

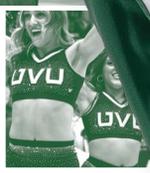
A PLACE TO
ACHIEVE

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY



2024-2025
ANNUAL REPORT

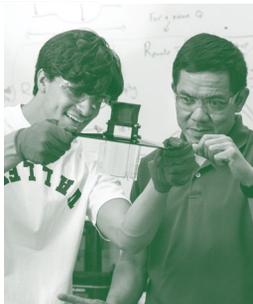
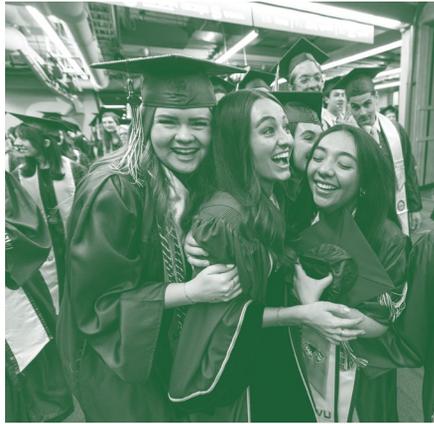
UVU



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY OUR MISSION



Utah Valley University is an integrated university and community college that educates every student for success in work and life through excellence in engaged teaching, services, and scholarship.



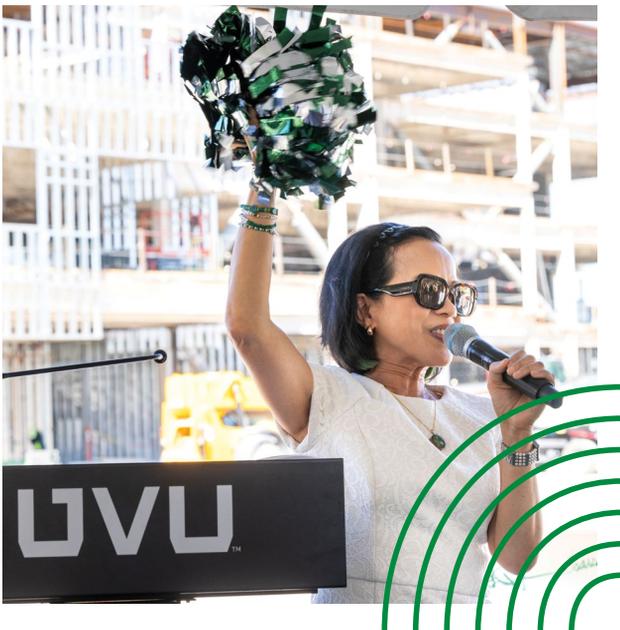


FROM THE PRESIDENT

OUR PURPOSE IS CLEAR AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY (UVU): to provide students with accessible, relevant, high-quality education. This year, UVU has embraced change while remaining true to our mission of educating every student for success in work and life.

National organizations are taking notice of what sets UVU apart. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education recently recognized UVU as an Opportunity College, one of only a small percentage in the nation to be honored for advancing social and economic mobility. We were also named **#1 in Utah for best value, #2 for social mobility, and #3 for “best bang for your buck.”** Within these pages, you will learn more about the high standards of excellence our faculty, staff, and students have embraced, earning national attention through wins in competitions and championships, innovative research, and global service.

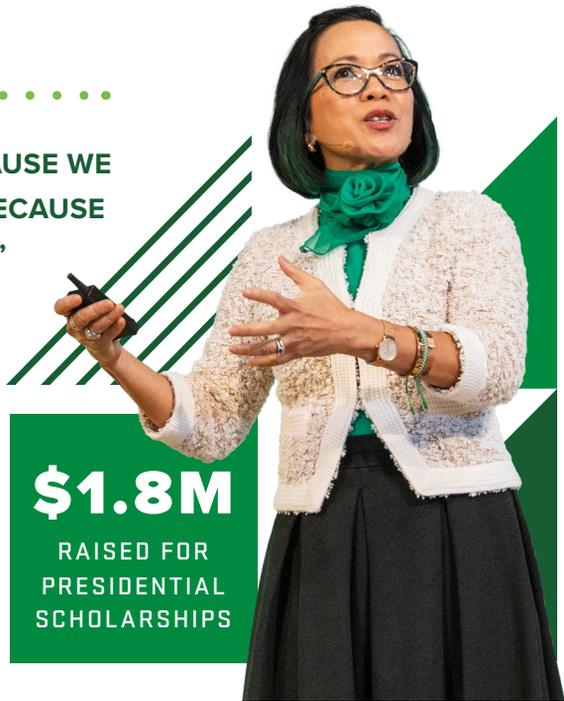
UVU is gaining momentum, and the data confirms it. Enrollment continues to rise in programs powering Utah’s economy, including engineering, nursing, finance, and construction. **We celebrated the largest graduating class in UVU’s history,** with 12,940 students earning 17,278 degrees and certificates. UVU educates and graduates the most Utahns. A decade after graduating, nearly three out of four of our alumni stay in Utah, strengthening our community.



“

UVU CONTINUES TO RISE — NOT BECAUSE WE CHASE RANKINGS OR PRESTIGE, BUT BECAUSE WE STAY ANCHORED IN OUR PURPOSE.”

— President Tuminez



#1
IN UTAH FOR
BEST VALUE

12,940
GRADUATES
IN 2025

\$1.8M
RAISED FOR
PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARSHIPS

We are expanding and building an exceptional future. We are grateful to all who have generously donated to the inaugural EverGREEN campaign, including raising a record-breaking \$1.8 million at the annual President’s Scholarship Ball. We have named the Chelsea and Casey Baugh Entrepreneurship Institute and opened the Alan C. and Karen Ashton Center for Leadership and Inspiration at Sundance. The Baugh and Ashton families are providing our students with unprecedented opportunities through their gifts.

Our future also features the opening of the UCCU Stadium for men’s and women’s soccer, as well as the Scott M. Smith Building, which will house our engineering and technology students. The campus expansion in Vineyard is forging ahead, starting with a partnership with the Huntsman Cancer Institute and planning for a Health and Wellness Village to benefit our students and community. UVU’s reach is growing, not just in size, but in significance and impact.

UVU continues to rise — not because we chase rankings or prestige, but because we stay anchored in our purpose. UVU is a place of new beginnings and bold ambition. We are a place where every student, regardless of background, can achieve and thrive.

To our state leaders, donors, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community: Thank you.

We have much to celebrate. We have even more to build. And there has never been a better time to be a Wolverine!

ASTRID S. TUMINEZ, PH.D.
PRESIDENT, UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

2024-2025

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE



46,809

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
(14.3% INCREASE OVER 5 YEARS)



6,071

FACULTY & STAFF



30,599

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
STUDENTS (5.5% INCREASE
OVER 5 YEARS)



16,699

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT
STUDENTS

HUNDREDS OF PROGRAM OPTIONS

109

CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS

65

ASSOCIATE
DEGREES

110

BACHELOR'S
DEGREES

20

MASTER'S
DEGREES

61

ONLINE
PROGRAMS

OUR STUDENTS



18%
ARE ADULT
LEARNERS
(AGE 25+)



13% ARE LATINO



41%
ARE FIRST-GENERATION



12%
SUPPORT CHILDREN
UNDER 18

76%
WORK WHILE IN SCHOOL

50%
ARE FEMALE



30%
ARE MARRIED/
PARTNERED



UVU Business Intelligence and Research
Services (BIRS)



#1

IN UTAH FOR
PRODUCING LOCAL
ENTREPRENEURS

(Switch on Business, 2024)

#1
**BEST VALUE
COLLEGE**
IN UTAH

(Research.com, 2025)

#1
IN UTAH FOR
**ONLINE
PROGRAMS**

(Newsweek, 2025)

#2
IN UTAH FOR
**SOCIAL
MOBILITY**

(The Wall Street Journal, 2024)

#3
IN UTAH FOR
**"BEST BANG FOR
YOUR BUCK"**

(Washington Monthly, 2024)



