

MINUTES OF PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

July 21, 2016 3:00 p.m.

Co-chair Gary Goodrich and Mark McBride

Held at UTC Office

Those in attendance: Mark McBride of LANDESK, Gary Goodrich of Manti Central LLC, Jonathan Johnson of Overstock.com, Jefferson Moss of the Utah Valley University Foundation, Richard Brown of University of Utah College of Engineering, Marilyn Davies of University of Utah College of Engineering, Ross Whitaker of University of Utah School of Computing, Abraham Teng of Utah Valley University, Jennifer Scott of U.S. Congressman Jason Chaffetz's Office, Scott Nowlin of Hill Air Force Base, Steve Maccagno of HireUtah.com, Gene Levinzon formerly Goldman Sachs, David Clark of Utah State University, Adolfo Bonilla of CSS Corp, Ron Hilton of Proximal Systems Corporation, Brock Lyle of Overstock.com, Brett Ruoti of TEChEgo, Jack Walkenhorst of All West Communications, Helen Hu of Westminster College, Tim Sheehan of Salt Lake Community College, Elias Bishop of Auric Solar, Ron Cluff of Security 101, Stacy Deru of Opus Strategy Group, Joseph Demma of Utah College of Applied Technology, Kristin Smith of Utah College of Applied Technology, Barry Scholl of Richards Brandt Miller Nelson, Laura Barlow of Canyons School District, Susan Edwards of Canyons School District, Tom Lund of Tanner LLC, Timothy Larsen of Policy Impact Communications, Billy Hesterman of Utah Taxpayers Association, Allison Fletcher of Overstock.com, Jonathan Jackson of Utah Technology Council, Richard Nelson of Utah Technology Council.

Richard Nelson conducted the meeting.

Welcome and Brief Introductions – Richard Nelson

Minutes – Mark McBride

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from May 19, 2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- **2017 Legislative Session Issues** – Richard Nelson
Richard Nelson led the discussion reviewing the contentiousness surrounding the Non-compete bill that is not healthy for the technology industry. He urged attendees to “up our work in policy,” and emphasized that, “when we are united, we are unstoppable.”
Richard Nelson suggested taking a break on the STEM Action Center which notion was seconded by Jefferson Moss.
- **Engineering Initiative** – Richard Brown and Marilyn Davies
Richard Brown highlighted the success of the engineering initiative to increase the number of engineering graduates in the state in order to meet unmet job demands in the industry. There were 1,085 graduates this year, up 332 graduates from last year. Marilyn Davies reaffirmed that funding for the engineering initiative will continue to be asked for incrementally as in the past, and the universities will continue to over deliver on promises made.
- **Software Engineering Demand** – Ross Whitaker
Ross Whitaker presented statistics from a recent Computer Research Association (CRA) Conference. On average CS programs across the country have doubled in size, some have tripled. He made the question, “How can Utah respond to this growth as well as other states have,” followed by, “How does Utah make sure talented students have interest and exposure to CS?” Gene Levinzon noted the huge opportunity for women in CS. Ross Whitaker, Abraham Teng, and other attendees from universities agreed that a challenge to face will be hiring enough qualified faculty for these

programs. The presentation was concluded with a discussion on how the new phrase “School of Computing,” vs. the old phrase “Computer Science,” is less threatening and encompasses more fields.

- **C.S. Requirement** – Helen Hu

Two UTC successes: AP CS counts as a high school science credit, all high school students must take CS class to graduate. Richard Brown asked, “Are we able to hire enough competent high school teachers for these classes?” Helen Hu responded, “We’ve trained 150 Utah teachers to teach these classes...I feel confident we can have an exploring CS class in every high school in Utah.”

- **Tax Reform** – Ron Hilton

Utah should consider completely eliminating the state income tax and replacing it with a revenue-neutral consumption tax as advocated by Utah state Senator Bramble. For a change of this magnitude, a very thorough analysis is needed. Ron Hilton advised UTC to, “...call for a fiscal impact study by the state to determine the tax rate,” and to, “study exemptions and prebates.” At the end of the presentation Mark McBride proposed that it be taken into consideration and discussed further with Jeff.

- **Richard Nelson State School Board Campaign Update** – Jonathan Jackson

Jonathan Jackson reviewed and celebrated the primary election by saying, “Every vote really did count. Richard came in second by 239 votes against candidates with tremendous name recognition. A huge thanks to all.”

UEA funding Utah school board candidates while pursuing lawsuit raises big concern.

Richard Nelson concluded with, “Let’s give the November election a huge push...this will take twice the funding, but why? It’s about the 200 Title 1 schools in this state...These kids don’t have a chance without us. That’s why we’re going to go win this race.”

Other:

- Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing, September 22-23, 2016

Helen Hu emphasized the importance of the event in encouraging the career interests of women in computing, especially high school and college aged girls, and encouraged the attendees to be a sponsor for the event.

- UTC Hall of Fame with Apple CEO Tim Cook, September 30, 2016

Sponsorship opportunities available, contact Graden Nelson or John Huntsman.

Next meeting: August 18th, 2016 (TBD)

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.