

2020 UNIVERSITY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS & TRUSTEES AWARDS

The Utah Valley University Awards of Excellence program recognizes faculty and staff who dedicate their time and talents to students, scholarship, and the advancement of higher education.

This year's Presidential Awards of Excellence honors five faculty and staff for their efforts in key areas related to UVU's mission and core themes.

The UVU Board of Trustees recognizes five employees this year for their contributions to forwarding UVU's mission.



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION Karen Acerson and Jill Taylor, *Trustees, UVU Board of Trustees*

WELCOME President Astrid S. Tuminez
R. Duff Thompson, *Chair, UVU Board of Trustees*

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS Presented by President Astrid S. Tuminez
Tiffany M. Evans
Baldomero Lago
Paul Weber
Ken Sekaquaptewa
Ashton Stitt

PERFORMANCE VOX, “Ain’t Misbehavin” (a cappella)

TRUSTEE AWARDS Presented by R. Duff Thompson
Hilary Hungerford
Shannon Mussett
Dustin Berlin
Andrew Stone
Christine Walker

CLOSING REMARKS R. Duff Thompson and President Astrid S. Tuminez

VIDEO CREDITS Department, PACE, and divisional awards

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

R. DUFF THOMPSON



It is an honor and privilege for members of the Board of Trustees to join with President Tuminez and university officials in honoring you for your distinct contributions to UVU. You are recipients of the institution's highest honors — the Trustee and Presidential Awards of Excellence. In your professional and personal lives, you exemplify in every way the exceptional values upon which this institution was founded and to which it remains dedicated today. You have distinguished yourself in your commitment to our dual-mission model through your service to the students, the institution, and the community. Because of your professionalism and uncompromising integrity, your efforts and contributions will enrich and bless generations to come.

On behalf of all trustees, we congratulate you for demonstrating dedication to the mission and values of Utah Valley University. We are honored to acknowledge the contributions you have made. Thank you for making UVU a place where all students know they can succeed, and that a caring community of dedicated employees will cheer them on along the way.

Sincerely,

R. Duff Thompson
Chair, Board of Trustees

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ASTRID S. TUMINEZ



This has been a fascinating year, to say the least. Our students, faculty, and staff have found a way to conquer what were very daunting odds. That is the power of the unity we foster as UVU Wolverines. On this evening, I am very happy at the sense of normalcy in recognizing our exceptional faculty and staff, the recipients of the Awards of Excellence.

These awards are the pinnacle of individual honor that UVU bestows, and it is clear you produce exceptional results. Your efforts impact our students as we strive to help them complete their degrees and programs. This strong feeling of accomplishment — even during a pandemic — will greatly assist our students in leading lives of dignity, productivity, and integrity in a rapidly changing world.

I am so proud of your efforts — rooted in exceptional care and accountability — and delighted that we as a university have the opportunity to say thank you in such a meaningful and celebratory fashion.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Astrid S. Tuminez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Astrid S. Tuminez, Ph.D.
President

TRUSTEE AWARDS



HILARY HUNGERFORD

*Associate Professor, Department of Earth Science
Board of Trustees Award of Excellence*

Hilary Hungerford is from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, and currently lives in Orem. She received her bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Northern Colorado, and a Master of Arts and doctoral degree in geography from the University of Kansas. Hungerford has been a National Geographic Society intern and a Peace Corps volunteer. She was also an assistant professor at South Dakota State University from 2012 to 2015. She is a former winner of the College of Science Service Award. "The best part about working at UVU is the opportunity to make a difference. When I joined UVU, the geography major was just starting to take shape, and it was exciting to contribute to this new program and create more opportunity for students at UVU," Hungerford says. "Together we explore the big questions. I feel content that I am helping young leaders shape their ideas and solutions for problems we will all face." Hungerford is a passionate heirloom tomato gardener, novice banjo player, and occasional baker of elaborate cakes. She and her husband, Chris, have two children.



