



## Mountainland Region Youth Advisory Council: Inaugural Meeting

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### Mountainland Region Youth Advisory Council's Inaugural Meeting

On September 28th, the Mountainland Region Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) held its very first meeting, bringing together seven enthusiastic youth representatives from public high schools and charter schools from across the Mountainland region. This diverse group of students embarked on a journey to make a meaningful impact on higher education attainment and the future workforce of their community.



### Morning Session: Introduction and Training

The day began with an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of a youth council. The students learned about the council's purpose and how they would be advising on changes that could significantly influence their community's educational and workforce landscape. This session set the stage for their future contributions and empowered them with the knowledge needed to be effective council members.

Following the introduction, the students participated in a personal success training session. This training provided a solid foundation for the discussions and communications they will engage in as members of the youth advisory council. It was an enriching experience that equipped them with essential skills for their advisory roles.

### Engaging Discussions

One of the highlights of the meeting was a thought-provoking discussion prompted by the question: "What elements in your current environment help shape or direct your thoughts and plans for higher education?" The youth council members shared insightful responses, reflecting their diverse perspectives and experiences.

Kat, one of the council members, shared her thoughts on how her school supports students in exploring various higher education pathways. She mentioned, "My school does a wonderful job at having conversations about scholarships and what higher education does for you. They talk about all the different ways higher education can look like. 'This is what college does for you. This is what MTECH can do for you. You can go to trade school. You can go to real estate school. You can go to UVU.' Just all these different things my high school does good at talking about, but I do feel like there can be more. Maybe make it a social media presence more."

Additional conversations highlighted the differences between public schools and charter schools. The youth noted that charter school students often received more robust interaction and exposure

compared to their public-school counterparts. To address this disparity, the council discussed several potential solutions, such as inviting more role models and career professionals to share their experiences with students. Hosting online career sessions was also suggested to reach students who might not be able to attend in-person events due to logistical constraints.

Jayna shared, “We have had people come in and share about their careers and how they got there.”

Lily added, “Yeah, I really enjoy those [experiences] because they help me kind of shape my interest and help me really figure out what I need to do and what I want to do at the college level, but I think having more accessibility to those [experiences] is needed.”

### Looking Ahead

The inaugural meeting of the Mountainland Region Youth Advisory Council was a resounding success, marked by engaging discussions and a powerful sense of purpose among the youth. The council members are now better prepared to advise on critical issues affecting higher education attainment and their community.

As the council continues to grow and encompass a representative from every public, charter, and alternative high school in the region, council members are eager to continue their work. The youth advisory council looks forward to the next meeting, which will be held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, and to move forward in making a positive impact on the future of higher education and workforce development in the Mountainland Region of Utah.



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**MOUNTAINLAND REGION  
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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