that arise from various data sources? <p>The following three datasets can be used to answer these research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) data (30% of time) • Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data (30%) • Census: American Community Survey (ACS) data (40%) <p>Proposed Details & Budget Length: Six months Hours: 20 each week Cost: \$24,000 (as an independent contractor where no employer taxes are withheld) Researcher: Dr. Catherine Jeppsen is a PhD sociologist/demographer specializing in international comparisons of gender equality. She is uniquely qualified for this work. We have both worked with Catherine and are willing and able to provide professional references on her behalf. Her CV is attached.</p> <p>This proposed research would lay the foundation for a more complete and correct understanding of educational attainment and degree completion for Utah men and women. Additional research could build upon this to enhance our understanding of enrollment patterns, life trajectories, occupational outcomes, and more. Understanding the complex and evolving social, economic, cultural, and institutional contexts of women’s lives is vital in this work. But the current absence of a “single point of truth” on the most fundamental facts about women’s educational attainment in Utah has effectively blocked us from advancing this larger research agenda. This, in turn, hinders us from working effectively to increase women’s educational attainment in our state, which is critical to Utah’s future strength and prosperity.</p>	

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	<p>In summary, we view this work as critical. We are fortunate that Dr. Jeppsen is willing and able to conduct this investigation on our behalf.</p>	