UTAH WORKSITE WELLNESS COUNCIL

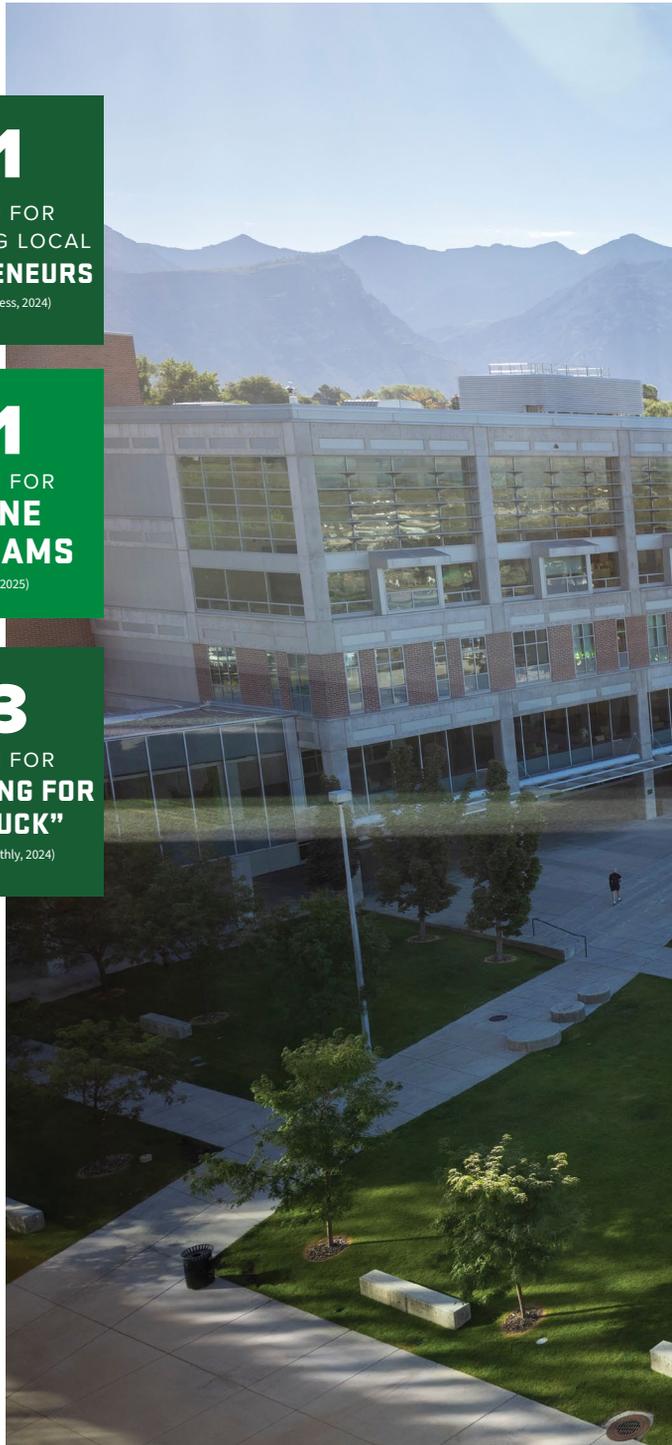
**PLATINUM WORKSITE
WELLNESS AWARD 2025**

for the UVUFit employee wellness program



UTAH BUSINESS MAGAZINE 2024

GREEN BUSINESS AWARD





EXCEPTIONAL CARE



AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY, EXCEPTIONAL CARE IS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO. We are committed to providing comprehensive, personalized support that meets students where they are and helps them thrive academically, emotionally, and personally. From application to graduation and beyond, UVU students know they have a community dedicated to their success.



UVU EDUCATES AND GRADUATES MORE UTAHNS THAN ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY.







CARNEGIE RECOGNIZES UVU AS AN OPPORTUNITY COLLEGE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

In April 2025, UVU was named an “Opportunity College and University – Higher Access, Higher Earnings” by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Just 16% of all U.S. colleges and universities received this award, which recognizes and highlights institutions that demonstrate excellence in creating equitable outcomes for students and strengthening economic mobility.

With UVU’s engaged learning model, robust student support services, and workforce-aligned programs, 73.4% of graduates secure high-demand, high-wage jobs, with most staying in Utah to strengthen the state’s economy. UVU’s open-admissions model and long-term commitment to student success initiatives have helped ensure that graduates see high returns on their educational investments.



73.4%

OF UVU GRADUATES SECURE
HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE JOBS.

Utah Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Data Governance and Analytics

RETENTION ON THE RISE

MORE STUDENTS STAY AND SUCCEED

UVU has reached a significant milestone in student success, achieving a 70% one-year retention rate two years ahead of its original goal. This five-point increase reflects UVU's focused efforts to support students from their first day on campus.

Key initiatives include the launch of the First-Year Advising Center, expanded orientation and student engagement programs, and the implementation of a proactive Early Alert

system that uses data, artificial intelligence, and mentorship to identify and support students at risk of falling behind. These strategies promote a sense of belonging, timely intervention, and personalized guidance, helping more students persist and thrive.

70% ONE-YEAR RETENTION RATE



UVU Business Intelligence and Research Services (BIRS), fall 2022-fall 2023



GEAR UP GRANT EMPOWERS THE NEXT GENERATION OF UTAH COLLEGE STUDENTS

UVU was awarded a seven-year, \$31.5 million federal grant to help 4,500 low-income Utah students prepare for college through the GEAR UP Utah program.



LANGUAGE HUB OPENS DOORS TO COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY

In 2024, UVU opened its new Language Hub, a space designed to transform how students learn and engage with nine different languages. The hub offers peer mentoring, club meeting spaces, a sense of community for language learners, and creative tools like podcast and video studios. It makes a meaningful difference by helping students move from memorization to real-world communication, creativity, and cultural connection.

SUPPORT AT EVERY STEP

At UVU, students are surrounded by a network of support to help them thrive academically, personally, and professionally.



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

TUTORING: Online and in-person support for 549 courses

FIRST-YEAR ADVISING CENTER: Specialized guidance for new Wolverines

GEAR UP AND TRIO: Extra help and mentoring for eligible students

EARLY ALERT PROGRAM: Proactively connecting students in need with campus resources

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT: High school students can earn college credit at \$5 per credit hour

WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Free and low-cost counseling and crisis support

WELLNESS PROGRAMS: Workshops and activities for a healthy mind and body

RECREATION AND FITNESS: On-campus gym and outdoor adventure resources

CARE HUB: Student access to housing, food, health, and safety resources

CONNECTION AND BELONGING

STUDENT CLUBS: Students explore shared interests in 130+ clubs and 14 club sports teams

WOLVERINE WELCOME WEEK: Warm welcome for first-year and returning students

HOMECOMING WEEK: Wolverines celebrate, connect, and show their Wolverine pride

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

UVU STUDENT APP: Easy access to class schedules, grades, and campus tools

FLEXIBLE ADULT LEARNING: Online and hybrid classes that fit busy schedules

CAREER AND INTERNSHIP CENTER: Resources to explore careers, build resumes, and land internships

MONEY SUCCESS CENTER: Students learn sound financial management skills

STUDENT-PARENT SUPPORT: Low-cost, on-campus childcare center, family study spaces, and drop-in, hourly childcare

66

THERE ARE SO MANY RESOURCES AND SO MANY DIFFERENT PATHWAYS AT UVU ... ANYBODY WANTING TO BE ANYTHING COULD COME HERE AND BE HAPPY AND FIND RESOURCES FOR THEM, WHICH I THINK IS INCREDIBLE.”

— Hailey Cox, Biology Major





WEE CARE CENTER HELPS STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES THRIVE

The Wee Care Center, UVU’s on-campus, low-cost childcare center, helped 199 student-parents stay on track by delivering over 72,000 hours of affordable childcare for 239 children. In total, 106 certificates and degrees were earned by student-parents during the year, with 93% reporting that Wee Care was essential to completing their degree. From parenting classes to early literacy programming and nutritious meals, these programs worked together to remove barriers, build community, and help Wolverines succeed.

In partnership with UVU’s Excelerate Program, in 2024, the Wee Care Center launched a creative, competition-based reading program that dramatically increased how often student-parents read to their children. By gamifying reading with team names, points, and prizes, participation jumped from 15% to 60% in just one semester. The program strengthens family bonds, builds early literacy skills, and gives parents tools to support their child’s development, showing that with the right support, even busy student-parents can nurture a lifelong love of reading.



NEW FOSTER YOUTH PROGRAM BUILDS PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

In 2024, UVU launched the Foster Success program to support students transitioning from foster care into higher education. The program connects students with resources like housing, counseling, and financial aid while offering empathy and guidance tailored to their unique challenges. By creating a strong support network, UVU helps foster youth feel seen, valued, and equipped to succeed.

CARE HUB SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN NEED

The UVU CARE Hub strives to increase students' access to food, housing, health, and safety. This year, the CARE Hub made a powerful difference in the lives of students in need of support. It provided over 53,000 pounds of food — enough for approximately 35,300 meals — to more than 9,000 people and distributed 284 food vouchers. It also held 479 individualized support meetings and Sub for Santa programs for 61 children in 32 families.



