



Salt Lake  
Community  
College 

# SLCC PROMISE

# SLCC Promise: Background

- **Launched in Spring 2016**
- **Lots of positive media coverage**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> College in Utah to introduce a Promise program**
- **Funded through tuition waivers**
- **Intended Purpose:**
  - **Incentivize FAFSA completion**
  - **Accelerate program completion through academic planning and increased credit loads**
- **Funds dispersed after the add/drop deadline**

# SLCC Promise: Eligibility

- **File FAFSA**
- **Be eligible for a partial Pell grant**
- **Maintain course load of 12 or more credits**
- **Create a degree plan with an academic advisor**
- **Have a tuition and fees balance after all other funds have been applied**
- **Maintain 2.0 GPA (Pell requirement)**
- **Only eligible for Promise for one degree**

# SLCC Promise: Results to date

- **Total awards: 1,586 (Fall '16, Spring '17, Fall '17)**
- **Total \$ awarded: \$1,203,620 Average award: \$759.19**
- **Promise students carrying a higher average credit load than peer comparison group while maintaining statistically similar GPA.**
- **86% of students receiving Promise between ages of 16-29**
- **Retention rates for Promise students didn't increase – our Pell students already retain at significantly higher rates than average students**
- **Too early to measure if completion rates are improving for Promise students**
- **Study done internally that suggests Promise students will reach 60 credit hours 1 semester faster than non-Promise students**

# SLCC Promise: Challenges

- **How do we make more SLCC students and their families aware of Promise program?**
- **Would we get more Promise students by reducing the required credits from 12 to 9?**
- **Would eliminating any of the other eligibility criteria, such as the requirement for a degree plan, help increase the number of Promise students without undermining the goals of the program?**
- **Do we have the resources to sustain the program if it grows significantly? Would we request state funding to support the program? Use scholarship funds?**
- **Should we consider a first-dollar Promise program rather than our existing last-dollar program?**
- **What do we do for students who barely make too much money to qualify for Pell?**

# SLCC Promise: Questions?

