



## ADULT EDUCATION WORKS IN UTAH

### More Adults are Out of Work and In Need of Retraining

- “Adult education leading to a skilled work force is an important economic investment.” Tom Guinney, President, Gastronomy Inc.
- An educated adult is easier to train and brings stability to the workplace.

### More Adults are Returning to School to Improve Skills

- 191,331 adults in Utah (12.59%) do not have a high school diploma or GED®. (2000 Census)

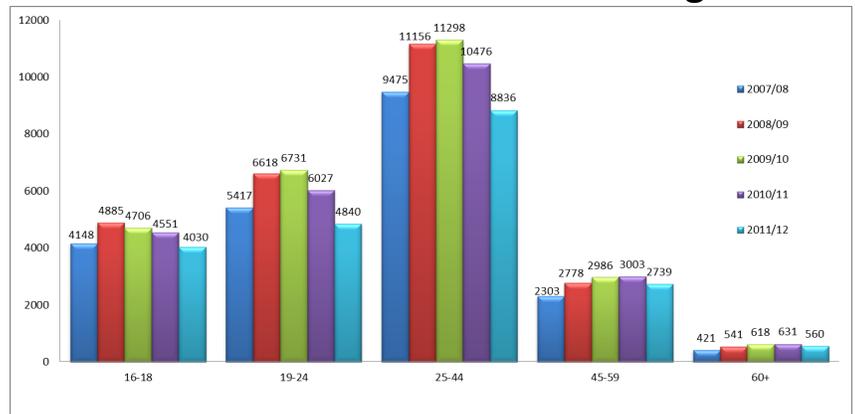
### Adult Education is an Investment in Our Changing Workplace

- Every \$1.00 invested in adult public education provides a \$2.00 return to Utah’s economy.
  - Graduating from high school increased the likelihood of avoiding welfare by 75%.
  - Workers who lack a high school diploma earn a median weekly income of \$451 compared to \$638 for those with a high school diploma and \$1,053 for those with a bachelor’s degree.
- (Bureau of Labor Statistics—Education Pays March 2012)

### Adult Education is an Investment in K-12 Education

- Literate adults are crucial to the development of school-ready and literate children.
- The greatest predictor for success of K-12 students is the parent(s) level of education.

### Growth of Utah Adult Education Programs



***It makes good economic sense to limit cuts to Adult Education funding.***

## Each year Utah adult education programs prepare over 20,000 students from diverse backgrounds and abilities for better lives.

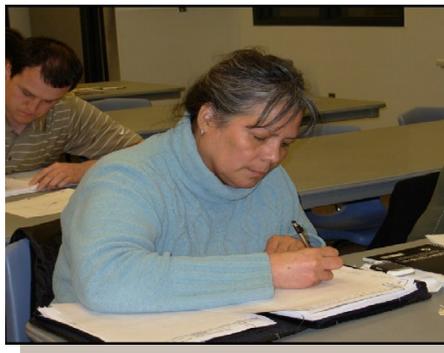
Local providers meet the changing needs of communities through innovative programming while other agencies assist with transportation, childcare, and employment. Through this effort, the Utah State Office of Education administers state legislative and competitive federal funding to school districts and community-based organizations.

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*"I feel adult education is vital to children. Adults with higher education can pass it on to their children. In return they grow up to become productive adults who earn more money, pay higher taxes, and don't need to use financial assistance programs." - Lisa Smith*

*"I know we live in a hard time (the economy) but if you give to us the tools, we will become more valuable, independent and better citizens. Will make the state of Utah strong in our economy." -Esperanza Sosa*



*"Taking from Adult Education's taxes causes a ripple effect for every one. We will have less educated people and a worse economy than we already have. Less money for the sake of adult education only means more problems for the people that want to make a difference for themselves their families and their friends" -Tawni Blymiller*



*"I dropped out of school when I was 17 years old to get a job and help my family when times were hard. I lost my job last year due to the slowing down of the economy. I worked there for 17 years. I have 5 children that are dependent on me. I have gone back to school so I can apply for a job and when the applications asks for schooling or diploma I can say yes I have a diploma. The adult programs are a life saver for so many Mom's and Dad's trying to make their way in these difficult times." -Michael Wayman*



### Adult education is basic skills and more.

Adult education recognizes some students seek preparation for college, and for others, the goals may be more basic, such as completing a high school/GED® diploma, learning English on the road to U.S. citizenship, obtain entry level employment, improving basic skills on the job, or helping parents read to their children. **Fact:** In 2011-12, nearly 62% of the 21,005 students came to adult education with reading, writing, and math skills below the 9th grade level.

### Adult education is a "safety net."

Adult education is a special niche for young adults who lack a secondary diploma and may lack the confidence to explore remedial courses at the community college level. Students who enroll in adult education classes are often poor and many work more than one job just to get by. Some are single parents; others may have limited English skills or disabilities. **Fact:** 42% of the students in 2011-12 were between 19 and 24 years of age.

### Adult education is close to home.

Classes are offered in 29 counties at over 134 program sites in the state, making it uniquely accessible and convenient to student's homes. **Fact:** The classes are in public schools and community-based organizations; others are in churches, libraries, Department of Workforce Services employment centers, and community college classrooms.

### Adult education is continually improving.

Licensed teachers, qualified paraprofessionals, and trained volunteers use teaching methods designed for adults. Programs are continually improving through a high quality professional development system, as evidenced by test scores and the tracking of employment, receipt of a secondary credential, and further education/training. **Fact:** Adult education is continually improving its state performance goals to meet the needs of the students, employers, and the community at large.