

# Ruthann Cunningham, DHSc, MS

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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A thought leader in culture management, solutions development, change leadership, and cross-industry collaboration. Experienced in consulting with internal and external partners, leading innovation, and creating strategies to address gaps in care and systems.

### Executive Competencies

- Collaborative & Change Leadership
- Culture Management
- Population Health
- Quality Improvement
- Business Strategy
- Management Consulting
- Operations Management
- Thought Leadership
- Biostatistics
- Executive Speaking & Presentations
- Innovation Champion
- Relationship Management
- Business & Healthcare Economics
- Healthcare Policy & Law

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Utah Valley University, Orem, UT

2018-Present

Utah Valley University is the largest public university in the state of Utah focusing on engaged learning, student success, and rigorous academic programs.

#### Associate Dean Woodbury School of Business (2024-Present)

- Led strategic initiatives to drive the development, implementation, and expansion of academic programs.
- Directed recognition and retention endeavors within the Woodbury School of Business, fostering engagement among faculty and staff.
- Provided consultative expertise for Utah Valley University's overarching strategic blueprint, contributing insights to guide the institution's long-term direction.
- Implemented college-wide standardized communication protocols, enhancing knowledge dissemination, and facilitating greater transparency from the Dean's office to faculty and staff within the Woodbury School of Business.

#### Director of Healthcare Administration and Leadership

##### Woodbury School of Business MBA (2021-2024)

- Championed, developed, and optimized a healthcare leadership emphasis for the MBA program to meet the industry needs and expand the skillset of 100+ graduate students annually.
- Consulted with national industry leaders in hospital systems, policy consulting firms, healthcare analytics, and corporate healthcare law enhancing program visibility and establishing industry mentoring relationships for students.
- Thought leader, developing a ten-week Healthcare Executive Education Course in accounting and finance, lean analysis, change management, strategic partnerships, and healthcare innovation attracting 28 new executives (students) in the first offering.
- Co-invented a networking lecture series on personal brand development to aid 300+ undergraduate and graduate students yearly in career navigation.

***College of Health Professions and Science (2018-2021)***

- Founded and designed a bachelor's degree and a minor in Healthcare Administration encompassing curriculum development, cross-college collaboration, and marketing to benefit over 200+ undergraduate students.
- Directed program strategy, logistics, course content development, and faculty hiring to ensure students were trained in accurate, actionable, and current industry skills.
- Managed and consulted with 85 direct reports (students) on personal goals and career growth resulting in 100% placement in students' top graduate program of choice and 65% placement in the top job field of choice.
- Led regional and national executive trainings on managerial ethics, wellness in women's leadership, and managing diversity in the workplace.

**Intermountain Health, Salt Lake City, UT****2013-2019**

Intermountain Healthcare is an integrated, non-profit system serving the needs of people in the Intermountain West including Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Kansas.

***Population Health Network Leader (2018-2019)***

- Streamlined operations, realigned organizational leadership, and expanded community partnerships all in response to the systemwide strategic plan.
- Managed the performance in population health strategy and guided data solutions for four Intermountain hospitals (Trauma Levels I, II, and III) along with six of the largest independent multispecialty medical centers in the state of Utah. Results included significant improvements in medication adherence, HCC coding, and well-child visits.
- Improved the shared savings on a 5-Star Medicare Advantage plan by \$1M per quarter in each of Intermountain's geographic regions.
- Consulted on the initial design and strategy of Civica RX whose mission is to ensure that essential generic pharmaceuticals are accessible and affordable.

***Population Health Consultant (2016-2018)***

- Drove resource utilization, data support, and implementation of operational components of Intermountain's Shared Accountability program in three out of the four total geographic regions of Intermountain.
- Reduced hospital readmission rates, improved medication adherence, decreased unnecessary surgical utilization, increased annual wellness visits, and decreased quarterly costs by \$2M on upside value-based care shared savings models.
- Co-managed the building, modification, implementation, and continued training of data analytics dashboards for 400+ providers, hospital administrators, and regional leaders.

***Clinical Research Senior Consultant (2013-2016)***

- Supervised multiple system-wide research initiatives in surgical services, oncology, women and newborns, transplant, and primary care.
- Developed budgets, finances, SQL queries, and data validity for research studies.
- Key consultant for healthcare motion analysis and rehabilitation lab design.

