

Impact *Report*

Impact Starts Here



2024 - 2025






UVU CENTER FOR
SOCIAL IMPACT

Impact Starts Here



 @uvusocialimpact

 <https://www.uvu.edu/socialimpact>



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Letter from the Director



**Cassie
Bingham**

Director of UVU Center for Social Impact
She/Her

It is my privilege to introduce the UVU Center for Social Impact's inaugural Impact Report as we celebrate five years of impact programming. Summer Valente, our previous director, had the foresight and vision to take a leap by evolving our space from its original, wonderful iteration as the Center for Volunteer and Service-Learning to the Center for Social Impact. She recognized the need for a more holistic approach to social change and community improvement, one that aligns with an increasingly interconnected, fast-paced, and complex world.

Over the past five years, we have continually researched, adapted, and integrated best-practice frameworks that now shape our Strategic Impact Continuum. Relational Care, Social Change Design (which includes systems thinking, theory of change, and impact measurement), and the Six Pathways of Social Impact serve as our core strategies. These approaches draw from adjacent fields such as social work and social enterprise, as well as from esteemed academic and public sector institutions—including Stanford's Haas School of Public Service and the d.school, Oxford's Saïd Business School and the Skoll Centre's Map the System, and the Creative Reaction Lab.

Our guiding frameworks have been especially critical as we've navigated a rapidly shifting world—one marked by a global pandemic, political and social upheaval, unprecedented natural disasters, and international conflict. Through it all, our students remain a source of hope and inspiration. They seek ways to strengthen their local communities, contribute to a healthier society, and extend care beyond their immediate circles. The strategic tools we provide have never been more relevant as they tackle deep, interwoven social and environmental challenges.

Five Years of *Impact* At a Glance

52

Full-tuition Impact Fellows

55

Community Partnerships

28

Impact-trained Faculty

While these numbers represent our reach, they are just the beginning of the story. The true measure of our work lies in the transformation and growth sparked by our programs—the outcomes that shape students' lives, strengthen communities, and drive meaningful social change. This report culminates from our first comprehensive attempt to capture and assess that impact. Moving forward, we will continue refining our impact measurement strategies, ensuring we listen deeply to community insights and engage in an iterative process of progress and improvement.

Our learning as a Center has been immense. We are better at articulating social impact principles in accessible ways, strengthening connections with aligned community partners, and designing student learning experiences that translate into leadership and career readiness. As we look ahead, the feedback we've gathered will shape a future strategy that includes expanded project-based and experiential learning opportunities, enhanced data visualization and research publication, and deeper cross-sector partnerships that reflect the world in which our students live and work.

We are deeply grateful for your support and belief in this work, and can't thank you enough. We hope you'll join us as we leap into our next five years.

With gratitude,



Cassie Bingham

Our *Mission* Statement

We develop compassionate community leaders who collaborate on strategic social impact.



Our *Practices*



Understanding History & Context
Recognizing Positionality & Power
Facilitating Healing & Repairing Harm
Seeking Many Perspectives
Following Lived Experience
Staying Data-Informed
Rejecting Extractivism & Exploitation



Our *Vision* Statement

Relational Care

+

Strategic Impact



Relational Care is the practice of fostering meaningful, authentic connections with individuals and communities. It prioritizes empathy, active listening, and mutual support to create lasting, positive social change. Through relational care, we acknowledge the inherent dignity of every person, recognize our interdependence, and take responsibility for understanding how systems shape lived experiences and relationships.



Strategic Impact is the intentional and data-informed approach to creating sustainable, systemic change. It involves leveraging resources, collaboration, and critical thinking to address social issues effectively. By focusing on long-term solutions and measurable outcomes, strategic impact ensures that efforts lead to meaningful and lasting progress in communities.

Our *Values*

Nuance

Humility

Accountability

Rigor

Justice

Reciprocity

Compassion

Sustainability

Imagination

Meet the Staff

2024-2025

Cassie Bingham

Director of UVU Center for
Social Impact
She/Her



Bailey Whitaker

Assistant Director of UVU Center for
Social Impact
She/Her





Jamey Williams

Outreach Program Director
She/Her



Jo Mower

Engagement Program Director
They/Them



Lori Phipps

Administrative Support
She/Her

Our *History*



1993-2001

Established as the Volunteer & Service-Learning Center in 2002, with a focus on promoting volunteerism and integrating service-learning into academic curriculum, after operating as Volunteer Services since 1993



2012-2015

Received the Center's current physical space on campus. Adopted the Active Citizen model and obtained seven tuition waivers to establish an Executive Service Council.