35,300

MEALS PROVIDED (2024-2025)



“

THE CARE HUB IS THE EMBODIMENT OF UVU'S VALUE OF EXCEPTIONAL CARE. BY CONNECTING STUDENTS TO RESOURCES FOR BASIC NEEDS LIKE FOOD AND HOUSING, THE CARE HUB HELPS REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL SUCCESS.”

— Michelle Kearns, UVU Vice President of Student Affairs

A MILESTONE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

In 2024, UVU graduated from the JED Campus program, designed to help the nation's colleges and universities strengthen their mental health, suicide prevention, and substance misuse programs. Joining the JED Campus Alumni Network marks a major milestone in UVU's commitment to student mental health.

UVU has built a sustainable, campus-wide system for suicide prevention and emotional wellness. With access to training and national collaboration, UVU can support students, reduce stigma, and create a culture where mental health is prioritized and help is always within reach.



“
**WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THESE EFFORTS,
ENSURING OUR STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THE
RESOURCES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY,
SOCIALY, AND EMOTIONALLY, EVEN IN CHALLENGING TIMES.”**

— Alexis Palmer, UVU Associate Vice President of Student Development and Well-Being and Dean of Students

10 YEARS OF EMPOWERING UTAH'S AUTISM COMMUNITY

UVU's Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism celebrated 10 years of its Passages program, which has helped autistic young adults navigate life after high school. The anniversary kicked off with the Super Spectrum Showcase and Soiree, featuring artwork by artists with autism. Since launching in 2014, Passages has supported hundreds of participants in building friendships, setting goals, and finding their paths — whether in school, work, or everyday life.



RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING ALL WOLVERINES

Throughout the year, UVU celebrates and supports students from all backgrounds.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

UVU marked Native American Heritage Month with cultural performances, storytelling, and traditional powwows honoring Indigenous students and community members.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month featured leadership programs, mentoring, and discussions on topics including body image and maternal health.

VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day brought events that honored service members and fostered community through the Military-Affiliated Student Hub.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month included films, academic workshops, events, and celebrations highlighting Black culture and achievements.

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

During Disability Awareness Month, UVU highlighted resources and technology that help students with disabilities succeed.





UVU EXPANDS PATHS TO GRADUATION WITH CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

UVU has made it easier for adult learners to complete their degrees by expanding its Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) program. CPL lets students turn work experience, military service, training, or professional certifications into college credit, saving time and money. With new opportunities in areas like business, digital media, and health sciences, UVU helps students turn real-world skills into academic progress, creating faster pathways to graduation and career growth.



“
BALANCING FOUR KIDS, A FULL-TIME JOB, AND COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS MEANT I COULDN'T ALWAYS TAKE A FULL COURSE LOAD, BUT DISCOVERING CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING CHANGED MY PATH.

THIS OPPORTUNITY HELPED ME SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL AND SAVED ME A SEMESTER AND A HALF OF CLASSES. I'M TRULY GRATEFUL TO UVU FOR RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF MY JOURNEY.”



— Amy Saville, First-Generation Student,
Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Digital
Marketing Certificate, Class of 2026

A PLACE TO ACHIEVE – AND BUILD UTAH’S FUTURE

UVU delivers an exceptional return on investment for students and the state by preparing graduates for Utah’s most in-demand careers. Enrollment is growing in majors that align with Utah’s 4- and 5-star jobs, defined by the Utah Department of Workforce Services as high-wage, high-demand positions.

UVU STUDENTS CHOOSE MAJORS THAT POWER UTAH’S ECONOMY

These fields are vital to Utah’s expanding economy and meet critical workforce needs in healthcare, business, infrastructure, and innovation. UVU’s commitment to hands-on learning and industry-relevant training means students graduate ready to contribute immediately, strengthening families and communities across the state.



NURSING ENROLLMENT UP

15.87%



FINANCE AND ECONOMICS
ENROLLMENT UP

15.62%



CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES
ENROLLMENT UP

14.29%



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
ENROLLMENT UP

12.79%



Fall 2023 to fall 2024



➔ [READ MORE IN THE ONLINE ANNUAL REPORT](#)

EXCEPTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY



HANDS-ON LEARNING AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE ARE CENTRAL TO UVU'S COMMITMENT TO EXCEPTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY. Through research, internships, community engagement, and industry partnerships, students gain skills that prepare them to tackle real-world challenges. This focus on meaningful, practical education demonstrates our careful stewardship of legislative funding, ensuring every dollar invested supports valuable student experiences and strengthens Utah's workforce and communities.



74% OF UVU ALUMNI LIVE IN UTAH 10 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION, CONTRIBUTING TO UTAH'S THRIVING ECONOMY.

UVU Business Intelligence and Research Services (BIRS)



STEVEN E. DE SOUZA

DIE HARD SCREENING AND Q&A



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM IN UVU'S INNOVATION ACADEMY

As the workforce evolves, UVU is keeping pace and forging new paths with its Innovation Academy, where students learn from field experts in hands-on and interest-specific programs. Along with opportunities like study abroad, research and creative works, professional mentorship, and integrated studies, the Innovation Academy offers a growing list of programs:

THE EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION INITIATIVE (E2I): Students work on real industry projects under professional mentorship.

EXCELERATE: Tuition-free courses where students earn college credit through learning experiences outside the classroom.

THE CAPITOL REEF FIELD STATION: Students engage in research and creative work surrounded by the beauty of Southern Utah.

UVU-FANX STUDIOS WRITER'S ROOM: Select cohorts work with Hollywood filmmakers to hone screenwriting skills.

Jessa Wright, a student in the UVU-FanX Studios cohort, had a lifelong dream realized when she learned that her Writer's Room script was moving into development with FanX Studios, directed by Hollywood actress and director Katie Cassidy.

In Feb. 2025, the Innovation Academy's UVU-FanX Green Room Series hosted a special screening of the 1988 film "Die Hard," followed by a Q&A with the film's screenwriter, Steven E. de Souza. Additionally, eight FanX Studios Writer's Room students were selected as Brandon Fugal Fellows, a prestigious cohort for aspiring entertainment industry professionals. The students will receive a cash award and yearlong mentorship from de Souza.



PROFESSOR AND STUDENTS TACKLE UTAH HOUSING DEMAND

In March 2025, UVU public relations and strategic communication students and UVU Professor Farah Sanders, Ph.D., met with the Heber City Council to share research and proposals about the city's high growth rate and lack of affordable housing. Using data collected from Wasatch County residents over three years, students created a PR campaign to address affordable housing, which included distributing public education materials, creating a social media campaign, and hosting a table at the Heber Valley Community Expo.

STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL FILM PRODUCTION AWARDS

UVU students James Coca, Ruby Tafolla, and Nathan Dobbin exemplified the university's knack for fostering up-and-coming film talent by taking home awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter's Student Production Awards. Dobbin received an editing award for the film "A to Z," while Coca won a nonfiction short form award for his film "Pushing Limitations," which he made with Tafolla.





ENGAGED LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In the summer of 2024, 21 students from UVU's Center for Constitutional Studies had an unforgettable study abroad experience at the University of Oxford's prestigious Pembroke College. While living in Oxford's dorms, students took courses focused on constitutionalism and civic thought, helping them gain new understandings of constitutional government and civic responsibility.

“
I WILL CARRY THESE THINGS WITH ME IN MY EDUCATION AND IN MY PERSONAL LIFE. IT'S BEEN MY FAVORITE COURSE I'VE TAKEN AT UVU, BEING HERE WITH PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT BEING HERE.”

— Gabrielle Erickson, UVU Political Science Student

LEADING THE WAY IN AI WORKFORCE EDUCATION

To prepare students and community members for the evolving job market, UVU announced its new Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute in Nov. 2024 — the first institute of its kind in Utah. The hands-on hub will keep UVU at the cutting edge of AI trends in higher education and Utah’s workforce.

Along with UVU’s Master of Science in applied AI, graduate certificate in AI, and applied AI apprenticeship program, the university integrates AI education in meaningful ways, ensuring students receive industry-relevant education that prepares them for careers after graduation.



UVU PARTNERS WITH GLOBAL AI LEADER

In March 2025, President Tuminez, Utah Governor Spencer Cox, and executives from NVIDIA, a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning, signed a three-year agreement to provide extensive resources to train UVU students, faculty, and staff in applied AI. Through the agreement, UVU faculty can earn certification from the NVIDIA Deep Learning Institute University Ambassador Program, which offers training materials, workshops, and access to AI tools and cloud computing platforms.



“

BY INTEGRATING HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES INTO OUR CURRICULUM, WE ARE EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN THE RAPIDLY EVOLVING WORLD OF WORK.”

