

Utah Valley University
**AWARDS OF
EXCELLENCE**
2023

PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS & TRUSTEE AWARDS

The Utah Valley University (UVU) 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, UVU's Board of Trustees elected to honor five awardees for their contributions to the university's mission of student success. An additional six outstanding faculty and staff members were recognized as this year's Presidential Awards of Excellence recipients for their efforts related to UVU's values of exceptional care, exceptional accountability, and exceptional results.



Schedule of Activities

WELCOME	President Astrid S. Tuminez and Jeanette Bennett
PERFORMANCE	Bloom A Cappella
BOARD OF TRUSTEE AWARDS	Presented by UVU's Board of Trustees Frederick White Wendy Farnsworth Laura Busby Ibrahim Tashman John Hansen
PERFORMANCE	Kade Bennett
PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS	Presented by President Astrid S. Tuminez Ryan Law Matthew Potts Amanda Hyer Jeremy Knee Daniel Delgadillo Marissa King
CLOSING REMARKS	President Astrid S. Tuminez



James Clarke

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

Congratulations to our 2023 Awards of Excellence winners! I'm so pleased to join President Tuminez in honoring you for your exceptional efforts!

You are key leaders in creating this “first-choice” university for so many Utah students. Because of your work, UVU is expanding, achieving new heights, and creating a world-class campus experience – all with the singular goal of supporting our students as they work toward fulfilling their dreams.

The Board of Trustees sees and values your hard work. We are grateful that you've dedicated your time and talents to UVU and its mission.

You provide an example of engagement, service, leadership, innovation, and purpose for our entire community. For this, we are honored to recognize you today.

I hope that you will enjoy this celebration with your loved ones and your peers. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for all that you do.

Sincerely,

James Clarke
Chair, Board of Trustees
Utah Valley University



Astrid S. Tuminez

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Today's event is a favorite of mine. It's a chance to honor and celebrate the outstanding work done by our 2023 Awards of Excellence winners. You represent the very best of UVU!

We say to our students, "Come as you are." I think one of UVU's greatest strengths is that you all come as you are. Our faculty and staff are made up of a diverse group of people who bring a richness to our workplace in all our different jobs and fields. You are creative, passionate, skilled, and dedicated. You inspire not only our students but also your colleagues – and me. Together, you help create a special atmosphere where students are encouraged to pursue their dreams. That includes everything from the beauty of our grounds and the cleanliness of buildings to the dynamic conversations that take place in our classrooms and labs. Because of you, our students learn and grow so that they can thrive, both personally and professionally.

Thank you for believing in our students and the mission of UVU. You have my sincere appreciation and admiration. Enjoy this night!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Astrid S. Tuminez".

Dr. Astrid S. Tuminez
President
Utah Valley University

Performers



KADE BENNETT
VOCALIST

Kade Bennett is currently a student in UVU's opera program. Recent and upcoming roles of his include Marcello in *La Bohème*, Guglielmo in *Così Fan Tutte*, and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Bennett works hard to master the music he performs, as well as finding impressive dramatic appeal within each character he plays. Bennett has a gift for adding depth to these characters of drama, romance, and comedy. He loves learning as much as possible and gives everything he has to the operatic stage.

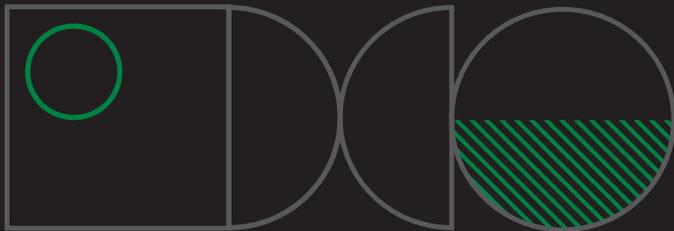


BLOOM A CAPPELLA
VOCALISTS

Bloom A Cappella was created by Jerick Rose and Sicily Poulter in 2021 and is UVU's only mixed a cappella group! Bloom's goal is to create an inclusive and safe environment for both their group members and their audience. During Bloom's first year as a group on campus, they collaborated with other clubs, filmed TikToks, and got their feet wet working with tech to do their first big showcase comprised of both original and well-known arrangements!

This year, Bloom wanted to challenge their group members even more and decided to compete in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA). The group has worked tirelessly preparing for the competition. Bloom has already competed in the quarterfinal round, winning first place, best arrangements (Jerick Rose), and outstanding soloist (Sicily Poulter)! They can't wait to see what the future holds!

Board of Trustee
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE





Frederick H. White

PROFESSOR, RUSSIAN AND
INTEGRATED STUDIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Frederick White has been teaching at UVU since 2010, where he also serves as the program director for integrated studies. He holds a Ph.D. in Slavic languages and literature from the University of Southern California and has published eight books and 50 academic articles on Russian literature, culture, and film. White says the best thing about working at UVU is the ability to innovate new courses and programs and work outside of disciplinary boundaries. He and his wife, Jaclyn, have two daughters, Ruby and Hadley.