2018

After adopting the Pathways of Social Impact framework in order to set the stage for expanding beyond volunteerism and service-learning, rebranded as the Center for Social Impact.



2019

Launched the Social Impact Fellows program, offering students opportunities to lead impactful events and engage in community projects across all Six Pathways of Social Impact.



2021

Created an integrated model of core impact strategies to accompany the Six Pathways framework as tools for operating within each pathway.



2022-2024

Honored with a National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Excellence Award, designating the Center as first in the nation for programs related to civic learning and engagement. Launched the Strategic Impact Continuum.

Growing with Purpose: The Shift to Social Impact

Summer Valente

Previous CSI Director
She/Her



Five years ago, UVU's Volunteer and Service-Learning Center became the Center for Social Impact—a transformation that redefined how UVU students engage in social change. Summer Valente, the director who led this shift, recognized that UVU need more in regard to community-driven engagement than just volunteer coordination. She envisioned a space where students could analyze real world social issues and become changemaking leaders in community movements.

As Summer conducted research, she came across Stanford's Public Service and Civic Engagement Pathways. These became the foundation for the Pathways of Social Impact framework, which expanded the Center's focus beyond direct service and community-engaged learning and research to include social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, policy and governance, community organizing and activism, and philanthropy. This shift aligned with a core belief: college students have always been at the forefront of major social movements—and UVU students should be, too. The adoption of this framework, along with the creation of additional models, was designed with students in mind—ensuring they could see themselves in this work while equipping them with the skills to create strategic change in their communities and spheres of influence.

Change wasn't easy. The name itself sparked skepticism, and some resisted moving beyond traditional service. But the team remained clear and strategic, advocating for a rigorous, research-backed approach that could withstand scrutiny. A major challenge was the shift away from a charity mindset toward systemic change. "The old model had an unintentional savior complex," Summer reflected. "We needed students to engage with communities in a meaningful, reciprocal way."

Today, the Center for Social Impact attracts hundreds of students with its events, course offerings, competitions, and alternative breaks. More students than ever are applying to be Impact Fellows and Impact Associates. The work continues to expand and evolve in exciting ways. Looking ahead, our commitment to growth and adaptability remains strong. "The world is changing, and the work of social impact has to evolve with it," Summer said. Five years in, this is just the beginning.

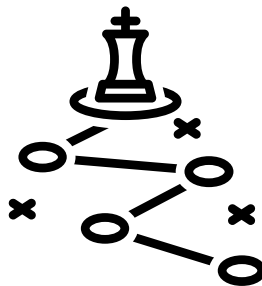
What is *Social Impact?*



Social Impact refers to lasting positive change created by individuals, organizations, and communities working to address pressing, community-identified social issues in a sustainable and just manner. At UVU's Center for Social Impact, it means engaging in meaningful action to increase well-being, promote justice, and strengthen communities through hopeful research, strategy, advocacy, and action.



