

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

2016 – 2017





UVU'S DUAL MODEL—AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

For first-time visitors to Utah Valley University, there is a sense of awe at the breadth, depth, and scope of our facilities, programs, and experiential opportunities. As students walk amidst our bustling halls and the open spaces of our campus, gaze upon the stunning Roots of Knowledge stained glass windows in the Ira A. & Mary Lou Fulton Library, and cheer our athletic teams on to victory, they discover that they have a place here, and a remarkable opportunity to rise and succeed.

Following on the heels of our marvelous 75th anniversary year, we witnessed an international spotlight on the unique dual-mission model where we have built a thriving teaching university around a comprehensive community college. The success of this model has been the subject of articles in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Education Dive*, *University Business*, and the *Times Higher Education* - the United Kingdom's leading higher education news publication.

During my time this summer as a Senior Associate at Pembroke College at the University of Oxford, international interest in UVU's unique mission reached a remarkable climax. At a meeting of educational thought-leaders and government officials, held in British Parliament's historic Palace of Westminster, I had the opportunity to tell the remarkable story of UVU. The standing-room-only crowd attested to the growing global interest in our unique dual model.

UVU's success is visible in other profound ways. This year we cut the ribbon on a building entirely funded from private donations - the Cole Nellesen Building, which houses the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism. We secured more than \$10 million in support of a new home for our Woodbury School of Business and raised more than \$1.6 million in private scholarship support for our students.

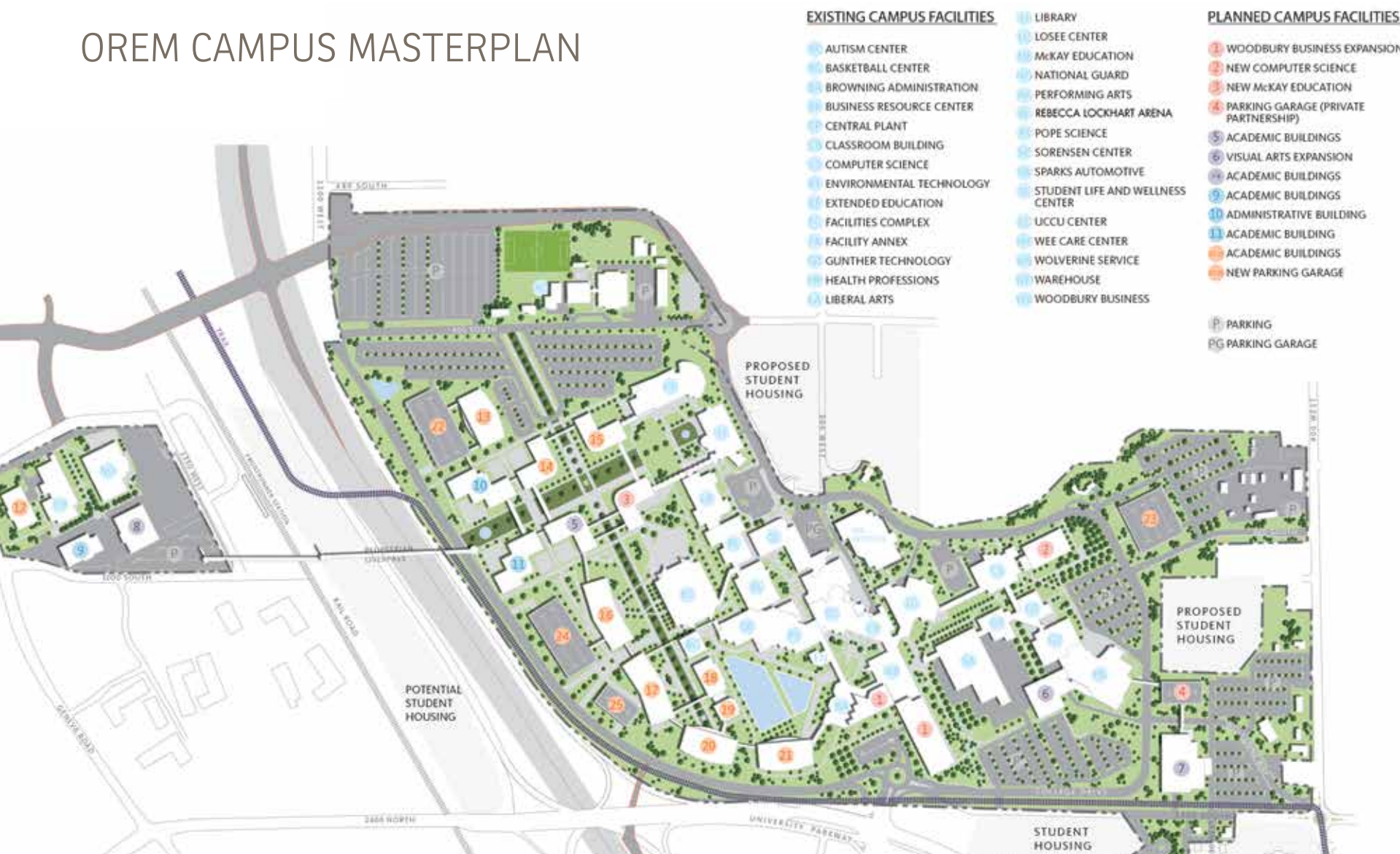
Of course, our greatest success comes from our students. Just this year we have scored national awards for excellence in dance, trade skills, finance, and public relations. Local recognition has come for our achievements in entrepreneurship, K-12 instruction, and bioremediation efforts, to name just a few.