SHANNON MUSSETT

*Professor, Philosophy & Humanities
Board of Trustees Award of Excellence*

Shannon Mussett was awarded an M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from Villanova University. Among her experience at UVU, she has been chair of the Department of Philosophy and Humanities (2012–2015), Gender Studies coordinator (2003–2012), and chair of the Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies (2006–2007). She has been secretary-treasurer of The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (2011–2014). Mussett was an instructor at Bryn Mawr College in 2002–2003. “Since I arrived at UVU,” she says, “I have been in awe of the energy, dynamism, and possibilities flourishing in the university, which has not slowed down in the almost 15 years that I have taught here.” She is married to fellow philosophy professor Michael Marx Shaw. The couple has two children, Cleo and Milo, who “still don’t really understand what we do for a living.” She says she loves to “research, travel, hike, and eat like a king.”



DUSTIN BERLIN

*Assistant Dean, College of Health & Public Service
Board of Trustees Award of Excellence*

Dustin Berlin earned a bachelor's degree from Utah Valley University and a Master of Business Administration from Liberty University. Berlin began working at UVU part time in 2000 and later taught as an adjunct faculty member before working for an airline in Arizona. He returned to UVU in 2006 as a full-time faculty member in the School of Aviation Sciences, where he also served as a flight instructor and department chair. After taking a director position, he helped develop training for the Federal Aviation Administration, the Utah Fire & Rescue Academy, and UVU's Center for Constitutional Studies. He is an Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award winner, Woodbury School of Business, 2016; Successful Federal Contracting Recognition Award winner, Sponsored Programs, UVU, 2015; and a PACE Distinguished Employee Award winner, 2013.



ANDREW STONE

*Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management
Board of Trustees Award of Excellence*

Andrew Stone earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Utah Valley University, followed by a master's and doctorate in educational leadership and policy from the University of Utah. He has been the program director of New Student Orientation, Utah Valley University; special assistant to the commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education; director of Admissions, UVU; assistant vice president of Recruitment and Outreach, UVU; and has been in his current position since 2016. "UVU is constantly evolving and changing to better serve students and our community. That is my favorite part about working at UVU," Stone says. "In addition, watching students gain confidence and succeed is always the highlight. UVU is in the business of helping students change their lives." Stone lives in Eagle Mountain, Utah, and married to a former UVU soccer star, the couple has five children — "We are a family of Wolverines who bleed green."



CHRISTINE WALKER

*Professor, Mathematics
Board of Trustees Award of Excellence*

Christine Walker earned an associate degree in mathematics from Ricks College, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Brigham Young University. She then gained a Master of Arts in mathematics education from BYU and a Doctor of Education in curriculum and instruction from Utah State University. In her career, she has been an instructor of mathematics and department chair at Wasatch Middle School, Heber City, Utah; an instructor of mathematics at Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah; and a professor at UVU since August 1992. In 2018, Walker was nominated for Outstanding Course Design by the UVU Office of Teaching and Learning. Among her other honors, she was also nominated for the School of Science and Health Excellence Award for Service, nominated for the UVUSA Wolverine Achievement Award, received the UVSC Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to UVSC Students in 1997, was the UVSC Teacher of the Year School of Science and Health, 1996-1997, and was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to Students with Disabilities. "It's a pleasure to teach and mentor students who are engaged in math and working toward their profession, and to be a part of their lives as they transition into the workforce," she says. "UVU is an exceptional place to inspire, encourage and challenge students and myself to be the best we can be." Walker is the mother of five and grandmother of two. Her two oldest children are graduates of UVU and others are working on their UVU degrees.



PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS



TIFFANY M. EVANS

*Director, Program Completion
Presidential Award of Excellence*

Tiffany M. Evans received her undergraduate and her Master of Education degrees from Utah State University. Evans describes herself as “a higher education geek” who’s been on a college campus since she was 18 years old. In other professional experience, she has been the executive director of the Student Involvement and Leadership Center, Utah State University; associate director of Student Activities, Utah State University; and the assistant director of Student Activities, Southern Utah University. Awards gained during her career include the Alan E. Hall Innovation for Undergraduate Student Success Award; the UVU Senior Vice President Academic Affairs Award of Excellence; Administrator of the Year, Utah State University; Outstanding Staff Award, the National Association for Campus Activities’ Far West Region; and Mortar Board Fraternity’s Top Prof Award, USU. “The best part of my involvement at UVU is being part of something that changes the quality of the lives of students,” Evans says. “I hope to make a small difference in assisting students in accomplishing their educational dreams. I love being part of the transformation of UVU.” She says she is a college football fanatic, loves skiing, golf, hiking, and “anything that will get me outside or moving. Family, friends and faith are the most important things in my life.”



