

January 4, 2017



Colleagues,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We have a timely research brief, events, and other announcements for January:

First, we are thrilled to release a new research and policy brief titled "[The Status of Women in Utah Politics: A 2017 Update](#)." My co-author D. Candice Pierucci and I collected data on elected positions at the city, county, state, and national levels to report on how we are doing in Utah (compared to the nation) in terms of women serving in politics. We are pleased to announce that we have made slight progress since our original report three years ago. See this and other briefs and snapshots here: <http://www.uvu.edu/uwlp/research/briefs.html>. I will be sharing these results at the **Real Women Run Winter Training** (Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, SLCC) and hope you can join us. This event is for anyone interested in becoming more engaged in the community, helping with campaigns, or running for office. You can find more information on the [RWR website](#). It is \$25 for attendees/\$10 for students.

Second, our next *Utah Women's Leadership Speaker & Dialogue Series* event is titled "[Creating and Growing Small Businesses as Women](#)" (January 24, 2017, 6:30-8:30pm, UVU). [RSVP now](#). This will be a fabulous event for anyone who is thinking about starting a business (now or in the future) or women already running their own businesses. Dr. Julie Hanks will be giving a short keynote and then we will have three breakout sessions (see page 2 of the [flyer](#) for descriptions):

- **Aspiring Entrepreneurs:** This breakout has a panel of entrepreneurs including Susan Peterson (CEO, Freshly Picked), Anne Avernig (Co-founder, Sodalicious), and Julie Hanks (Founder & Executive Director, Wasatch Family Therapy), with Susan R. Madsen & Arielle Newman as facilitators. This is ideal for middle/high school/college women and anyone else who wants to come!
- **Start From Scratch: First Steps to Launch Your Business:** Ann Marie Wallace (Executive Director, Women's Business Center) and Deb Bilbao (Business Consultant, WBC) will be providing information and resources for those who are planning to launch any type of small business in the near future.
- **Growing Your Business as Women:** Camille Pendleton (Director, Small Business Development Center, Utah and Wasatch Counties), Donna Milakovic (Regional Outreach Director, USTAR) & Winthrop Jeanfreau (Director, Central Utah Business Resource Center) will be running this session. They have tons of expertise—you'll want to attend if you have started your business already and you now want to grow it!

All of the sessions will live stream, so you can get together and watch with friends no matter where you live in Utah (you don't need to RSVP if you are watching a live stream). However, Bonnie (BMortensen@uvu.edu) would love to know if you have a group convening so we can welcome you at the event. Flyers of other upcoming events can be located on our [Utah Women & Leadership Project](#) homepage. We also post any events we are aware of throughout the state for girls and women here: <http://www.uvu.edu/uwlp/events/>

Third, we are thrilled to report that our "Women Shaping Utah" billboard series has been on display around the state on YESCO billboards for the past three weeks or so. We appreciate Justin Hackworth ([Justin Hackworth Photography](#)) for donating his time and expertise in taking the photos. He was fabulous to work with! Thanks to YESCO for donating space for the five billboards to be shown when there is open space in various locations in Utah. Also, thanks to our five models for their time and willingness to be photographed. They represent five roles Utah women can have in really making a difference in our communities and state: a mother graduating from college, a professional woman, a mother coaching her kid's sports, a community volunteer, and a young woman serving in the Utah National Guard. We wanted to show girls and young women in our state that women can shape Utah in so many ways, and that women need to graduate from college to prepare themselves to do so! See our social media for more details.

Have a wonderful January!

Warmly,
Susan

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