Relational
Care

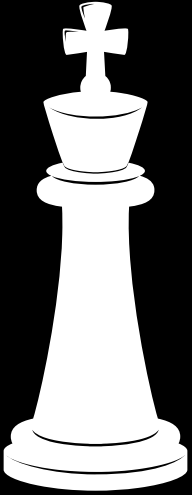


Ethical
Strategy



Lived Experience
Data



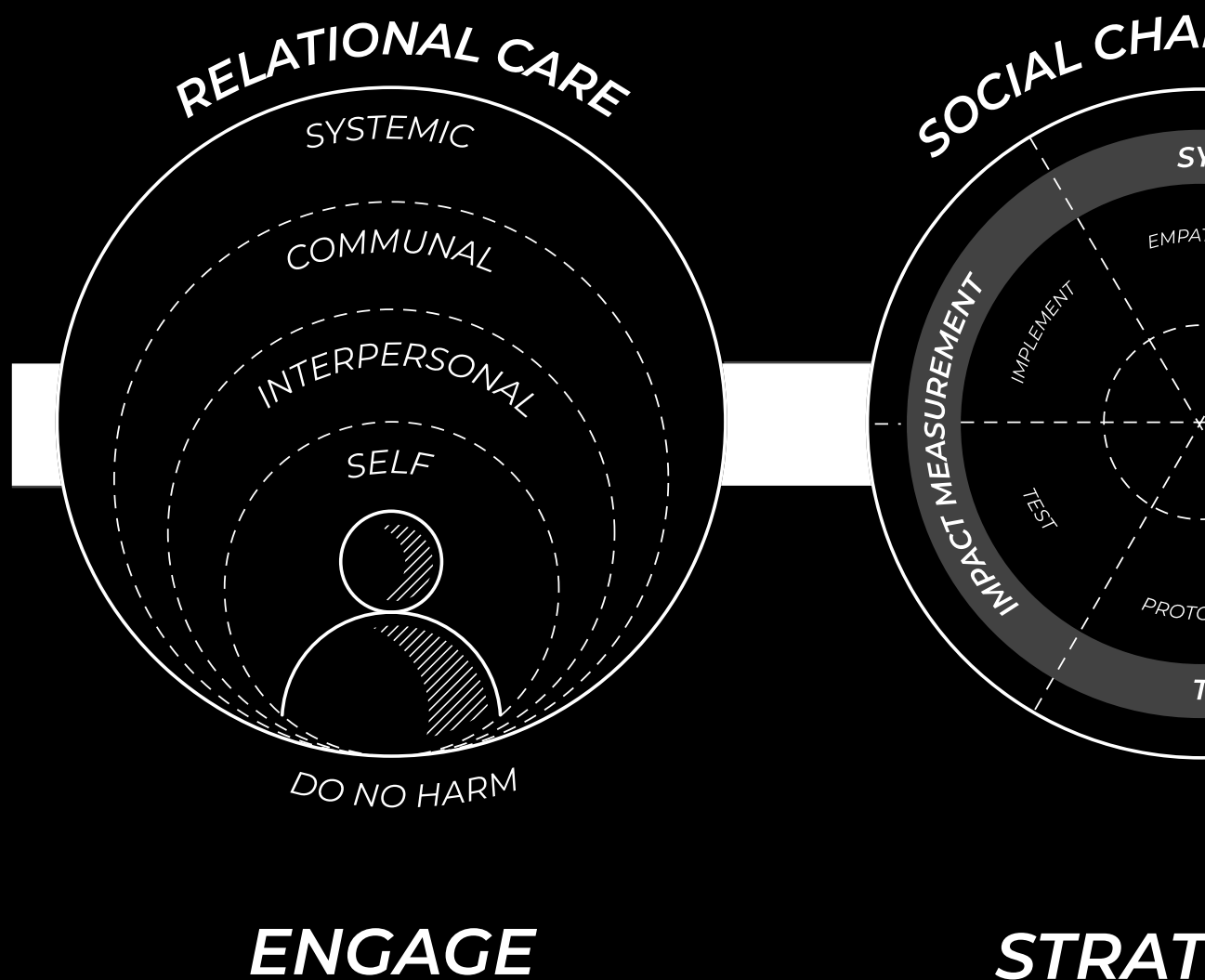


Guiding Frameworks

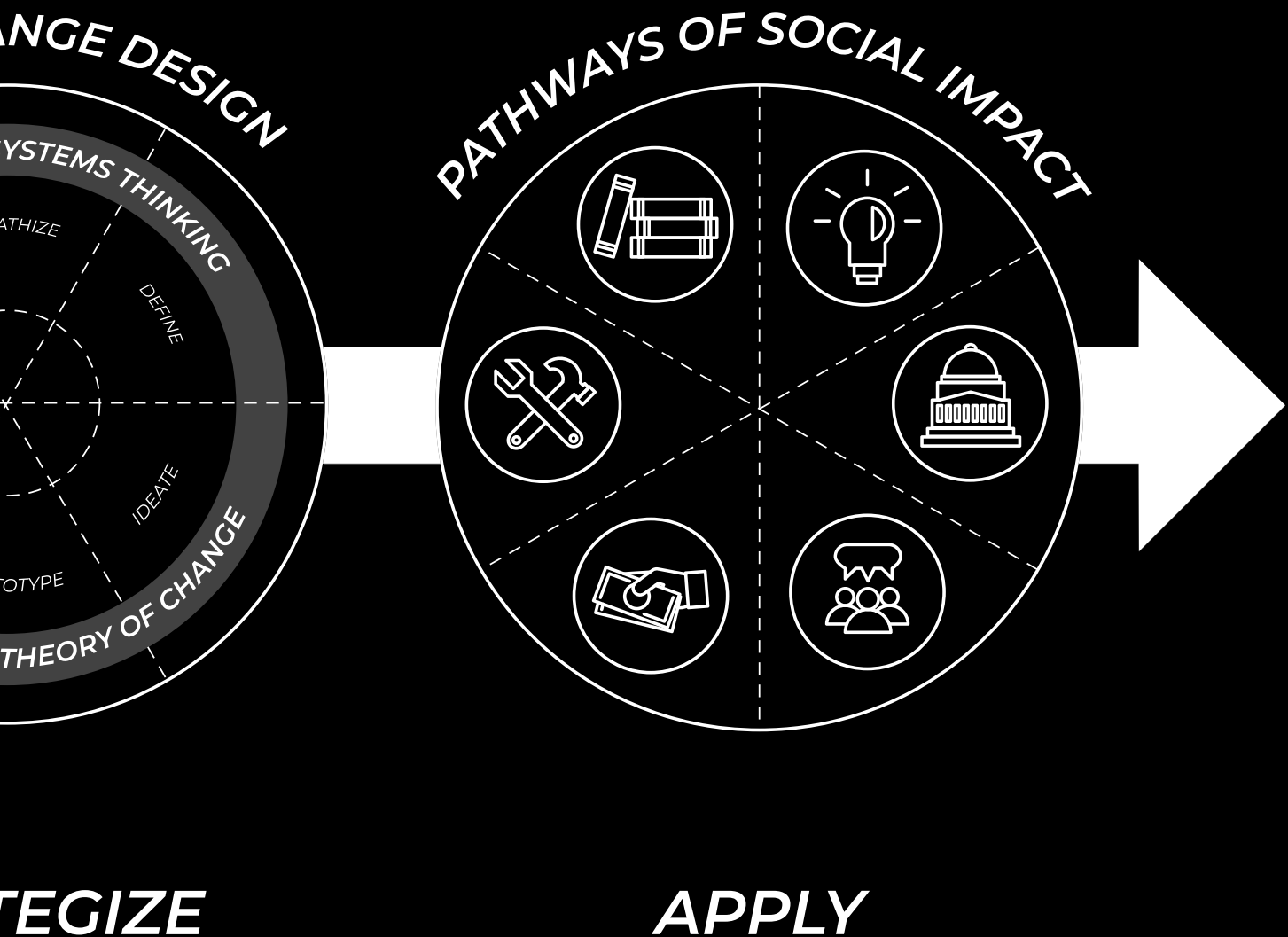
What is the Strategic Impact Continuum?

At the Center for Social Impact, we don't just talk about making a difference—we live it and teach it to students. Every word of our mission statement was chosen with care, and at its heart is our commitment to developing compassionate, collaborative, and strategic changemakers. To help make that happen, we created the **Strategic Impact Continuum**—a practical set of frameworks that guide students and community partners in engaging with society, designing social change strategies, and driving impact across different sectors. Each phase plays a role in ensuring that social impact efforts are ethical, effective, and sustainable.