— President Tuminez

FROM UVU TO HBO TO JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE!



UVU musical theatre major Isabella Henao took her talents from the classroom to national stages, appearing on HBO’s “The Rehearsal” and performing on “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” A passionate performer since childhood, Isabella credits UVU’s hands-on training, supportive faculty, and strong performance opportunities for preparing her to thrive. Mentors like UVU professors Marilee Wilson and Steven Rimke played key roles in helping Henao refine her voice for the performances and navigate the industry.

Henao’s performance earned praise from Evanescence’s Amy Lee and captured the attention of thousands, marking a significant milestone in her artistic journey and spotlighting the strength of UVU’s performing arts program.



Randy Holmes, ABC



UVU CONTINUES SKILLSUSA LEGACY WITH TOP-FIVE NATIONAL RANKING

In June 2025, UVU students competed at the national SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta, earning four silver and four bronze medals across eight categories. UVU ranked second in the nation for post-secondary technical institutions, continuing its 24-year streak as a top-five school. Students excelled in areas including cabinetmaking, robotics, and automation technology.



PRESERVING HISTORY IN BOLIVIA

In 2024, three professors and six students from UVU's Smith College of Engineering and Technology traveled to Tiwanaku, Bolivia, in partnership with the American Embassy in Bolivia and the U.S. National Park Service to preserve a historical pre-Columbian site predating the Inca civilization. The group created architectural drawings and recorded audio of people and surroundings — a once-in-a-lifetime hands-on learning opportunity.





UVU ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS HELP WITH CA WILDFIRE RELIEF

During spring break 2025, UVU architecture students used 3D digital modeling to recreate century-old homes lost to the Eaton Fire in Altadena, California, which destroyed nearly 10,000 structures. Created by UVU professors, the California Bungalow Recovery Project gave UVU students a chance to apply their studies in a real-world context. The students used photos, interviews with families, and measurements of burn sites to recreate the homes of 33 families, providing them with floor plans, exterior elevations, and 3D digital models of the homes they lost, allowing them the chance to rebuild.



33 HOMES
RECREATED



“THE EXPERIENCE MADE ME EVEN MORE PASSIONATE ABOUT ARCHITECTURE. IT MADE ME EXCITED AND GAVE ME A GLIMPSE INTO WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP PEOPLE.”

— Jared Poulter, UVU Architecture Student

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR CANCER AND PROTEIN RESEARCH

In Nov. 2024, UVU College of Science students Tessa Black and Eugene Leung were recognized by the American Chemical Society's Utah Chapter for outstanding undergraduate research. Leung's chemistry-driven research focused on early cancer detection methods and was monitored by professors Ming Yu, Ph.D., and Elena Laricheva, Ph.D., from UVU's chemistry department. Mentored by professors Craig Thulin, Ph.D., Stephen Chamberland, Ph.D., and Jessica Cusick, Ph.D., Black researched protein isolation that introduced a new technique called the "midwestern blot."

FACULTY MAKE AN IMPACT ON WATER USE IN PERU

In early 2025, UVU faculty fostered international collaboration with the Utah-Peru "Bridges of Water" project, represented by Associate Professor Sally Rocks, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Lauren Brooks, Ph.D., and Professor Eddy Cadet, Ph.D. The UVU cohort collected over 100 water samples for analysis, held strategy meetings with the Peruvian government, and presented on microbiology and trace metals at several institutions, including the Congress of the Republic of Peru.





STUDENTS WIN FIRST PLACE IN AIRPORT RESEARCH COMPETITION

In July 2024, 10 mechanical engineering students and three computer science students took first place in the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) University Design Competition for Addressing Airport Needs. Judged by a panel of FAA and academic experts, the team's winning submission was an autonomous electric aircraft tug, a project launched by Assistant Professor Brett Stone, Ph.D., Associate Professor Matt Jensen, Ph.D., and Professor George Rudolph, Ph.D. Recently unveiled at the Provo Airport, the

electric tug can remotely steer aircraft on the tarmac while saving fuel costs, increasing worker safety, and reducing the equivalent of 2,400 cars' worth of emissions, thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation.



\$15K

GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER FOUNDATION



“

[THE STUDENTS] BALANCED THIS PROJECT WITH THEIR OTHER **ACADEMIC COMMITMENTS, FULL- AND PART-TIME JOBS, AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES. I AM SO VERY PROUD OF THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT.**”

— Brett Stone, Ph.D., UVU Engineering Professor

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND DONATIONS

MEANINGFUL SUPPORT
EXPANDS POSSIBILITIES

\$1.9M

The UVU College of Science received a **\$1.9 million grant** from the National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program to support underrepresented STEM students.



\$100K

The Redrock Roadrunners Charity Cup donated **\$100,000** to the UVU College of Science and the DDX Foundation to support biotech and pharmaceutical research.



\$220.5K

UVU received a **\$220,582 grant from the U.S. Russia Foundation (USRF)** for Russian language and diplomacy scholarships and a public lecture series.





DENTAL HYGIENIST TRAINING LAB OPENS ON LEHI CAMPUS

In Oct. 2024, the university held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new dental hygiene lab and community clinic on UVU’s Lehi Campus. The 24-seat lab, made possible by a \$2 million donation from the Utah County Commission in 2022, will allow more students to be trained, while 3,000 low-income community members will have access to free and low-cost dental care. According to the Utah Department of Workforce Services, dental hygiene is a five-star job in a rapidly growing field. As UVU focuses on preparing students for the workforce, the new lab provides invaluable hands-on experience for dental hygiene students.



3,000

LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO FREE AND LOW-COST DENTAL CARE.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND DONATIONS



\$5 MILLION DONATED TO UVU ENTREPRENEURSHIP INSTITUTE

In Dec. 2024, Utah entrepreneurs and proud Wolverines Chelsea and Casey Baugh donated \$5 million to support UVU's entrepreneurial students. Chelsea played on the UVU women's volleyball team and earned a healthcare education degree, while Casey used the skills he gained at UVU to transform startups into enterprises. The newly named Chelsea and Casey Baugh Entrepreneurship Institute supports student businesses and strengthens university partnerships with local businesses like Sandbox, which foster talent from UVU.

“

CHELSEA AND I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THE POWER OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO TRANSFORM LIVES, AND UVU PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN OUR JOURNEY. WE'RE PROUD TO CONTRIBUTE TO A UNIVERSITY THAT CONTINUES TO PUSH BOUNDARIES AND FOSTER INNOVATION.”

— Casey Baugh, Donor and Entrepreneur



SUNDANCE PROPERTY BECOMES HOME TO UVU'S ASHTON CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND INSPIRATION

Philanthropists Alan C. and Karen Ashton partnered with UVU in a joint purchase of the 4.6-acre Sundance Mountain Resort property, creating a space for students, faculty, staff, and supporters to learn, train, and celebrate. The Alan C. and Karen Ashton Center for Leadership and Inspiration will host visiting Wolverines and community partners, including those involved with the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival and Sundance Summer Theatre.



THIS NEW PROPERTY WILL HELP CREATE A UNIQUE HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS. HOW EXCITING IS IT TO BE A PART OF A UNIVERSITY THAT IS CONTINUING TO GROW?"

— Mimi Barney, UVU Student Body President, 2024-2025

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The 2025 Utah Legislative Session brought new opportunities to the university. As the state's workforce evolves, UVU and local government leaders are united in a shared vision to strengthen educational opportunities and make strategic investments that support student success.

REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS



ENGINEERING INITIATIVE:
\$4 MILLION ONGOING WITH
MATCH FROM INSTITUTIONS



**UTAH FIRE AND RESCUE
ACADEMY FIREFIGHTER
CANCER SCREENING:**
\$3.7 MILLION ONGOING



UTAH DEBATES: \$300K ONE-
TIME FUNDING FOR THE HERBERT
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY



FEDERALISM AMENDMENTS:
\$568K ONGOING AND \$350K
ONE-TIME FUNDING

CAPITAL FACILITIES



**HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND
MENTAL HEALTH BUILDING:**
\$8.7 MILLION ONE-TIME FUNDING
FROM UVU'S DEDICATED FUND



**STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS
CENTER:** \$14.2 MILLION ONE-TIME
FUNDING FROM UVU'S DEDICATED
FUND AND \$329K ONGOING

COMPENSATION



2.5%
COMPENSATION INCREASE



5% AND 6.9%
HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE
PLAN PREMIUM INCREASES IN FY26

PERFORMANCE FUNDING



\$984K ONGOING



▶ **SCAN TO READ
EXPANDED STORIES**

EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS



EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS ARE THE MEASURE OF UVU'S COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS. From classroom breakthroughs to career achievements, our students, faculty, and staff demonstrate what's possible when talent is matched with opportunity and support. This year's milestones reflect individual accomplishments and the university's dedication to helping every Wolverine turn hard work into meaningful outcomes that strengthen families, communities, and Utah's future.