Because I firmly believe UVU is emerging as nothing less than the nation's very best open-admissions platform for student success, I am grateful and thrilled that you stand with us as we press ahead with this most exciting mission.

Best,

Matthew S. Holland
PRESIDENT

OREM CAMPUS MASTERPLAN



"Schools like Utah Valley University... are the future of higher education, where one institution or one system can address the full needs of a city or state's workforce with multiple resources for education."

— EDUCATION DIVE, a higher education news publication



EXPANDING TO FULFILL OUR MISSION

Utah Valley University took substantial steps in 2016-17 (during its diamond jubilee) toward expansion of buildings and programmatic offerings. Long-term expansion in the form of a masterplan was approved by the Utah State Board of Regents in late 2016.

The masterplan calls for new buildings for business, education, and visual arts, along with various academic facilities and increased parking at the Orem Campus

(as shown in the map above). As part of the plan, 225 acres in Vineyard will be developed to help relieve congestion at the Orem Campus. UVU also intends to build on property in Thanksgiving Point and Payson.

Five new master's degrees were approved to begin in the fall of 2017—accountancy, computer science, cybersecurity, public service, and social work. This action, in direct response to community need, increased graduate options from three to eight.



Since its inception more than 75 years ago, Utah Valley University defines its success on what its students accomplish. UVU is gaining national and international attention for its approach to higher education.

The students are voting with their feet:

34,978 Number of Students in 2016-2017
Official number released by USHE, start of Fall 2016

40,000 Projected Number of Students in 2020



"This is a fantastic example of what can happen when a community comes together. I know that we are going to make a significant difference together as we work to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder."

— TERESA CARDON, Director, Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism

MORE BUILDING EXPANSION

Lockhart Arena opening

In honor of former Utah Speaker of the House Rebecca "Becky" Lockhart's contributions and long friendship with the institution, UVU opened a new athletic venue named the Rebecca D. Lockhart Arena. It includes a nearly 2,000-seat venue, where the Wolverine wrestling and women's volleyball teams now compete.

Thanksgiving Point opening

UVU opened a suite of renovated classrooms and offices at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi. The new space features executive MBA classes, as well as general education and business courses offered during daytime and evening hours.

CREATING A HOME FOR THE ARTS

More than \$22 million in private donations, including a lead gift from the Ray and Tye Noorda Foundation, and \$32 million from the Utah Legislature paved the way to begin construction on a permanent home for the arts. The Noorda Center for the Performing Arts is scheduled to open in spring 2019.

RESPONDING TO AUTISM

The Cole Nellesen Building (pictured above), which houses the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism, opened this year, funded entirely by private donations. The 15,000-square-foot building will support autism education and greatly expand resources and support for the community and beyond. Key features include therapy rooms, quiet spaces, sensory rooms, an observation room, two playgrounds, and a sensory garden with aromatic plants. Key donors included Keith and Melisa Nellesen, who provided the initial gift for the center and named the building after their son, Cole (pictured at right), who has autism spectrum disorder. Brent and Kathryn Wood also made a major gift to make this project and others possible.