Ibrahim G. Tashman

DIRECTOR, UVU DINING SERVICES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Ibrahim Tashman is from Orem, Utah, and has been the director of UVU's Dining Services for six years. During that time, he has overseen brand restaurants with an average annual budget of \$4 million, directed the development of 16 new restaurants, and led restaurant remodeling in the Sorensen Student Center from 2019 to 2021. Tashman is a UVU alumnus, holding a bachelor's degree in business management. He has been married to his spouse, Shaylene, for 12 years, and they have two daughters, Nyah and Paige. Tashman enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with family.



John Hansen

DIRECTOR, FACILITIES/GROUNDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Hailing from Simi Valley, California, John Hansen has been with UVU since 2019. He is a UVU alumnus, receiving a bachelor's degree in accounting in 2014 and an MBA in 2015. Before joining UVU, Hansen worked as a maintenance control analyst/manager for Utah Transit Authority. His achievements at UVU include creating a new organizational structure for grounds employees and reducing campus irrigation water usage by 30 million gallons annually. Hansen and his wife, Lindsey, have three children: Olivia, Camden, and Jordi. He enjoys golfing, coaching and playing soccer, and all things music.



Laura Busby

DIRECTOR, BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH
SERVICES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Laura Busby is from Orem, Utah, and has held various positions at UVU since 2003, including director of academic IT and analytics and academic information systems manager. She is a UVU alumna, receiving an associate degree in business management in 1999 and a bachelor's degree in information technology in 2009. Busby won Awards of Excellence in 2005 and again in 2010. She says the best thing about working for UVU is knowing that her time and effort can make a difference in the lives of people she may never meet. Busby enjoys spending time with family and friends, including her nieces and nephews, their children, and her own "four-legged children."



Wendy Farnsworth

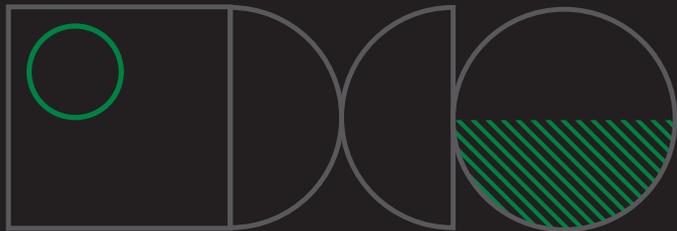
ACADEMIC ADVISOR, COLLEGE OF
HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Wendy Farnsworth hails from Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, and has served UVU for more than 15 years in academic advising roles. She holds a bachelor's degree in retail management from Brigham Young University. Farnsworth's favorite part of working at UVU has been creating true friendships among colleagues who share the goal of students gaining knowledge, skills, and self-confidence while earning their degrees to thrive in the world. She has been married to Reed Farnsworth for more than 35 years, and they have seven children and 19 grandchildren. She enjoys reading around 10 books per week, collecting gemstones, and spending time with family.

Presidential
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE





Amanda Hyer

LEAD PROJECT MANAGER,
UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND
COMMUNICATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Amanda Hyer, from Pleasant Grove, Utah, is the lead project manager for University Marketing and Communications. Hyer holds a bachelor's degree in English with a technical writing emphasis from Utah State University. She worked at USU's copy center and interned as a book layout designer. After graduation, Hyer worked for the digital marketing agency Foxtail Marketing as a copywriter and director of content. Before her current position, she was a marketing and communications manager for UVU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She enjoys cooking, singing along to Broadway musicals, and playing with her nieces and nephews.



Daniel Delgadillo

DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND
TALENT, PEOPLE AND CULTURE

PRESIDENTIAL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Daniel Delgadillo is the People and Culture Department's director of Culture and Talent and PACE Executive Board president. He earned a bachelor's degree in business management from UVU and a master's degree in personal financial planning from Kansas State University. Born and raised in Mexico, Delgadillo moved to Utah at age 11. As a sophomore, he worked as a UVU Testing Center proctor. From there, he joined the Distance Education Department, and in 2015, he became the manager of learning and development in Human Resources. Delgadillo and his wife, Zarahemla, have one child.



Jeremy Knee

DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL,
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

PRESIDENTIAL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Originally from Oakland, Oregon, Jeremy Knee is the deputy general counsel for UVU's Office of General Counsel. Knee holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Palm Beach Atlantic University, an M.A. in environmental studies/economics from Brown University, and a Juris Doctor degree from Boston University. Before coming to UVU in 2017, Knee worked as counsel for several state offices in Missouri and served as an attorney for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Knee's wife, Sarah, is a teacher and post-bac student at UVU. Together, they have two children.