UVU CELEBRATED 12,940 GRADUATES IN 2025 – THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN UVU HISTORY.

Operational data provided by UVU Business Intelligence and Research Services (BIRS), as of 6/27/25





COMMENCEMENT 2025

MAVERIK CEO ADDRESSES GRADUATING CLASS

Utah business icon Crystal Maggelet, chief executive officer of FJ Management, Inc. and Maverik, told UVU's Class of 2025 to develop and embrace resilience as they face life's challenges during her keynote address at UVU's commencement ceremony on April 30, 2025.



“THAT’S WHAT RESILIENCE IS: TO WORK TOWARD SOMETHING BETTER, EVEN WHEN IT’S HARD. AND THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT YOU’VE DONE BY BEING HERE TODAY.”

— Crystal Maggelet, CEO of FJ Management, Inc. and Maverik

UVU'S CLASS OF 2025

12,940 
GRADUATES

THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN UVU HISTORY*



NEARLY
1/3

ARE FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS



84%

ARE FROM UTAH



17,278

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED*

OUR GRADUATES ARE FROM

28

OF UTAH'S 29 COUNTIES

53

COUNTRIES

47

STATES

#1



EDUCATING AND GRADUATING THE MOST UTAHNS

71

IS THE OLDEST GRADUATE

16

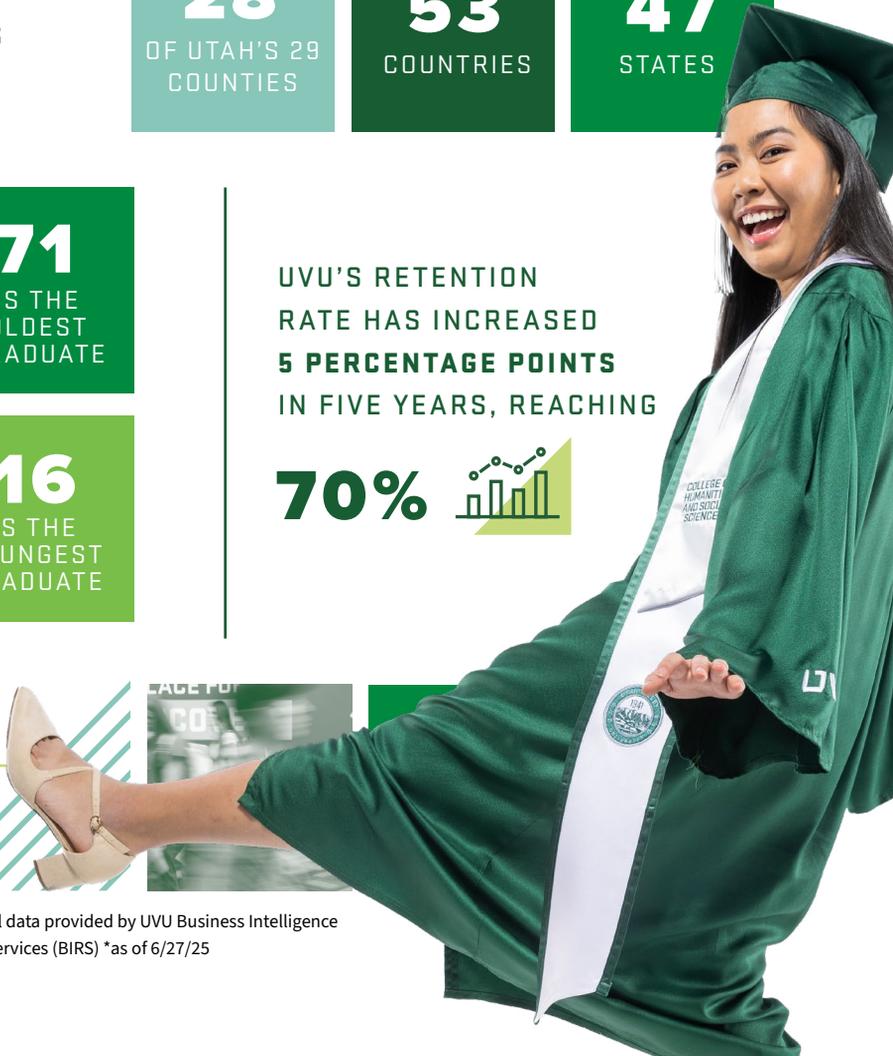
IS THE YOUNGEST GRADUATE

UVU'S RETENTION RATE HAS INCREASED **5 PERCENTAGE POINTS** IN FIVE YEARS, REACHING

70%



Operational data provided by UVU Business Intelligence Research Services (BIRS) *as of 6/27/25



UVU EVENTS ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY



“ BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. WHATEVER YOUR PROFESSION AFTER GETTING YOUR EDUCATION, HELP OTHER PEOPLE.”

— Apl.de.Ap, Founding Member of the Black Eyed Peas

PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES BRINGS RENOWNED DOCTOR AND GRAMMY WINNER TO UVU

In fall 2024, renowned medical anthropologist and Harvard educator Dr. Arthur Kleinman outlined the elements of what he called “the soul of caregiving” — accompaniment, relationships and reciprocity, presence, ritual and habits, and enduring.

In the spring 2025 lecture, Grammy-winning artist and founding member of the Black Eyed Peas Apl.de.Ap reflected on his 35-year career in hip hop.

Kleinman and Apl.de.Ap also taught masterclasses following the lectures, with hundreds of participants learning more about healthcare and artistry.



“IF WE WANTED A RUBRIC UNDER WHICH CARE FALLS, IT’S PROBABLY LOVE.”

— Dr. Arthur Kleinman, Medical Anthropologist and Harvard Educator



CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES DISCUSSES TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

Verlan Lewis and Hyrum Lewis, co-authors of “The Myth of Left and Right: How the Political Spectrum Misleads and Harms America,” discussed how a healthy two-party system contributes to the American constitutional tradition as part of UVU’s fall 2024 Constitution Day conference, presented by the UVU Center for Constitutional Studies.



SOCIAL WORKER AND EDUCATOR HEADLINES UVU MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

In her remarks during the 2024 UVU Conference on Mental Health, social worker, author, and mental health educator Minaa B. emphasized the importance of community care as a means of improving one’s mental health.

“
COMMUNITY CARE LOOKS LIKE FIGURING OUT HOW YOU COULD BE A HELPING HAND TO SOMEONE, EVEN TO A STRANGER.”

— Minaa B., Social Worker, Author, and Mental Health Educator





'AMERICA'S GOVERNMENT TEACHER'

SHARON MCMAHON SPEAKS TO A SOLD-OUT CROWD

Sharon McMahon, known as “America’s government teacher,” spoke at the UCCU Center on UVU’s Orem Campus in Oct. 2024, as part of a multi-city tour for her book, “The Small and the Mighty,” highlighting the contributions of everyday Americans often overlooked in history. The book emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and the way small actions can lead to significant change.

UVU TEAM PRESENTS RESEARCH ON HOW AI DEEPFAKES AFFECT ELECTIONS

A team of UVU students presented collaborative research in an Oct. 2024 event on whether people can detect deepfake content and how that content can impact elections. The study tested 244 subjects across the U.S. with real and deepfake videos and audio to determine their ability to distinguish between the two.

UVU HOSTS GROWTH AND PROSPERITY SUMMIT

In Nov. 2024, over 500 business and community leaders convened on UVU's Orem Campus for the Growth and Prosperity Summit hosted by the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce, with President Tuminez as a keynote speaker. The event featured remarks from Utah Senator Mike Lee and Utah Governor Spencer Cox, who emphasized the need to build new housing to support the state's rapidly growing population. The summit aimed to further the growth of Utah Valley by "advocating for the business community, fostering meaningful area development, and maintaining and improving the quality of life in the region."



“**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS A TREMENDOUS TOOL, BUT THIS RESEARCH TELLS A CAUTIONARY TALE FOR OUR DEMOCRACY BY ILLUSTRATING HOW EASILY IT CAN BE USED TO PUSH FAKE MESSAGES TO VOTERS.**”

— Brandon Amacher, UVU Emerging Technology Policy Lab Director and UVU Center for National Security Studies Instructor



2025 SILICON SLOPES SUMMIT HELD AT UVU

President Tuminez delivered the opening remarks at the 2025 Silicon Slopes Summit held on UVU’s Orem Campus in Jan. 2025. Her address, entitled “From Slums to Silicon Slopes: Unleashing the Power of Dreams Through Education,” focused on three key elements from her upbringing in the Philippines: grit, ownership, and generosity.

