

UTAH WOMEN AND EDUCATION

Utah Foundation Luncheon
March 20, 2014

It's Time...

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Purpose of Project

- The purpose of the **Utah Women and Education Project** was to lead efforts within the state to understand and then motivate more young women to enter and stay in school long enough to obtain college degrees (started in 2009)
- **Utah Women and Education Initiative**—Utah State Office of Education (started in 2012)

Outline

1. Graduation Data (2010)
2. Latest Graduation Data
3. Share of the Population (Bachelor's)
4. Current Challenges
5. Top Findings from Statewide Study (2010)

Graduation Rates: 2010

Public 4-year Institutions		
	Utah	Nation
All	46.9%	56.0%
Men	43.7%	53.0%
Women	49.0%	58.5%

- 6 year cohorts
- LDS mission dynamics

“Almanac of Higher Education 2012”
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Degrees Awarded: 2010

- Utah women received **10% more associate degrees** than males and **6% fewer bachelor** degrees than males.
- The Utah percentage of bachelor degrees awarded to women (47%) is the **lowest of all 50 States** (U.S public, 56%).
- Utah also has the **lowest percent of doctorate/ professional degrees** awarded to women (41%) in the nation and is only ahead of the District of Columbia (46% Utah to 44% D.C.) for the percent of **master degrees** awarded to women.

(USHE Data)

Latest Graduation Rates

Public 4-year Institutions		
	Utah	Nation
All	49-52%	59.0%
Men	44-48%	56.0%
Women	50-53%	61.0%

*Bachelor degree seeking students

Utah System of Higher Education (updated data, May 2013); National Cohort 2005-2011

Important Consideration

- When compared to the national averages, Utah **men** and **women** are not matching the completion rates of their U.S. counterparts.
- As we strive to improve completion rates of all Utahns, we cannot devalue the **focus on women** in order to **focus on men**.
- Each gender faces its own **unique barriers**.