BALDOMERO LAGO

*Chief International Officer, Office of Engaged Learning
Presidential Award of Excellence*

A native of Santander, Spain, Baldomero Lago arrived to the United States in 1987 to embark on an educational journey as a first-generation college student. He received an undergraduate degree from Utah State University in language and a master's degree from Brigham Young University in language pedagogy. He earned a doctorate from the University of Madrid in instructional technology. Lago organizes and manages UVU's global and intercultural academic initiatives, working mainly with external communities including the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, the United Nations, World Trade Center, and the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office, as well as many other organizations, chambers, and global companies. Prior to his current post, Lago was a professor of language pedagogy and has presented his teaching philosophy and research in Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Lago is the current vice chair for the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy Board of Directors, and former president of the Utah Consular Corps and World Trade Association of Utah. For the past 20 years, he has served the State of Utah as the Honorary Consul for the Kingdom of Spain. Lago is a tenured professor in language pedagogy in the UVU Department of Languages and Cultures. In October 2016, Lago was awarded the title of Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Civil Merit by King Phillip VI of Spain. He has also been awarded the Andean Parliament Award, Peru, 2017; the Distinguished Honorary Professor Award, Chuxiong Normal University, Chuxiong, China, 2017; the Silver Oak Tree Award, University of Extremadura EBS, Spain, 2016; and the Utah Diplomatic Corps Outstanding Service Award, 2015. "Our mission is to empower students to become competent, confident leaders and world citizens through creating opportunities for successful experiences in a globally interdependent community," Lago says. "We help students to be culturally aware and globally engaged by providing outbound international academic experiences and by bringing the world to our campus through events, world experts, and diplomats." Some of his favorite pastimes include the arts, classical music, current events, history, and spending time with his family.



PAUL WEBER

*Associate Professor, Physics
Presidential Award of Excellence*

Paul Weber earned his bachelor's degree from Bemidji State University and a Master of Science and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, at Boulder, Colorado. He has been a research physicist at CERN, in Geneva, Switzerland, researching in experimental particle physics for five years. Weber has been a faculty member in physics at liberal arts colleges or universities, including UVU, for 20 years. He is a past winner of the College of Science Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2016, and the College of Science Dean's Award for Excellence in Scholarship, 2017. Weber says he enjoys working with students to build things and carry out research efforts together. "It has been very gratifying," he adds, "to form interdepartmental alliances with the engineering department and their students to work on cross-disciplinary projects. And I have enjoyed seeing students go on to very successful careers in industry or graduate school, and to see them develop as professionals." Weber enjoys hiking and enjoys tackling Mt. Timpanogos with staff, faculty, student friends, and "anyone who wants to come along."



KEN SEKAQUAPTEWA

*Program Director, Multicultural Services (retired)
Presidential Award of Excellence*

