



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED DIFFERENTIAL TUITION FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE CLASS B PROGRAM

Dixie Technical College is proposing to establish a student tuition rate for its Commercial Driver's License Class B program, which is anticipated to open in 2024. The differential rate would be \$200 per credit-hour, in addition to the regular tuition rate of \$105 per credit-hour. There was no previously established differential rate for this program. For the three credit-hour program this would be differential tuition of \$600, plus tuition of \$315. All concerned students and citizens are invited to a public hearing on the proposed increase to be held at Dixie Technical College, 610 S. Tech Ridge Drive #A111, St. George, Utah 84770 on November 6, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., for the purpose of hearing comments regarding the proposed change and to explain the reasons for the proposed change.

### BACKGROUND

Dixie Technical College has operated a Class A Commercial Driver's License Program, but is opening a Class B Program in 2024. The Class A program previously had differential tuition of \$200 per credit-hour approved, and the College is seeking approval of the same differential rate for the new Class B program.

Until July 1, 2020, Utah's public technical colleges have been statutorily required to offer instruction in clock-hours rather than credit-hours. When the Utah System of Technical Colleges and Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) merged in 2020, this language was removed from statute for technical colleges in the subsequent legislative session.

Given the 2020 merge of technical colleges and degree-granting institutions, the Utah Board of Higher Education wants all 16 higher education institutions in the state to use a common currency. The Board anticipates that a common currency will improve reporting, student transfer opportunities, and address challenges to the delivery of instruction and barriers presented by attendance requirements imposed on financial aid

eligible programs offered in a hybrid and distance education format at clock-hour institutions.

Another factor is that the USHE is changing current policy regarding student fees. Until fiscal year 2024, funds from student program fees could be used to pay for the costs of instructional personnel. USHE changed this policy and prohibit the use of student program fees to pay instructors. In addition, the technical colleges were required to eliminate all general student fees. In order to make this change revenue neutral, tuition will be adjusted to pay these costs and student fees will be reduced.

The Commercial Driver's License Class B program requires an unusually low instructor-student ratio. These additional adjunct instructors would have been paid for, in large part, with student fees previously. USHE recognized this practice among the State's technical colleges and is allowing the them to charge differential tuition to offset the costs of these additional instructors for Commercial Driver's License programs. The increased differential tuition revenue will be utilized to pay instructional personnel who were formerly paid for with student fee revenue.

#### USE OF ADDITIONAL REVENUES

It is anticipated that this change will raise an additional \$12,000 in tuition revenue during the 2023-2024 school year. The additional revenue will be used to pay for instructional personnel that would have formerly paid with the revenue from student fees.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following additional information is provided pursuant to statute:

1. Dixie Technical College's enrollment Commercial Driver's License Class B program in the current school year (July 1 2023 to June 30, 2024) is zero as of October 26, 2023. For the whole year, enrollment is projected to be 20.
2. Total tuition revenue for the current school year for the program is \$0. For the whole year, tuition revenue is projected to be \$18,300.
3. For the next school year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025), projected student enrollment growth is anticipated to grow to 30, and projected tuition revenue to increase to \$27,450.
4. The final decision on the proposed tuition increase will take place at the meeting of the Dixie Technical College Board of Trustees, 610 S Tech Ridge Drive, Board Room, St George, Utah on November 9th, 2023 at 9:00 am.