The new 130,000-square-foot arts center (rendering at right) is being built on the east side of the Orem Campus and will feature a 500-seat proscenium theater with an orchestra pit for live musical performances and opera, and a 900-seat concert hall, which will also serve as the Utah Symphony's home in Utah County. The center will also include a choral recital hall, a dance theater, 27 practice spaces, 27 teaching studios, production and recording space, piano and computer labs, and conference rooms.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A UVU Student Appointed to the Board of Regents

Alex Trujillo, a senior at UVU studying marketing, was appointed to serve a one-year term on the Utah State Board of Regents. The group oversees the Utah System of Higher Education.

Trujillo has been heavily involved in student leadership positions at UVU. In this prominent honor, he will represent all students of the state's higher education institutions.

TD Ameritrade Awards Scholarships to UVU Students

Four personal financial planning students were each awarded a \$5,000 scholarship from TD Ameritrade. Each year, TD Ameritrade names 12 scholarship recipients nationwide, and, for this cycle, one-third of the scholarships went to UVU students—Tiffany Peterson, Gerika Ballard, Brittany Frampton, and Brian Miller. The four Wolverines got to spend a day on Wall Street and rang the NASDAQ Stock Market closing bell as part of the festivities.



Championship-Caliber Technical Skills

At the national SkillsUSA competition, held in Louisville, Kentucky, Utah Valley University students won medals in five different categories, including gold medals in Architectural Drafting, Audio/Radio Production, and Chapter Business Procedures. The UVU contingent tied for fifth in the nation for the most medals won by a post-secondary institution. Two of the last three years, UVU has wrapped up competing at SkillsUSA as the top educational institution in the nation.

UVU has been ranked in the top five in the nation at SkillsUSA for the past 18 years running.



Top PR Chapter in the Country

At the National Public Relations Student Society of America conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, UVU's student society received the honor as the best chapter in the nation. The award is presented annually to one university. It is the second time UVU's chapter has earned this distinction, having first received it in 2013.

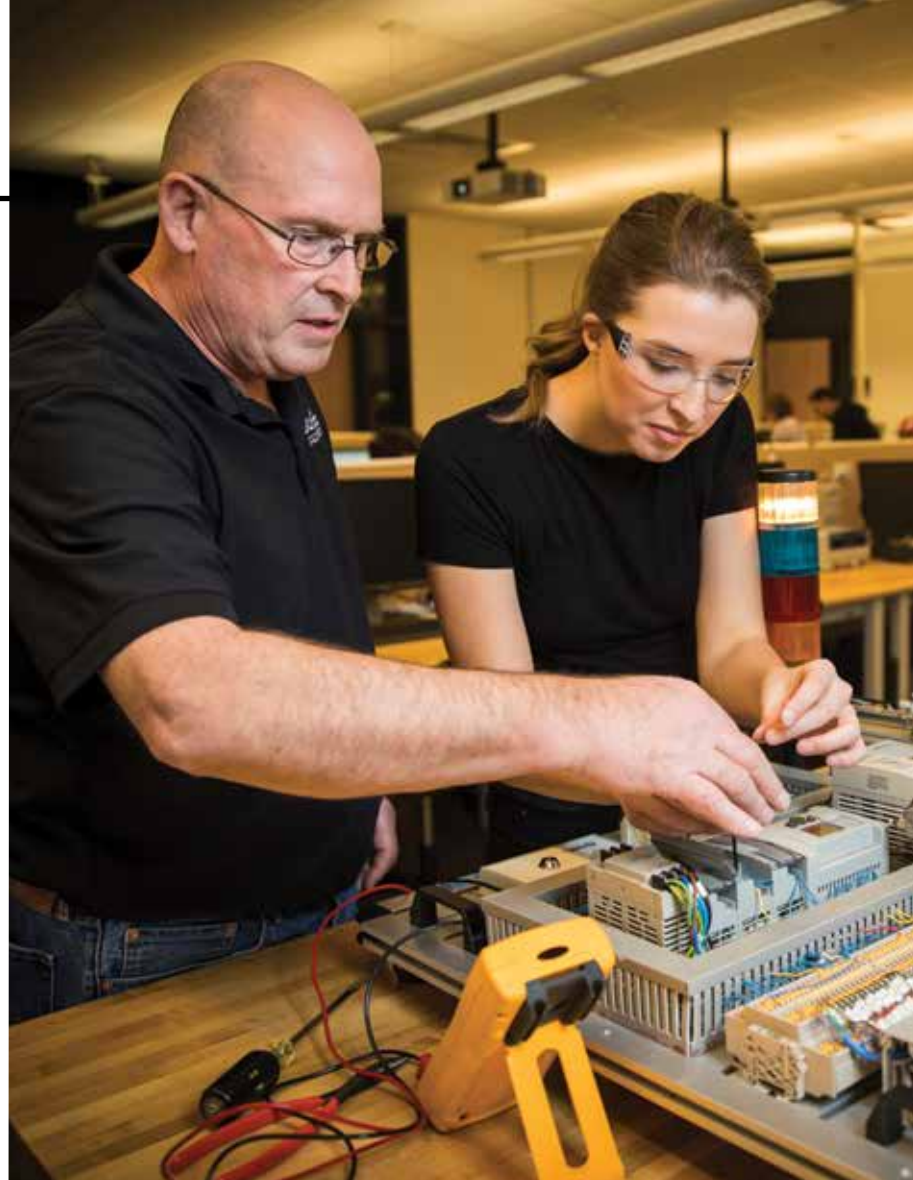
Additionally, two teams from Utah Valley University's communication department received prestigious honors for their campaign work on behalf of UVU's student veterans and partnership with Student Veterans of America. UVU's Operation Graduation team was awarded two Hermes Creative Gold Awards.

