

# Happy Retirement

Dr. Reza Sanati-Mehrizy concludes a distinguished academic career spanning 39 years of university teaching from 1987 to 2026, including 25 years of dedicated service to Utah Valley University from 2001 to 2026. He joined Utah Valley University in 2001 as an Associate Professor of Computer Science and was promoted to Tenured Professor in 2008. Prior to joining UVU, he served as Assistant Professor (1987–1992) and Associate Professor (1992–2001) at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, and Associate Professor at Southern University of New Orleans (1992–1993). His academic preparation includes a Ph.D. and M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Oklahoma and a B.S. in Business Administration from Rasht Business College in Iran.

During his years at UVU, Dr. Sanati-Mehrizy played a central role in strengthening computer science and engineering education through curriculum innovation, laboratory development, and integration of emerging technologies such as data mining, database systems, robotics, and wireless sensor networks. His teaching portfolio included foundational and advanced courses such as data structures, database theory, object-oriented programming, data mining, and advanced database systems. He mentored numerous students through capstone projects and undergraduate research experiences and contributed significantly to program development and continuous improvement.

Dr. Sanati-Mehrizy maintained an active scholarly agenda with a substantial record of 88 peer-reviewed publications including conference papers, journal articles, and proceedings in computing education, database systems, data mining, and curriculum development. His work was regularly presented at national venues including the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and contributed to advancing computing education and interdisciplinary learning.

Dr. Sanati-Mehrizy also contributed to significant externally funded projects supporting laboratory development, robotics, manufacturing systems, and student success initiatives. These include serving as Co-PI on the NSF S-STEM LEAP project, “Strengthening Outcomes for Students in Computer Science and Engineering through Leadership, Engagement, Academic Mentoring, and

Preparation (LEAP),” funded at \$617,396 in 2014, and as Co-PI on the NSF S-STEM project “Building Exceptional Talent in Engineering & Computing (BE-TEC)” funded at \$1,499,988 in 2021. Additional funded projects included the Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) Lab (\$277,895), Computer Aided Design and Prototyping Lab (funded \$65,000), Enhancement of Industrial Robotics for Computer Science Majors (funded \$42,100), Automated Welding Station for CIM Lab (\$43,192), Industrial Robotics for Computer Science Majors (\$50,000), Enhancement of Industrial Robotics to Serve Area Industry (\$24,000), UNIX/X Windows Environment for Computer Science Majors (\$25,000), and a UNIX Environment for Computer Science Students (\$28,500). These funded efforts significantly enhanced laboratory infrastructure and experiential learning opportunities for students.

In addition to his teaching and research contributions, Dr. Sanati-Mehrizy provided extensive professional and institutional service. He served in leadership roles within ASEE including division chair, program chair, and treasurer, and was an active reviewer, session moderator, and conference organizer for many years. His service contributed to strengthening collaborations within the computing education community and supporting the growth of academic programs.

Through his long and distinguished 39-year teaching career, including 25 years at Utah Valley University, Dr. Sanati-Mehrizy made lasting contributions to students, colleagues, and the Computer Science program. His dedication to teaching, mentoring, curriculum development, grant activity, scholarship, and professional service has had a meaningful and enduring impact. As he retires, the department recognizes and appreciates his years of commitment, leadership, and service, and wishes him the very best in his well-earned retirement.