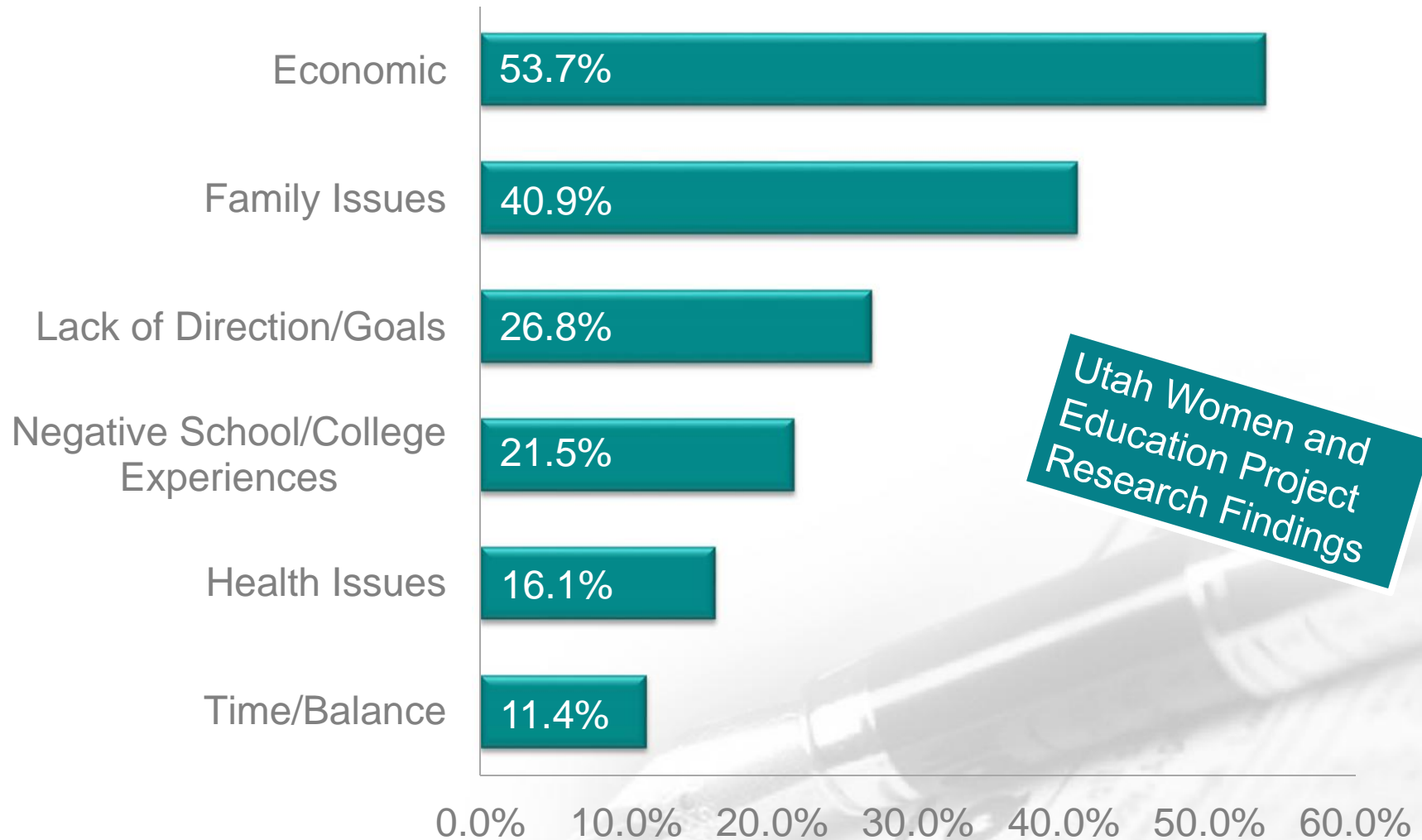


Share of Population with Bachelor's +

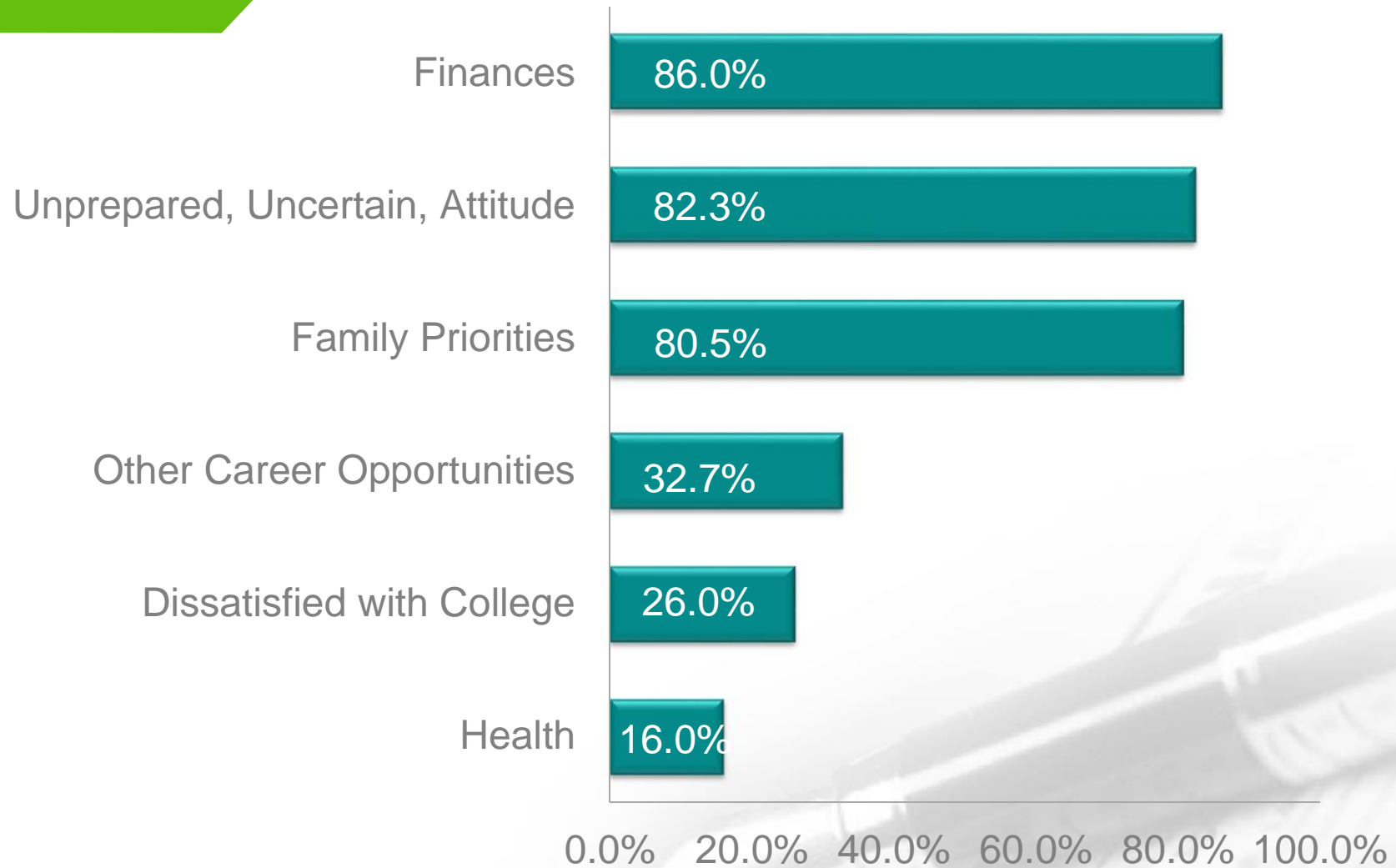
“Of 51 metropolitan areas with at least one million people, the Washington, D.C., area had the most highly educated population, and the Fresno, Calif., area the least. **The greatest differences between the sexes were found in the Salt Lake City area, where men surpassed women in bachelor's-degree attainment by 9.3 percentage points, and the Orlando, Fla., area, where women surpassed men by 6.8 percentage points.**”