“ STAY GRITTY AND BE GENEROUS. BE GENEROUS WITH YOURSELF. BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR TEAMS. BE GENEROUS WITH THE PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH. THE FUTURE TRULY IS IN OUR HANDS.”

— President Tuminez



UVU’s marketing and communications team was named a **finalist for the Silicon Slopes Hall of Fame** in the Marketing Company of the Year 2024 category.





EDUCATOR AND ACTIVIST

JANE ELLIOTT SPEAKS AT UVU MLK COMMEMORATION

Renowned educator and activist Jane Elliott spoke as part of UVU's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week. Elliott is known for her groundbreaking Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes Experiment, first conducted in 1968, the day after King was assassinated. Elliott's exercise challenged perceptions of discrimination and sparked a lifelong commitment to fighting racism, sexism, and prejudice.



DATA PROFESSIONALS AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONVENE AT UVU DATA SUMMIT

UVU held the 2025 UVU Data Summit in Feb. 2025, featuring presenters including President Tuminez; Christina Baum, UVU chief information officer and vice president of digital transformation; Jordan Morrow, senior vice president of data and AI transformation at AgileOne; and Laura Zemp, district director of enterprise analytics and strategy for Maricopa Community Colleges.

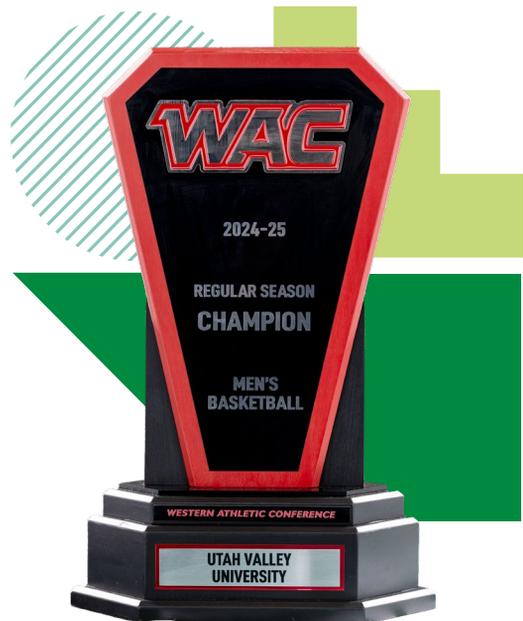
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

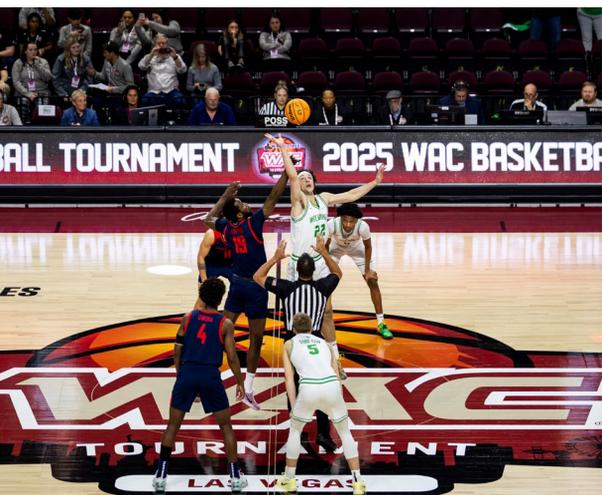


UVU MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS EARN TOURNAMENT INVITES

Wolverine men's and women's basketball both celebrated successful seasons with berths in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT), with the women's team notching the program's first postseason victory with a win on the road at Air Force.

UVU's men's basketball won the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) regular-season title and dominated the conference's postseason awards, with guard Dominick Nelson named WAC Player of the Year, forward Carter Welling earning WAC Defensive Player of the Year, and coach Todd Phillips receiving WAC Coach of the Year honors in his second season as Wolverines head coach.





UVU JOINS THE BIG WEST, USHERING IN A NEW ERA FOR WOLVERINE ATHLETICS

In June 2025, UVU announced it will join the Big West Conference as a full member starting in the 2026-27 academic year, marking a major milestone for UVU Athletics. The move aligns UVU with top mid-major institutions, expands its reach in the West, and brings Big West competition back to Utah for the first time since 2005.

“

THIS MOVE IS ABOUT VISION, OPPORTUNITY, AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY. JOINING THE BIG WEST STRENGTHENS OUR REACH IN THE WEST, ENHANCES TRAVEL EFFICIENCY, SUPPORTS COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE, AND PLACES OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES IN ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED MID-MAJOR CONFERENCES IN THE COUNTRY.”

— Val Peterson, Ph.D., UVU Vice President of Administration and Strategic Relations

UVU WOMEN'S SOCCER THREEPEATS AS WAC REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONS

Starting the season with a 2-0 upset victory over crosstown rivals BYU — who were ranked #3 in the country at the time — the UVU women's soccer team went undefeated in Western Athletic Conference (WAC) play and clinched their third-straight regular season championship.

Senior forward and leading scorer Faith Webber led the nation in goals per game and was named the WAC Offensive Player of the Year. She was also named to the Academic All-America team. In addition, four Wolverines were named to the 2024 United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-America Team, the most of any program in the nation.





WOLVERINE BASEBALL EARNS HISTORIC NCAA WIN

Under first-year coach Nate Rasmussen, the UVU baseball team notched a 33-29 record and won the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Tournament for the first time since 2016. The Wolverines then made history by defeating #12 Oregon in Eugene for UVU baseball's first-ever NCAA Tournament win. The victory was the team's first over a ranked opponent on the road since 2019.

The 33 wins are the most ever by a UVU head coach in his first season, and the team's success earned Rasmussen a contract extension through the 2029 season.



33 WINS
WITH COACH RASMUSSEN

“

COACH RASMUSSEN HAS QUICKLY PROVEN HIS COACHING STYLE AND PHILOSOPHY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN LEADING OUR PROGRAM TO THE NEXT LEVEL. TO TAKE OVER THE PROGRAM AND GET US INTO A REGIONAL IN HIS FIRST SEASON IS A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT.”

— Jared Sumsion, Ph.D., Director of UVU Athletics



UVU MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD DOMINATE WAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Wolverine track and field teams swept the 2025 Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Texas. The victory gave the women back-to-back outdoor titles and the WAC Triple Crown with their earlier wins in both cross country and indoor track and field.

Gabe Remy won the men's 100- and 200-meter dashes, breaking the school record in both, and was named Men's Most Outstanding Athlete of the Meet. Combined, UVU's men and women won 30 medals, 15 of them gold.



A BREAKOUT YEAR FOR UVU MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Men's and women's lacrosse teams made history this season, taking the UVU club sport to the national stage. Men's lacrosse dominated the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse Conference (RMLC), winning the championship and earning a #2 national ranking before advancing to the national semifinals. Star goalie Max Sturgill became UVU's all-time saves leader.

Women's lacrosse shattered expectations with a 6-1 record, toppling major programs like Brigham Young University and Arizona State. Ranked fourth nationally, they earned their first trip to the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Associates (WCLA) national tournament.





OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST TRAINS AT UVU APPLIED HUMAN PERFORMANCE LAB

Dutch Olympic runner Sifan Hassan, who won three medals at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, including gold in marathon, prepared for the French summer heat at UVU's Applied Human Performance Lab with Tim Rowberry, UVU cross country assistant coach.

Hassan's acclimation sessions took place in UVU's state-of-the-art environmental and altitude chamber, which simulated the exact conditions she would experience in Paris. Rowberry said he chose UVU's lab for Hassan's training because it's one of the few facilities in Utah equipped with an environmental chamber capable of such specialized acclimation sessions.

UVU ATHLETES

SUCCEED ON AND OFF THE FIELD



94%
GRADUATION RATE



3.52
AVERAGE GPA

“
FOR BEING THE **BEST FEMALE DISTANCE
RUNNER ON THE PLANET**, SIFAN IS
INCREDIBLY GROUNDED AND EASY
TO WORK WITH. IT HAS TRULY BEEN A
PLEASURE WORKING WITH HER.”