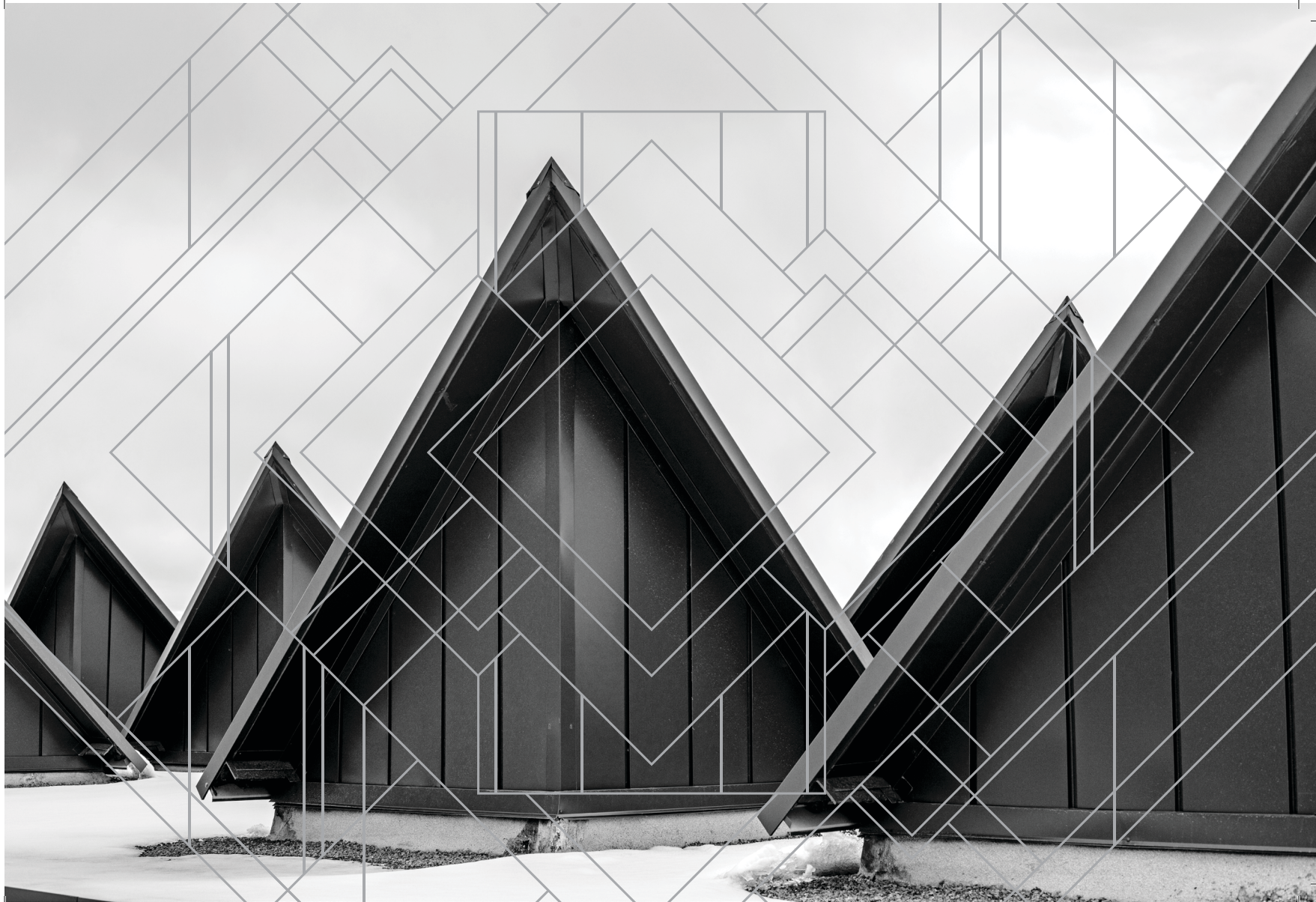
Ken Sekaquaptewa did undergraduate studies at Arizona State University and Brigham Young University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in English-secondary education. He then did graduate studies at BYU in communications. Sekaquaptewa has 38 years of administrative staff experience in university multicultural and Native American student programs and services at BYU and UVU and 10 years as an assistant director. He has been an instructor for a university Native American student magazine for six years; adjunct instructor for American Indian Studies classes for 15 years; has three years of experience in news production, including KSL News as an associate producer; and was editor of a weekly Hopi tribal newspaper. "It has been a great opportunity and privilege to work at UVU advising students, teaching, mentoring and coordinating outreach to the Native American people and communities in our region and connecting them with programs and services at the university," Sekaquaptewa says. He has four sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren. He says he is enjoying more time with them now that he has recently retired. He enjoyed long-distance running and volleyball in his "younger days," and he has been an avid Hot Wheels collector since his youth.



ASHTON STITT

*Sr. Director of Executive Events
Presidential Award of Excellence*

Ashton Stitt was born in Kalispell, Montana. She earned a Bachelor of Science in recreation management, with an emphasis in event and leisure service management. She has worked as an events intern at the Utah Valley Convention Center, events coordinator with F+W Trade Show and Events, and was assistant director of Executive Events at UVU before her current position. Stitt received the Institutional Advancement Division Award of Excellence in 2019 and the Development and Alumni Relations Specialist Award in 2017. “Being a part of the Executive Events team puts me in the unique position of being a bridge between students and supporters of UVU in the local community,” she says. “I get to work directly with scholarship recipients and with student ambassadors who help run these events. It is gratifying to see them develop in confidence and ability as they meet with board members, donors, and university executives and start to develop relationships and skills that will be a benefit to them their entire lives.” Living in Lehi, Utah, Stitt enjoys bike riding with her husband and two little girls. She also hikes, paddleboards, swims, and enjoys fishing. She plays the violin.



