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Enticing Minority and Low-Income Students at State Schools

Jun 22, 2007 by Julie Rose

(KCPW News) Utah lawmakers and higher education officials are looking for ways to encourage more minority and low-income students to attend college. Overall enrollment in Utah's colleges and universities has been declining slowly in the last year.

UVSC Multicultural Center Director Gwen Anderson says the state needs to offer more mentoring and support to minority students, as well as scholarships. For example, many states waive tuition for Native American students - but Utah does not.

Higher Education Assistant Commissioner David Doty says low-income students who fall just above the income line to receive a Pell Grant but struggle to pay tuition need some incentive from the state. Next year, Doty says higher education commissioners will ask the Legislature for substantial funding to give scholarships to lower-income students who complete a rigorous high school curriculum known as "State Scholars."



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1. Lori Thomas said:

I think it is a good move to encourage minorities to go to school. Its always a good idea to improve ones situation. The population I worry about the most is the low middle-class to straight middle class. There seems to be government programs for the poor and the rich have financing handled, but what is there to help the middle class. Right now in America for a family to truly be living a "middle class" lifestyle the family needs to be pulling in 80K a year. So many of those termed middle class are not and going into debt for groceries. We need to find a way to make wages accomodate our standards of living in this current society.

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