Best Student Chef in the Nation

Madeline Black, a first-year student at Utah Valley University's Culinary Arts Institute, was named the nation's Student Chef of the Year at the American Culinary Federation's national convention held in Orlando, Florida. Black, a sophomore from Provo, became the second consecutive national champion from UVU's Culinary Arts Institute.

Black had only 90 minutes to prepare a world-class dish to impress a team of seasoned top-level chefs. All competitors came up with their own recipes utilizing an ingredient list given to them just a few weeks prior.





ADDITIONAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Aviation Students Land Top Honor

UVU students Aaron Organ and Jordan Stacy attended the 89th annual conference of the American Association of Airport Executives and came home with a first-place finish.

Construction Management Builds Championship Team

A team of construction management students took first place in the annual Associated Schools of Construction Management Competition, held in Sparks, Nevada.

7x Better than National Average

Fifty-five percent of Woodbury School of Business students passed the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level I exam on their first attempt. The national pass rate on first attempt is just 8 percent, and *The Wall Street Journal* calls the exam the hardest test in the world.

Top-Tier Internships in D.C. and NYC

The university sent its largest group of interns ever to Washington, D.C., and New York City in the summer of 2017. Top students from political science, financial planning, math, computer science, aviation administration, behavioral science, journalism, and graphic design received exceptional engaged learning experiences in their respective fields.

Marketing Ranked Top 20 in Nation

UVU's American Marketing Association (UVUAMA), ranked 18th in the nation out of 398 chapters, captured 11 awards at the AMA 39th Annual International Collegiate Conference.



"It's a beautiful thing to watch as students develop the lifelong skills necessary to think critically, solve problems, make wise decisions, and gain broad academic and cultural knowledge. They just light up. It's amazing!"

— FORREST WILLIAMS, Dean, University College

Cybersecurity

In the university's first year competing, a team of cybersecurity students placed second out of 10 teams at the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition in Denver, Colorado.



Diverse student body:

74 countries represented

38% are first-generation college students

51% work at least 21 hours per week

29% are age 25 or older

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

- The 2016 UVU baseball team swept through four games at the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Tournament to win its first championship and gain an NCAA Regional berth.
- Men's soccer won its first WAC regular season championship, going 8-1-1 during league play. UVU spent every week of the regular collegiate soccer season ranked in the top 25 nationally.
- Men's basketball landed a post-season opportunity from the College Basketball Invitational, which included road wins over Georgia Southern and Rice, as the team advanced to the semifinals of the CBI 16-team post-season tournament. These were the first postseason wins in the program's NCAA D-I era. The team also had one of the biggest comebacks in NCAA history as the Wolverines overcame a 27-point deficit to defeat Denver University 88-85 on Nov. 23, in Denver.