FACULTY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

FULL-TIME FACULTY

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Hilary Hungerford
Violeta Vasilevska
T. Heath Ogden
Sally Rocks

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Duane Andersen
Jim Cox
Dan McDonald

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Lorilynn Brandt

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

La Beene
Reed Criddle

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Cynthia Wong

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

Ryan Vogel

WOODBURY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Abdus Samad
Josh Cieslewicz

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL
SCIENCES**

Todd Goddard
Jeremy Boden
Jessica Hill
Claudia Jorgensen
Christa Albrecht-Crane
Julie Nichols

FACULTY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

ADJUNCT FACULTY

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Esther Patch

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Eric Oliver
Tim Ringger

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Cindy Davis

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Maylene White
Heidi Beier

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Aubrey Pontious



DEANS' AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

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Professor, Chemistry

Joseph Jensen
Professor, Physics

Steve Wasserbaech
Professor, Physics

Geoff Zahn
Assistant Professor, Biology

STAFF

Cody Peterson
Academic Advisor II

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY

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Associate Professor, Culinary Arts Institute

Carolyn Kuehne
Lecturer, Technology Management

David Heldenbrand
Professor, Computer Science

Jingpeng (JP) Tang
Professor, Computer Science

STAFF

Katreena Davis
Administrative Support III, Transportation Technology

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

FACULTY

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Senior Lecturer, Elementary Education

STAFF

John W. Allan
Coordinator of Graduate/Endorsement Programs

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

FACULTY

Brian Jensen
Associate Professor, Art & Design

STAFF

Phillip Ah You
Technician

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FACULTY

Kuo-Liang Chang
Associate Professor, Developmental Mathematics

Evelyn Porter
Department Chair, Developmental Mathematics

STAFF

Joshua Kratochvil
Technician III, University College

Kris Swanger
Office Manager, University College

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

FACULTY

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Kristie Dockstader

Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice

Brian Barthel

Associate Professor, Public & Community Health

STAFF

Katy Dollahite

Academic Advisor, College of Health & Public Service

Susie Nicol

Administrative Support, College of Health & Public Service

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

FACULTY

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Associate Professor, Behavioral Science

Gregory R. Jackson

Assistant Professor, Integrated Studies

Nathan Gorelick

Associate Professor, English & Literature

STAFF

Kristen Smith

Administrative Assistant III, Communication

WOODBURY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

FACULTY

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*Professor, Department of Strategic
Management and Operations*

Xu Sun
Assistant Professor, Finance

Bret F. Skousen
Professional in Residence

James B. Mortensen
Professional in Residence

Gary Johnson
Professional in Residence

Amy Bettridge
Lecturer

STAFF

Lisa Giguere
Academic Advisor

Kim Wright
Academic Advisor

DIVISIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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Office of Teaching & Learning

Cheryl St. Pierre
Academic Scheduling

Shelly Andrus
Office of Engaged Learning

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Financial Aid

Rebecca Burnett
Admissions

DaSheek Akwenye
Campus Recreation

Kaela Lunt
Student Leadership & Involvement

Jordan Fuller
Veteran Success Center

Tara Baer
Women's Success Center

Joyce Hasting
Care About Childcare

Cathy Cardenas
Gear Up

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Custodial Services

Steven Lobb
Space Management

Reed Warner
IT Services

Michael Chesler
Athletics

Brady Swenson
Custodial Services

Megan Densley
Business Services

Aubrey Shumway
Procurement Services

Erin Wilkins
AP & Travel Department

PLANNING, BUDGET & HUMAN RESOURCES

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Human Resources

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Nilsen Septon
Central Advancement

Samantha Thee
Development

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Courtney McKinnon
University Marketing

PACE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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Brett McKeachnie
Christie Snyder
Christine Peterson
Giovana Alisa
Kim Reynolds
Niles Wimber
Sandra Ozuna

PART-TIME STAFF

Ana Munoz
Austin Skinner
Douglas Nielson
Nicholas Lawyer