— Andrew Creer, Ph.D., UVU Exercise Science
Professor

DANCE AND SPIRIT ACHIEVEMENTS



UVU BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY WINS FIRST PLACE TITLES AT THE ‘OLYMPICS OF BALLROOM’

In May 2025, UVU’s Ballroom Dance Company won first place at London’s Blackpool Dance Festival, known as the “Olympics of ballroom.” UVU’s team took championship titles in the British Open Latin Formation Champions and the British Open Ballroom Formation Champions. With this year’s win, the UVU Ballroom Dance Company are eight-time British Open Formation Champions.

“
OUR STUDENTS HAVE PUT HOURS OF WORK INTO THESE ROUTINES, JUGGLING JOBS, SCHOOL, AND OTHER COMMITMENTS BETWEEN MANY EARLY MORNINGS AND LATE NIGHTS. **THIS IS A WIN WE’LL REMEMBER FOR YEARS.**”

— Tara Boyd, UVU Ballroom Dance Company Director



UVU SPIRIT SQUAD CELEBRATES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The UVU Spirit Squad achieved multiple national honors in 2025, with victories at the Universal Dance Association (UDA) National Dance Competition at Walt Disney World Resort, as well as at the NCA and NDA College Nationals in Daytona Beach, Florida.

UVU teams earned first place in Division 1 Hip-Hop and fourth place in Division 1 Jazz at the UDA competition, while the D1 Game Day Team (consisting of UVU's Cheer Team, Dance Team, and Green Man Group) was awarded first place and the national championship title at the NCA and NDA College Nationals in the Game Day Division I category.

UVU AWARDS: EXCELLENCE IN ACTION



UVU RECEIVES GREEN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM UTAH BUSINESS

Utah Business Magazine, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Power, recognized UVU in 2024 for its commitment to the principles of sustainability. Additionally, UVU and Rocky Mountain Power collaborated to open the Elektron Solar Farm in Tooele County, holding a ribbon-cutting in July 2024.



92%

UVU campuses are 92% solar-powered, and the Orem Campus is 100% solar-powered.

UVU RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS

UVU received recognition from EduMed.org for its online nursing and allied health programs. UVU excelled in key healthcare areas, earning high rankings in Best Online Nursing Programs in Utah, Best Online Dental Hygiene Programs, and Best Online Respiratory Therapy Programs.

UVU RECEIVES

PLATINUM WORKSITE WELLNESS AWARD

For the 10th consecutive year, the Utah Worksite Wellness Council (UWWC) awarded UVU the 2025 Platinum Worksite Wellness Award for its UVUFit employee wellness program. The UWWC is a partnership of Utah wellness professionals who help organizations build effective worksite wellness programs and methods that improve employee health. UVU was one of two schools within the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) to receive the Platinum distinction.

“.....
THIS AWARD REINFORCES THE UNIVERSITY’S COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING EMPLOYEES TO PRIORITIZE THEIR OVERALL WELLNESS AND LEAD HEALTHIER LIVES.”

— Cameron Evans, UVU Assistant Director of Talent, Wellness, and Leaves





UVU MUSEUM OF ART AT LAKEMOUNT NAMED BEST IN UTAH VALLEY

Utah Valley Magazine recognized the UVU Museum of Art at Lakemount as part of its annual “Best of Utah Valley” issue. Winners were chosen by votes from Utah Valley residents and honored at a formal ceremony in May 2025. The museum enhances UVU’s academic mission and furthers the appreciation of the visual arts for the community through the interdisciplinary exploration of art, ideas, and experience. UVU has continued gratitude for the Bastian family, who generously gifted the estate to the university.



UVU HONORED BY CITY OF OREM FOR LEADERSHIP IN PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

UVU was honored by Orem’s Natural Resources Advisory Commission with the Leadership in Preserving Natural Resources Award in May 2025. The distinction recognizes residents and businesses who serve as leaders in environmental stewardship.

“

THIS AWARD HONORS THE WORK THAT OFTEN GOES UNSEEN AND FURTHER ELEVATES OUR BRANDING AS A ‘GREEN’ UNIVERSITY — A PLACE WHERE WE RECOGNIZE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND.”

—Sarah Bateman, UVU Sustainability Outreach Program Manager



2024-2025

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

UVU's Board of Trustees consists of prominent community figures and leaders who dedicate their time and talents to students, scholarship, and the advancement of higher education, enhancing the university's culture of excellence.



RICK NIELSEN

Chair of the Board, Superintendent of Nebo School District



BLAKE MODERSITZKI

Managing Partner at Pelion Venture Partners, Investment Leader



SCOTT SMITH

First Vice Chair, Qualtrics Co-Founder, Philanthropist, Educator



NOEL VALLEJO

Founder and CEO of TestOut



JEANETTE BENNETT

Second Vice Chair, Founder and CEO of Bennett Communications



ANDREA CLARKE

Founder and Co-Chair of the Labor and Honor Foundation



PAUL THOMPSON

Former Weber State University President



JEREMY HAFEN

President and CEO of Clyde Companies



KARA NORTH

Managing Partner at Moxie Law Group, Chair of the UVU Alumni Board, and UVU Foundation Board Member



MIMI BARNEY

2024-2025 Student Body President



CLARK COLLINGS

Secretary to the Board, UVU General Counsel

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

RACHEL AROCHO: Rachel Arocho, Ph.D., associate professor of family science and chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, won second place in the 2024 Cognella Innovation in Teaching Awards.

CHEUNG CHAU: Cheung Chau, UVU professor and director of orchestras, won first place in conducting in orchestra divisions, an award from The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts.

BENJAMIN F. CUMMINGS: Associate Professor Benjamin F. Cummings, Ph.D., won the Arnova Editors' Prize for Best Scholarly Paper in Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

JASON ERICKSON: UVU Assistant Athletic Director Jason Erickson received the Public Relations Society of America Golden Spike Award for his feature story, "The Unseen Crossover: Jaden McClanahan's Anime-Inspired Passion on the Court and in Life."

NATALIE GRECU: Associate Professor of Communication Natalie Grecu, Ph.D., received the Public Relations Society of America Arthur W. Page Center Award for Exceptional Research.

MARK LENTZ: Associate Professor of History Mark Lentz, Ph.D., received the prestigious Phi Alpha Theta Faculty Advisor Research Grant in Jan. 2024 at the biennial Phi Alpha Theta Convention in Virginia.

MANDY LUSZECK: Assistant Professor of English Mandy Luszeck, Ph.D., received the 2024 NCTE Affiliate Journal of Excellence Award for her work as editor of The Utah English Journal.

MOHAMMAD A.S. MASOUM: Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Chair and Professor Mohammad A.S. Masoum, Ph.D., was named to the IEEE Fellows Class of 2025 for contributions to EV charging considering power quality.

DIANNE MCADAMS-JONES: UVU Nursing and Health Professions Professor Dianne McAdams-Jones, Ed.D., RN, CHSE, SFHEA, was selected as one of 27 fellows in the 2024 class for the Academy of Nursing Education.

MELISSA MENDENHALL: Assistant Professor of Elementary Education Melissa Mendenhall, Ph.D., received the 2024 Marv Tolman Award from the Utah Science Teaching Association (UtSTA).

MARILYN MEYER: Vice President of People and Culture Marilyn Meyer was named one of Utah's 40 Over 40.

PAIGE MYERS: Education Abroad Program Manager Paige Myers received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Award for her contributions to UVU's Education Abroad Program.

JEFFREY NIELSEN: UVU Instructor and Ethics Bowl Coach Jeffrey Nielsen received the Pat Croskery Memorial Award, a national honor given to a coach who fosters competitive excellence, moral reasoning, civil discourse, and respect for opposing viewpoints.

LIZ NELSON: Assistant Professor of English and Literature Liz Nelson, Ph.D., received an Honorable Mention for the English Journal Edwin M. Hopkins Award.

JEFF PACKER: German Program Director and Associate Professor Jeff Packer, Ph.D., was recognized with the Goethe-Institut/AATG Certificate of Merit, a national award from the American Association of Teachers of German.

VAL PETERSON: Vice President of Administration and Strategic Relations Val Peterson, Ph.D., was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award as part of the One Utah Service Fellowship ceremony.

RASHA QUDISAT: Chief Engagement and Effectiveness Officer Rasha Qudisat, Ph.D., was named one of Utah's 40 Over 40.

LAUREL RIDING: UVU Student Leadership and Involvement's Laurel Riding received the Region V National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Support Staff Award.

LAURIE SHARP: Laurie Sharp, Ph.D., senior associate provost of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation, was appointed to serve as Utah's academic representative on the Board of Commissioners for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).



A YEAR OF IMPACTFUL RESEARCH AT UVU

Over the past year, UVU faculty have produced impactful research featured in peer-reviewed journals and respected academic platforms. To honor these accomplishments, we've curated a selection of faculty publications that highlight the depth, breadth, and influence of their scholarly work, ranging from the sciences to the humanities.