**PRESENTATIONS**


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*How to Develop Leaders Throughout an Organization*, April 9, 2024, Chicago, IL  
*Leadership in Healthcare, Vedere Master of Science in Healthcare Management*, Fall 2023, Virtual Presentations  
*Managing Diversity in the Workplace*, August 31, 2023, Virtual Presentation

*Top Behavioral Health Concerns for 2023*, April 5, 2023, Chicago, IL  
*The Persistent Pursuit of Gender Equality in the Workplace*, March 21, 2023, Reno, NV  
*Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in Healthcare*, February 7, 2023, Orem, UT  
*Value-Based Healthcare*, January 31, 2023, Orem, UT  
*Healthcare Systems Organizational Design*, January 24, 2023, Orem, UT  
*Managing Organizational Change*, August 31, 2022, Lehi, UT  
*Women in Leadership: Staying Healthy on Your Leadership Journey*, June 9, 2022, Virtual Presentation  
*Organizational Values and Ethics*, March 2, 2022, Orem, UT  
*Leading High-Performance Teams*, January 25, 2022, Virtual Webinar  
*Designing Efficient & Effective Healthcare Delivery Systems*, November 17, 2021, Virtual Presentation  
*Understanding Policy, Law, and Ethics in Healthcare*, October 6, 2021, Virtual Presentation  
*Managing Differences in the Workplace*, August 19, 2021, Lehi, UT  
*Population Health Leadership and its Role in Healthcare*, March 16, 2021, Virtual Presentation

## RESEARCH

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- Cunningham, R., Thiesset, H.F., Bhattacharjee, D., McGinn, G., & Thiesset, H.F. (2024). Trends in Medicare Part B pharmaceutical pricing. *Journal of Health Administration Education*.  
 Thiesset, H.F., Glenn, J., & Cunningham, R. (2024). Perceptions of opioid use disorder. *Journal of Opioid Management*.  
 Andrade, M.S., Westover, J.H., & Cunningham, R. (2023). Work flexibility and job satisfaction: Shifting workplace norms. *Journal of Management Policy and Practice*, 24(2), 15-39.  
 Cunningham, R., Westover, J.H., & Harvey, J. (2022). Drivers of job satisfaction among healthcare professionals: a quantitative review. *International Journal of Healthcare Management*, 16(2), 1-9.  
 Cunningham, R. & Waddoups, S. (2022). Teaching leadership communication in population health. *Journal of Health Administration Education*, 38(4), 871-882.  
 Ball, T., Joy, E.A., Gren, L.H., Cunningham, R., & Shaw J.M. (2016). Predictive validity of adult physical activity "vital sign" recorded in electronic health records. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 13(4):403-408.  
 Ball, T., Joy, E.A., Gren, L.H., Cunningham, R., & Shaw J.M. (2015). Developing construct validity of physical activity vital sign for adults using electronic health records. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, 47(5S):69-70, 2015.  
 Brunisholz, K. D., Briot, P., Hamilton, S., Joy, E. A., Lomax, M., Cunningham, R., ... & Cannon, W. (2014). Diabetes self-management education improves quality of care and clinical outcomes determined by a diabetes bundle measure. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare*, 7, 533-542.  
 Cunningham, R., Hunter, I., Seeley, M., & Feland, B. (2013). Variations in running technique n between female sprinters, middle, and long-distance runners. *International Journal of Exercise Science* 6(1): 43-51.

## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Health Science**, Organizational Behavior and Leadership, A.T. Still University, Mesa, AZ  
**Master of Science**, Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT  
**Bachelor of Science**, Wellness Management, Business minor, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

## CERTIFICATIONS & AWARDS

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*Innovating in Health Care*, Harvard Business School • *Lean Technology Strategy: Financial Management to Support Business Agility*, LinkedIn • *Advanced Training Program in Clinical and Quality Improvement*, Intermountain Healthcare • *Facility in Excellence*, Utah Valley University

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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American College of Healthcare Executives • USA Track & Field

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**COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS/VOLUNTEERING**

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UVU MBA Committee • UVU Executive Education • UVU Physician Assistant Program

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