Marissa King

SENIOR DIRECTOR, STUDENT
LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT

PRESIDENTIAL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Marissa King grew up in Taylorsville, Utah, and is the senior director of student leadership and involvement. King holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from UVU and a master's degree in educational leadership and policy with an emphasis in student affairs from the University of Utah. King has worked at UVU since 2009. She received the Student Affairs Divisional Award of Excellence in 2015 and the Outstanding Mid-Level Professional Award from NASPA in 2018. King and her husband, Matt, have two children. She coaches Junior Jazz and enjoys board games and embroidery.



Matthew Potts

ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
OF DEVELOPMENT, INSTITUTIONAL
ADVANCEMENT

PRESIDENTIAL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Matthew Potts grew up in Sacramento, California, and serves as the assistant athletic director of development for Institutional Advancement. Potts earned a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in public relations from UVU and a master's degree in sports and athletic administration from Gonzaga University. Potts started in the athletic department at UVU as a student in 2012. Upon graduating in 2016, Potts worked as the director of sales and marketing for the Drem Owlz before returning to UVU. He enjoys spending time outdoors with his family, working on cars, and riding motorcycles. He has one child and another on the way.



Ryan H. Law

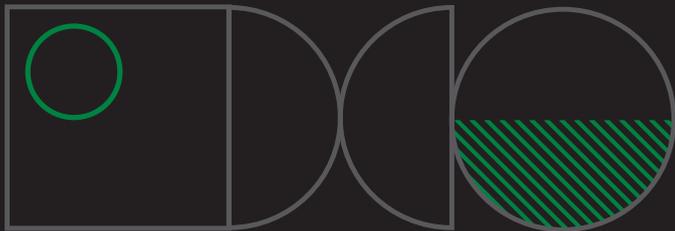
PROFESSIONAL IN RESIDENCE,
FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

PRESIDENTIAL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Ryan H. Law, from Spanish Fork, Utah, is a professional in residence for Finance and Economics. He holds a bachelor's degree in family finance from Utah State University and a master's degree in personal financial planning from Texas Tech University. Before joining UVU in 2015, Law was the director of financial success and a member of the Personal Financial Planning Department at the University of Missouri. Law earned the AFCPE Distinguished Fellow Award in 2021 and the CFP Board Excellence in Pro Bono Award in 2020. Through his business Ryan Law Consulting, he offers keynote speaking, consulting, and financial education. He and his wife, Traci, have five children.