▶ **SCAN TO SEE FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**



2025

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

In Feb. 2025, UVU honored alumni and community members who live the university's mission and have distinguished themselves through career success and efforts in supporting UVU students.

ALUMNI IMPACT AWARD:

Akwasi Frimpong '13

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD:

Blake Modersitzki and Sandy Modersitzki

UNIVERSITY PARTNER AWARD:

Capita Financial Network, represented by Michael Littledike '08 and Britney Littledike '09

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD:

Roy Banks '96

EVERGREEN AWARD:

Chelsea Baugh '08 and Casey Baugh

WILSON W. SORENSEN

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Hugh Rode



▶ **SCAN TO
EXPLORE MORE
ACHIEVEMENTS**

2025 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

In April 2025, the UVU Presidential and Board of Trustees Awards of Excellence recognized and honored 11 full-time faculty and staff members who dedicate their time and talents to students, scholarship, and the advancement of higher education. Through their work, these employees nurture student success and uphold the ideals that make UVU a place for all students.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



MARIO MARKIDES

Assistant Dean, College of Health and Public Service



BARNEY NYE

Associate Vice President of Access and Outreach, Student Affairs



WADE OLIVER

Senior Director of Adult Learner Support Initiatives, Academic Affairs



EVELYN PORTER

Professor, College of Science



TAMI PUGMIRE

Director of Donor Scholarship Stewardship, Institutional Advancement

PRESIDENTIAL

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



RACHEL BI

Ph.D., Associate Professor, Woodbury School of Business



JODY BIRCH

Senior Director of Integrated Marketing, University Marketing and Communications



RILEY JOHNSON

Assistant Director of End User Technology Support, Digital Transformation



MITCH MURDOCK

Ph.D., Associate Professor, Woodbury School of Business



CHRISTINE PETERSON

Executive Program Manager, People and Culture



FRANK YOUNG

Associate Vice President of Facilities and Planning, Administration and Strategic Relations

EXCEPTIONAL FUTURE



UVU'S EXCEPTIONAL FUTURE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE DEDICATION AND GENEROSITY OF OUR STATE LEADERS, DONORS, ALUMNI, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS. Their unwavering support helps expand scholarships, enhance our campuses, and open doors to life-changing educational opportunities. Together, we are investing in a future where UVU students thrive, communities grow stronger, and innovation shapes the world for generations.



THE UVU PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP BALL HAS RAISED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR MORE THAN 3,200 STUDENTS.





EVERGREEN:

GROWING UVU'S IMPACT TOGETHER

EverGREEN, the inaugural comprehensive campaign for UVU, has impacted the lives of thousands of students and their families. Thanks to donors who sent more than 30,000 individual gifts, UVU's endowment has reached over \$200 million — 82% of its \$250 million goal.



◀ **TO LEARN MORE,
PLEASE VISIT
UVU.EDU/GIVE**

“

WE ARE EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS, ENHANCING HANDS-ON LEARNING WITH INNOVATIVE FACILITIES AND INITIATIVES, AND INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT MEET REAL-WORLD NEEDS — FROM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY.

ABOVE ALL, THIS CAMPAIGN REINFORCES WHAT MAKES UVU UNIQUE: OUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO EXCEPTIONAL CARE, EXCEPTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY, AND EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS.”

— Kyle Reyes, Ph.D., Vice President of Institutional Advancement and UVU Foundation CEO

UVU RAISES \$1.8 MILLION FOR LIFE-CHANGING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



\$1.8M

In Sept. 2024, **UVU's annual President's Scholarship Ball** raised a historic **\$1,845,764 for four-year, full-tuition presidential scholarships**. Thanks to generous donors, community leaders, and supporters, the event was an incredible evening of Wolverine pride as alumni, including Awardco Co-Founder and CEO Steve Sonnenberg, shared how UVU played a huge role in their current successes.



52.9%

52.9% of presidential scholarship recipients are from Utah County. Scholars also come from 16 counties in Utah and 95 towns across the U.S. Many recipients are the first in their families to attend college.



359

359 students received four-year, full-tuition presidential scholarships in fall 2024.

UVU Business Intelligence and Research Services (BIRS)



NEW HEALTH AND WELLNESS VILLAGE WILL MEET UTAH COUNTY'S GROWING NEEDS

UVU's Vineyard Campus is designed to meet the region's rapid growth and evolving needs. As part of the master plan for this 225-acre site, UVU announced a new Health and Wellness Village to provide essential healthcare services to Utah County's expanding population.

The village will offer students studying health-related fields hands-on training and clinical experience while supporting the community through partnerships like the planned Huntsman Cancer Institute in Vineyard.

UVU SOCCER HOLDS FIRST GAMES IN NEW STADIUM

After breaking ground on the UCCU Stadium in April 2024, UVU women's soccer played its highly anticipated first game in the new facility against in-state rival the University of Utah in Aug. 2025.

The 22,000-square-foot stadium — made possible by a generous **\$28.5 million gift from Utah Community Credit Union (UCCU)** — will transform the playing and viewing experience with new locker rooms, dedicated spaces for visiting teams, and seating for 3,000 fans.



\$28.5M





UVU CELEBRATES SCOTT M. SMITH BUILDING MILESTONE

The Smith College of Engineering and Technology (CET) celebrated a year of construction progress on the Scott M. Smith Building in Sept. 2024. Qualtrics Co-Founder Scott M. Smith and his wife, Karen, donated \$25 million to fund the building, which will include collaborative learning environments, classrooms and labs for hands-on learning, and manufacturing facilities with designing, testing, and fabrication capabilities. Construction is scheduled for completion in Jan. 2026.





ELEANNA DIVICH '24

Deaf Studies

“**INTERPRETING IS IMPORTANT** to me because I want to make a difference in people’s lives with my career. I can’t explain how big of an impact my UVU scholarship has had on me.”



SU HWANG '24

Nursing

“**I AM SO THANKFUL** for the UVU scholarship I received. It’s helping me pursue my goals to make health more accessible, comfortable, and less intimidating for others. Contributions to my UVU scholarship help me focus on my studies and get the most out of my education.”



CHRISTOPHER EDEN '25

Construction Management

“**I AM INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL** for the UVU scholarship I have been awarded. It reinforces my belief that dedication and hard work pay off, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity. I am truly humbled by UVU supporters’ investment in my future.”



DESMOND WALKER '24

Theatre Arts

“**I’VE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN** so many valuable skills from my mentors at UVU. They, along with this scholarship, have pushed me to improve and reach many goals.”



JAMIE DEMKE '25

Family Science

“**MY SCHOLARSHIP** gives me opportunities to work hard and persevere alongside other students to succeed. As a first-generation student, money has always been stressful. I can attend school because of the UVU scholarships I have received. UVU donor support allows me to get out of my comfort zone, get involved, and focus on school.”



OLIVIA LARSEN '25

*Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation,
Women's Track and Field*

“**I FEEL THAT GOING THROUGH** difficult things together forges deep friendships. Attending UVU has allowed me to create those lasting relationships. Furthermore, it allows me to fulfill my dreams of serving and genuinely contributing to society. My scholarship has made my experience more meaningful and my goals attainable.”



HALLE NELSON '24

Business Management, Women's Basketball

“**UVU HAS OPENED** many doors for me. Having played basketball elsewhere and spoken with friends from other universities, I can see how unique UVU is. Every gift goes a long way, no matter the amount. UVU donor support is something I will appreciate for the rest of my life.”



▶ **SCAN TO READ
MORE ABOUT UVU'S
EXCEPTIONAL FUTURE**



TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD EXCEPTIONAL FUTURES



As we close another year at Utah Valley University, we celebrate what makes UVU a place to achieve — for every student, employee, and community partner who calls this university home. Here, students discover pathways to success through personalized support, real-world experiences, and an environment that encourages them to reach higher and dream bigger.

The power of higher education is evident in the lives of our graduates, who go on to strengthen Utah’s workforce, uplift their families, and enrich their communities. As we look to the future, UVU remains steadfast in its mission to provide exceptional care, uphold exceptional accountability, and deliver exceptional results that help our students pursue exceptional futures.

TO OUR STATE LEADERS, DONORS, ALUMNI, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS: Thank you for believing in UVU. Your dedication ensures that UVU will always be a place where achievement knows no bounds and where students from every background can succeed and thrive.

HOW TO GIVE



Every donation impacts a student’s life and helps UVU achieve its mission of student success.

➔ **GIVE TODAY**



ON THE COVER:
Madison Heaton, Nursing Major

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