Forty UVU student-athletes each earned a spot on the WAC's Fall 2016 All-Academic Team.

women's soccer	15
men's soccer	11
women's volleyball	7
women's cross-country	4
men's cross-country	3



UVU continues to expand its presence at many levels of NCAA competition, just eight years after moving from junior college status to full Division I status.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-17 SEASONS INCLUDED:

- The Wolverine volleyball team took second place in the WAC regular season and the WAC Tournament.
- Wrestling received votes in an NCAA top 20 poll for the first time in program history.
- Women's basketball reached the WAC semi-finals for the second straight season.
- The women's cross-country team won its second-straight WAC Championship.
- Skyler Milne became UVU's first men's soccer player to sign a pro contract. He signed with the Real Monarchs.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Daniel Fairbanks (pictured at right), dean of the College of Science and Health, received the prestigious Mendel Memorial Medal at a ceremony on March 8 at the Moravian Museum in Brno, Czech Republic. The international Mendel Memorial Medal is awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution to furthering research and understanding of scientist Gregor Mendel, the founder of genetics.
- Professor of English and literature Kate McPherson (pictured below) was named the literary seminar director for the Utah Shakespeare Festival for summer 2017.
- Professors Anne Arendt (Technology Management), Michael Bunds (Earth Science), and Sarah Hall (Community Health) led a group of students to Indonesia to conduct research related to tsunami events and preparation.
- Jon Westover from the Woodbury School of Business received a Best Research Paper Award from the business division of Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters.



"Our faculty are immersed in the course material right along with their students."

— KATHREN BROWN, Associate Vice President, Academic Administration

Engaged faculty make the difference in student success.

670 full-time faculty

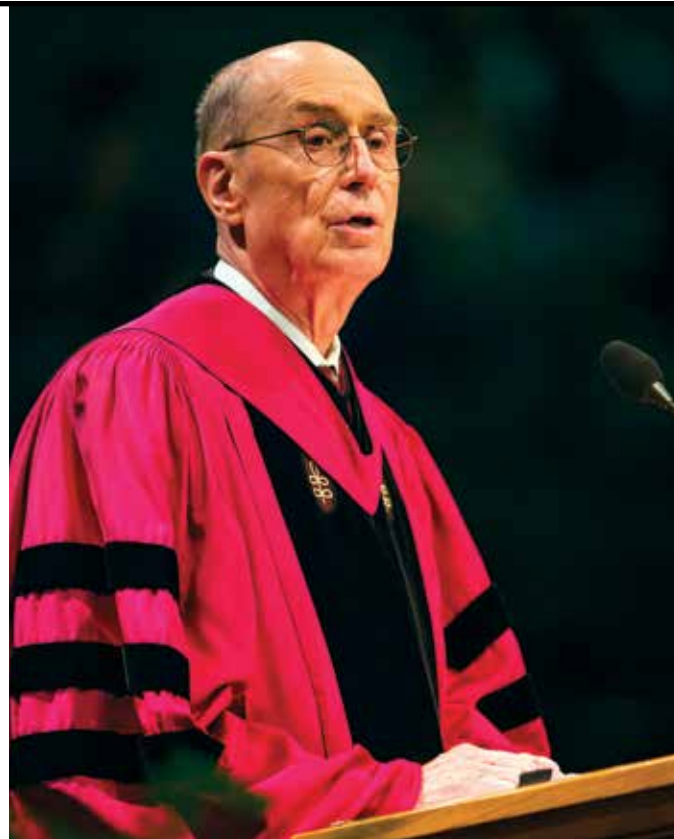
5,276 total number of faculty and staff

23 average class size

43:1 ratio of teachers to students

Dean Fairbanks holds the Mendel Memorial Medal. An accomplished artist, Fairbanks created a series of paintings, drawings, and sculpture titled "In Mendel's Footsteps: An Exhibition of the People, Places, and Scientific Research in the Life of Gregor Mendel."





