



**RESOLUTION ON
STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR AN AI-DRIVEN FUTURE**

WHEREAS, embracing AI technologies (AI) is essential for the future of higher education and the long-term prosperity of Utah; and

WHEREAS, AI has fundamentally changed how people access information, how they learn, how they work, and what many employers expect from a competitive workforce; and

WHEREAS, AI has elevated the importance of durable human skills, accelerated the demand for new technical capabilities, and profoundly reshaped industries that graduates of the Utah System of Higher Education will enter; and

WHEREAS, Utah affirms a pro-human approach to AI, ensuring that emerging technologies strengthen human capabilities, enhance learning and connection, and improve quality of life rather than replace responsible human judgment, critical thinking, creativity, or opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Utah's AI strategy balances innovation with robust safety and ethical guardrails, demonstrating that a future driven by AI must remain centered on human values, well-being, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, many USHE institutions are pioneering new approaches to seize the opportunities AI presents as well as solve its challenges, by investing significant institutional resources and attracting world-renowned faculty expertise to develop profound innovations in curriculum, teaching, research, and university operations; the Board recognizes and commends this progress as the foundation of the System's progress; and

WHEREAS, the Board and USHE institutions share a unified commitment to build on this momentum together, working in close partnership to align and focus statewide efforts, strengthen capacity, and ensure that Utah leads nationally in developing pro-human, forward-thinking approaches to AI in higher education; and

WHEREAS, higher education helps students understand the forces that shape how the world works, and prepares them with the skills, capabilities, and adaptability required to thrive in an AI-

accelerated era; this is a responsibility that necessitates support from coordinated public policy, community engagement, and statewide partnerships.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Utah Board of Higher Education establishes the following strategic imperatives on AI to unify USHE institutions and the Board's AI Task Force:

- i. **Equip every student with pro-human AI skills and workforce readiness at scale.** We will enable students — across all relevant majors and programs — to graduate with foundational AI literacy, applied skills, and workforce-ready competencies that are human-centered and give students a competitive advantage in addition to amplifying critical thinking, ethical reasoning, creativity, emotional intelligence, and collaboration.
- ii. **Harness AI to transform education and research.** We will support institutions in responsibly integrating AI into teaching, student services, research, and institutional operations to enhance learning outcomes, increase personalization, expand innovation and foster efficiency across the System, and preserve the essential human elements of learning—mentorship, personal guidance, curiosity, and community.
- iii. **Reimagine higher education for an AI-accelerated economy.** We will lead a system-wide review of higher education across the state to ensure USHE institutions are empowered to take full advantage of AI opportunities in ways that strengthen human capability and connection and statewide prosperity. This includes providing flexible pathways and future-focused programs, focusing on human and technical skills that support Utah's economic and social vitality.

These imperatives guide the strategic direction of USHE and signal that we will actively embrace the impact of AI so our students, institutions, and Utah lead in the decades ahead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board and USHE institutions commit together to coordinated leadership and collective action to prepare Utah's students, workforce, and communities to thrive in an AI-driven future.

The Office of the Commissioner shall establish a task force of members and staff of the Board, AI experts across the state, and institution leaders. Using the strategic imperatives, the AI Task Force will recommend actions the Board should take to transform higher education for an AI-driven world and will ensure that recommendations uphold Utah's pro-human AI philosophy, emphasizing solutions that enhance human capability, support educator effectiveness, protect student well-being, and promote responsible innovation as they shape the future of teaching, research, and

workforce readiness across the System.

Dated this 1st day of December 2025.

Amanda Covington

Amanda Covington, Chair
Utah Board of Higher Education



G.L.

Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner
Utah System of Higher Education