“Almanac of Higher Education 2012”
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Why Did You Not Attend?



...Not Continue?



Top 10 UWEP Findings

10. Educated Utah mothers **had more educated** daughters and sons.
9. **Conversations about college** occurred early in the lives of Utah women graduates.
8. **Volunteer service** and/or **leadership experiences** during middle and high school years were more prevalent for female Utah college graduates.
7. Utah women who had parents and extended family members who provided at least partial **financial support** for college were more likely to attend college longer and graduate. ✓

Top 10 UWEP Findings

6. **College campus visits** during childhood and youth occurred more often for female Utah graduates.
5. **Saving money for college** while a child/youth (earlier the better) extended college enrollment and led more often to graduation for Utah women.
4. The **lack of urgency** to attend and graduate from college is hurting Utah women; nearly all women who did not attend or who dropped out truly believe they will get degrees “sometime.” ✓

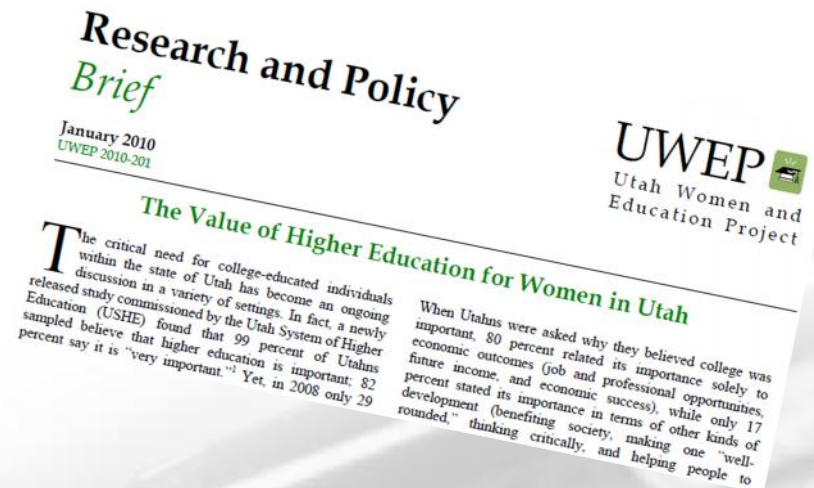
Top 10 UWEP Findings

3. Utah women lack an understanding of the **broad value of a college education.** ✓
2. There is a strong belief that women need to “**give up**” or “**sacrifice**” college once they have children—that it is their “**duty**” to drop out of school; *they cannot see a life of integration.* ✓
1. Utah women have solid aspirations to **attend** college but much lower aspirations to **graduate.** ✓

College is Important

- Economic
- Health & Wellbeing
- Civic and Community Engagement
- Parenting
- Intellectual/Cognitive
- Self-Development

There are 100s of benefits for work and life available by becoming educated!





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