"It took years, and many universities, for change to come in the way I saw myself. I discovered what you have learned in this university: steady effort will help you to expect to discover gifts you did not know were in you."

— PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING, commencement speaker, 2017



2017 graduates earned:

204 certificates/
diplomas

1,894 associate
degrees

3,110 bachelor
degrees

96 master
degrees

6 graduate
certificates

5,310 total degrees
awarded

76TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Utah Valley University's 76th Commencement Exercises were held May 4, and four honorary degrees were conferred, including:

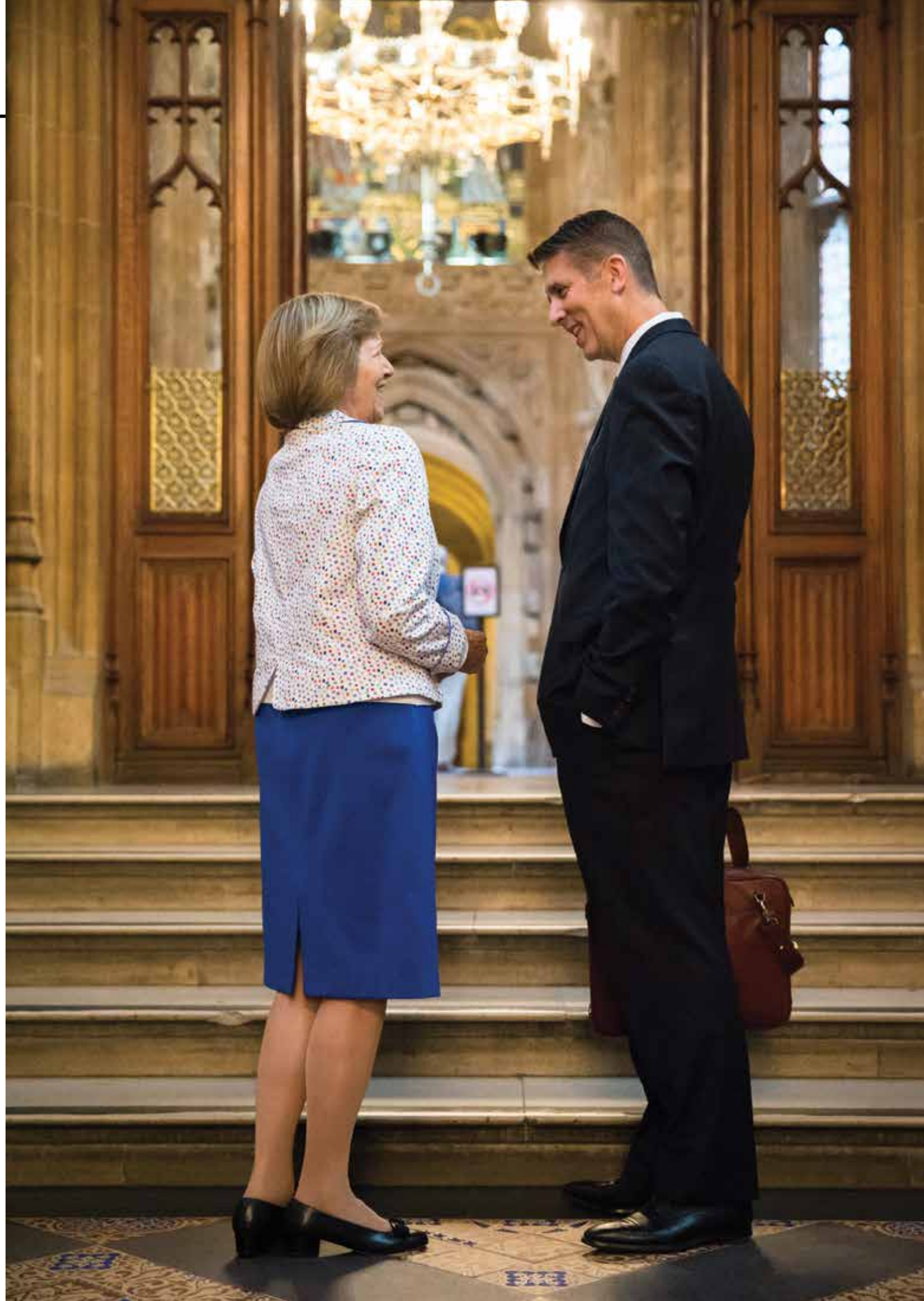
- an honorary doctorate of humane letters on President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
- an honorary doctorate of business on Keith Nellesen, chairman and CEO of NUVI,