Additional
AWARDS IN SUMMARY



Faculty Awards of Excellence

SMITH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Sayed Sajal

Assistant Professor, Computer Science

Mohammad Shekaramiz

Assistant Professor, Engineering

Lynn Thackeray

Sr. Lecturer, Computer Science

Craig Bell

Adjunct Instructor, Computer Science

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ashley Nadeau

Assistant Professor, English Language and Literature

Kristin Lambert

Assistant Professor, Social Work

Juliann Fritz

Lecturer, Public Relations and Strategic Communication

Amber Smith-Johnson

Lecturer, English Language and Literature

WOODBURY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Xu Sun

Associate Professor, Finance

Benjamin Cummings

Assistant Professor, Master of Financial Planning and Analytics

Marc Brown

Professional in Residence, Hospitality Management

Wafi Asiri

Executive in Residence, Master of Business Administration

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Lauren Brooks

Assistant Professor, Biology

Nathan Goldfarb

Assistant Professor, Chemistry

Wiktor Mogilski

Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Kuo-Liang Chang

Associate Professor, Developmental Mathematics

Kristi Higham

Adjunct Instructor, Exercise Science

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

Francine Jensen

Associate Professor, Nursing

Steve Holley

Assistant Professor, Emergency Services

Marianne Craven

Professor, Nursing

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Melissa Heath

Associate Professor, Music

Janine Sobeck Knighton

Associate Professor, Theatre

Corrine Wallentine

Lecturer, Dance

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

George Odongo

Associate Professor, Teacher Education

Cami Burton

Lecturer, Teacher Education

W. Tom Sutton

Adjunct Instructor, Secondary Education

Deans' Awards of Excellence

SMITH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY

Eric Linfield

Associate Professor, Construction Technology

Brandon Ro

Assistant Professor, Engineering Design Technology

Emily Hedrick

Assistant Professor, Digital Media

STAFF

Joyce Porter

Academic Advisor, Digital Media

Shelley Throckmorton

Lab Manager, Computer Science

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

FACULTY

Bryan Eldredge

Professor, ASL and Deaf Studies

Leslie Simon

Associate Professor, Humanities

Ezgi Sertler

Assistant Professor, Philosophy

Brent Austin

Lecturer, Applied Communication

STAFF

Stephanie Vasquez

Administrative Support, Languages and Culture

WOODBURY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

FACULTY

Jaron Harvey

Assistant Professor, Human Resource Management

Brigham Griffin

Professional in Residence, Marketing

Maureen Andrade

Professor, Organizational Leadership

Adam Welker

Assistant Professor, Finance

Eugene Seeley

Professor, International Business

Marty Van Wagoner

Professional in Residence, Accounting

David Przybyla

Professional in Residence, Marketing

Matt Burgon

Instructor, Organizational Leadership

Sam Farley

Instructor

STAFF

Tauna Walrath

Admin Support III, Strategic Management

Allison Routt

Admin Support III, Woodbury School of Business

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

FACULTY

Joshua Lothringer

Assistant Professor, Astronomy/Physics

Daren Nelson

Associate Professor, Earth Science

Lindsey Gerber

Associate Professor, Developmental Mathematics

STAFF

Nick Wilbur

Teaching Lab Manager, Biology Lab

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

FACULTY

Sarah Hall

Associate Professor, Public and Community Health

Natalie Monson

Associate Professor, Nursing

Tom Hathorne

Instructor, Academic Emergency Services

STAFF

Daniel DeMille

Producer/Editor, Utah Fire and Rescue Academy

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

FACULTY

Lisa Hall

Professor, Theatre

Melissa Younker

Adjunct Instructor, Dance

STAFF

Cristian Bell

Director, Production Performance Operations Director

Lindy Barrett

Assistant Supervisor, The Noorda Center for the Performing Arts

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

STAFF

Melissa Kingsolver

Admin Support III, Clinical Experiences

Divisional Awards of Excellence

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Lisa Bell

Director, Writing Center

Julie Hayden

Executive Assistant, Academic Administration

Don Homan

Teaching Lab Manager, Biology

Alex Malone

Sr. Director – NCPA, School of the Arts

Kim Reich

Assistant Director, Library

La Beene

Associate Professor, Theatre Arts

Michaela Gazdik Stofer

Associate Professor, Biology

Phillip Kleinman

Assistant Professor, Nursing/Health Professions

Kevin McCarthy

Associate Professor, Academic Emergency Services

Mitch Murdock

Associate Professor, Marketing

ADMINISTRATION & STRATEGIC RELATIONS

Jessica Marsh

Supervisor – TAC Dispatcher, Facilities

Darren Brough

Lead HVAC Mechanic, Facilities

Kyle Pope

Manager – Irrigation and Landscaping, Facilities

TJ Pace

Lead Project Foreman, Facilities

Chris Curran

Head Coach – Men's Golf, Athletics

Nikki Scott

Associate Athletic Director – Internal Affairs, Athletics

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Todd Harper

Associate Director of Data Collection/Assessment, BIRS

Cameron Jarman

Sr. Network Engineer – Enterprise Network Architect, Network and Telecom

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Lindsay Watson

Assistant Art Director

Tiffany Sheth

Coordinator – Strategic Projects, Alumni Relations

PEOPLE & CULTURE

Tyra Kaopua

Service Center Lead

Camilla Pendleton

HRIS/Records Specialist

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Katie Hunter

MarCom Director, Student Affairs

Emily Muñoz

Photographer

PLANNING, BUDGET, & FINANCE

Greg Gammill

Supervisor – Property Control and Warehouse, Procurement

Janeen Marsigli

Assistant Director – Deputy Bursar, Finance and Business Services

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lisa McKay

Early Childhood Region Anchor, Outreach and Partnerships

Sherry Page

Director of Accessibility Services, Inclusive Excellence

Berrett Blaylock

Assistant Director – Financial Aid, Enrollment Management

Talatou Maiga

Program Coordinator – Conflict Resolution, Student Development and Well-Being

Andrea Davis

GEAR UP – Outreach Mentor PK-16 Grants, Outreach and Partnerships

Sabrina Barney

Coordinator – Orientation Leader, Enrollment Management

Trista Tempest

Spirit Squad, Student Development and Well-Being

Emily Avery

Wee Care Center, Inclusive Excellence

STUDENT AFFAIRS PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Linda Makin

Vice President of Planning, Budget, and Finance

PACE Awards of Excellence

Beka Grulich

Director, Wasatch Campus

Cindy Wilkinson

Admin Support IV – Academic Programs and Assessments

John-David Sorensen

Academic Advisor, School of the Arts

Justine Gamble

Human Resource Generalist, Culture and Communications

Kiri Zimmerman

Manager, Daily Support Team

Lya Santa Maria

Academic Advisor, Smith College of Engineering and Technology

Lyndi Robertson

Associate Director, Event Services/Campus Scheduling

Zarahemla Delgadillo

Controller II, Auxiliary Accounting/Grants

Austin Harvey

Lab Manager I, Biology

Zebulon Wixson

Coordinator, Veteran Success Center