

## 2026 Champions of UVU Guidelines

The purpose of the Champions of UVU Award is to recognize students, faculty, staff, and community members who exemplify UVU's commitment to exceptional care and foster an environment where every individual feels valued and empowered to succeed. This award honors those who bring UVU's mission to life, demonstrating the spirit of "come as you are" and "UVU has a place for you."

### Criteria for the Champions of UVU Award

The Champions of UVU Award recognizes individuals who embody UVU's commitment to exceptional care.

There are 6 award categories:

- 1. Student** - An individual student or group of students
- 2. Faculty** - Any faculty member or instructor
- 3. Staff** - Any staff member or administrator
- 4. Department** - Any Department, Unit, or Center
- 5. Data Driven Exceptional Care** - Any Individual, Group, Department, or College/School
- 6. Community Partner** - Group or person outside of UVU but involved in UVU's Exceptional Care efforts.

Nominees should demonstrate impactful contributions and meet any of the following criteria with specific examples:

### Individual

#### 1- Cultural Competency

- Engages in and promotes self-reflection and awareness, while striving to understand diverse experiences and perspectives.
- Communicates effectively across cultural differences, fostering mutual respect and understanding.
- Champions initiatives or practices that create an inclusive and welcoming environment, helping UVU remain a place where everyone can belong and thrive.

#### 2- Advancing a welcoming environment

- Creates spaces or initiatives that promote belonging, encouraging individuals to "come as they are" and embrace the idea that "UVU has a place for you."
- Actively contributes to fostering a culture of mutual respect and care.

#### 3- Commitment to Exceptional Care

- Demonstrates a consistent effort to recognize and value individuals—their strengths, struggles, and potential—while fostering exceptional care and respect.
- Goes above and beyond to create an environment where others feel valued, supported, and empowered.

## Groups

### 1- Impact and Influence

- Demonstrates a measurable or observable impact within the UVU community, inspiring others to model exceptional care.
- Acts as a catalyst for positive change, whether through mentoring, leading initiatives, or building relationships that elevate those around them.
- Creates environment designed to foster spaces and places where students may find belonging or community

### 2- Advancing Welcoming Environment

- Creates spaces or initiatives that promote belonging, encouraging individuals to “come as they are” and embrace the idea that “UVU has a place for you.”
- Actively contributes to fostering a culture of mutual respect and care.

### 3- Commitment to Exceptional Care

- Demonstrates a consistent effort to “see” individuals—their strengths, struggles, and potential—while fostering exceptional care and respect in every interaction.
- Goes above and beyond to create an environment where others feel valued, supported, and empowered.

## Data-Driven Exceptional Care

This award celebrates individuals or groups who have made a significant stride in leveraging data to provide exceptional care and improve the overall experience for students and employees at UVU.

- Ideal candidate(s) demonstrate **a commitment to using data to deliver meaningful outcomes that directly enhance well-being and support** within the UVU community.
- Their work involves **not just managing data but actively using it to understand and meet the needs of others**, ensuring that the data serves as a tool for care, growth, and support.

### Examples:

- **Campus Climate Surveys:** Utilizing Campus Climate Data to inform action plans to enhance the sense of belonging.
- **Data Utilization:** the use of any data in the informing of decisions and initiatives to help increase exceptional care and engagement for all students, staff, or faculty.
- **Focus Groups:** Conducting focus groups within area to further assess and identify qualitative data to support engagement initiatives and exceptional care.
- **Retention Data Analysis:** Review student retention data to identify groups at risk and implement informed support programs to help all students.

- **Engagement Tracking:** Track participation in campus events to find gaps and encourage involvement from students from all backgrounds.

## Committee Members

Members of the Champions of UVU Award Selection Committee are the following:

Members – Approved

Chair	CEEO	Rasha Qudisat
Member	PACE	Nikki Scott
Member	Faculty Senate	Evelyn Porter
Member	Student Affairs	W. Barney Nye
Member	Data Collection and Research (IEE)	John Whitney
Member	Presidential Intern (IEE)- Student	Madison Karford
Member	Academic Affairs	Sam Gedeberg
Award Manager	Program Director (IEE)	Elisa Huhem
Logistics	Executive Assistant (IEE)	Julia Escobar