- an honorary doctorate of public service on Shirlee Silversmith, director of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs, and
- an honorary doctorate of education on J. Brent Wood, entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Following commencement each year, an average of 84 percent of UVU graduates stay in Utah for at least 12 months.





UVU's PATH TO PARLIAMENT

At the invitation of Baroness Emma Nicholson (pictured at left), UVU President Matthew S. Holland addressed the ALL-Party Parliamentary Group on Foreign Affairs in London to discuss education reform in an international context.

After concluding a unique opportunity as a Senior Associate at Oxford University, President Holland spoke at Parliament about UVU's impact on Utah, and UVU's blending of vocational instruction along with a full university experience—including advanced degrees—under one roof.

"You've got to have both together. You've got to be well-educated in terms of being able to think and analyze, dissect and be objective, and argue well, in order to do something practical."

— Baroness EMMA NICHOLSON of Winterbourne

HOLLAND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

President Holland was named Executive of the Year by *Education Dive*, a leading education news publisher. The 2016 Dive Awards recognized higher education and industry's "top disruptors and innovators." Editors indicated they were impressed with President Holland's commitment to "outlining Utah Valley's instructional direction" and the university's unique dual-mission model.



PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE

Hanna Rosin (pictured above), author of *The New York Times* best-selling book *The End of Men: And The Rise of Women* and host of the National Public Radio podcast "Invisibilia," was a highlighted speaker for the UVU Presidential Lecture Series. Much of Rosin's work has focused on women's issues, modern parenting norms, and gender roles.

EXPERTS ON CYBERSECURITY

In partnership with the Washington, D.C.-based National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), UVU brought together distinguished leaders in cybersecurity, law, and the media for a special panel discussion titled "Global Challenges in Cybersecurity: Protection, Privacy, and Freedom of the Press."



"Roots of Knowledge is one of the most spectacular stained-glass windows made in the past century."

— [theguardian](#)

Roots of Knowledge is a stained-glass panorama that explores humankind's quest for knowledge since the dawn of time.

10-30 feet tall	200 feet long
80 individual panes	60k individual pieces of glass
40+ artists	26 UVU scholars
350+ UVU students in a variety of supporting roles, including researchers	

ROOTS OF KNOWLEDGE

Before Roots of Knowledge was unveiled in its permanent home in the Ira A. and Mary Lou Fulton Library, UVU shipped several panels for events in New York City, Oxford, England, and London, England. At the London event, with President Holland and the project's principal artist, Tom Holdman, on hand, Roots of Knowledge was the featured exhibit at the annual art fair of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass.



"At a time when global politics is increasingly divided... [Roots of Knowledge] is a work which embodies the nation's best qualities: entrepreneurship, excellence, ambition and optimism."

— **CNN**
CNN is a trademark of CABLE NEWS NETWORK, INC. (2011)

**"Being at UVU
is phenomenal!
It gives me
a wider
perspective
of what I am
capable of."**

— ALEX TRUJILLO, Student

A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE

As home to one of the most dynamic teaching universities in the nation, with the access and affordability of a community college, Utah Valley University experienced considerable expansion in 2016-17.

Much like scaling a mountain, the challenges posed by the rigor and demands of higher education can seem daunting. The twists and turns of life can make for a rocky, arduous journey. Experience proves time and time again that success in attaining educational goals requires persistence, grit, and determination.

That's why President Holland started an annual tradition of hiking nearby Mount Timpanogos with students, during which participants spend time discussing what they can expect from the journey, how they can help each other, and what it means to reach the top (as pictured at right). They even analyze poetry along the way.

With its unique dual-mission model, Utah Valley University is showing that the view from the top is worth the climb.

UVU students face a very bright future.