Strategic Impact

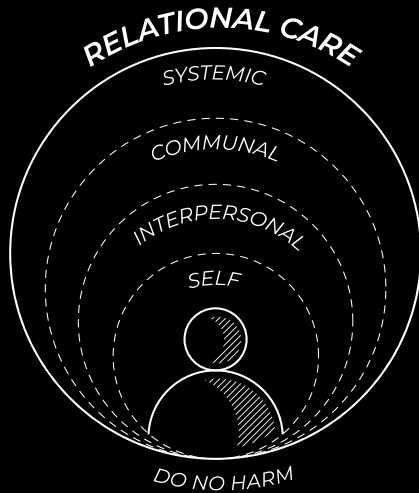


Impact Continuum

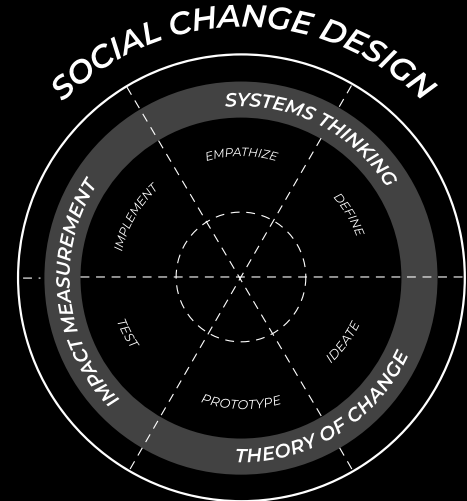




Guiding Frameworks



Relational Care is all about understanding and honoring our deep connections to each other and the world around us. Rooted in the communal practices of Indigenous Peoples and the justice-centered theories of liberation and civil rights scholars, this philosophy reminds us that impact isn't just about outcomes—it's about how we get there. Relational Care is a commitment to recognize and responsibly engage with the interconnectedness of all things across systemic, communal, and interpersonal spheres. It guides collaborative social impact strategy based on an understanding of mutual dependence.

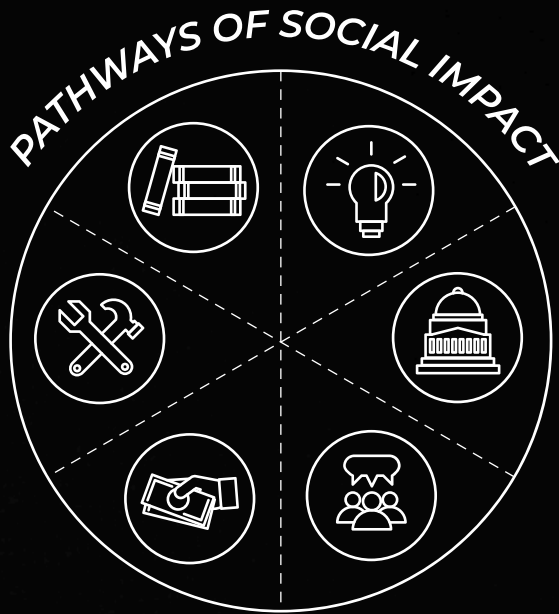


Social Change Design is our playbook for tackling social issues in a way that's collaborative, community-led, and results-driven. We integrate this approach into all social impact planning and execution because it ensures solutions are designed with the people they affect in mind. At its core, Social Change Design follows three key steps that make problem-solving more intentional and effective: Systems Thinking helps us understand the full context of an issue, Theory of Change ensures our ideas have a clear and strategic pathway to impact, and Impact Measurement holds us accountable for real results.

By incorporating these steps, we move beyond quick fixes to create sustainable, meaningful change.



Guiding Frameworks



The Six Pathways of Social Impact framework helps people to create change in ways that align with their strengths, skills, and passions across disciplines in addition to ways that align with the unique gaps of any given social issue. Developed through a collaboration led by Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service, the pathways acknowledge that there's no single "right way" to make an impact. The beauty of these pathways? They're fluid. You might engage in multiple pathways throughout your career—or even in a single project. Impact is dynamic, and so are the ways we contribute.

6 *Pathways of Social Impact*



1



DIRECT SERVICE

Working to address the immediate needs of individuals or a community, often involving contact with the people or places being served



2



COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING & RESEARCH

Connecting coursework and academic research to community-identified concerns to enrich knowledge and inform action on social issues



3



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR- SHIP & CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Using ethical private sector approaches to create or expand market-oriented responses to social problems

IMPACT STARTS HERE



4



POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Participating in political processes, policymaking, and public governance



5



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND ACTIVISM

Involving, educating, and mobilizing individual or collective action to influence or persuade others



6



PHILANTHROPY

Donating or using private funds or charitable contributions from individuals or institutions to contribute to the public good

Fellows Programs

Take a look what our *Impact Fellows* were up to this year



2024 - 2025



Our Impact Fellows are the Heart of the Center

Impact Fellows are student leaders who engage in hands-on roles to educate about and practice social impact. As Pathways, Strategy, and Community Building Fellows, each led meaningful projects this year: from assessing impact and mapping systems for community partners, to designing events and exhibits that engaged hundreds of students. They curated markets, facilitated workshops, produced podcast episodes, and managed peer-to-peer outreach through social media, tabling, and our monthly newsletter. Together, they built community, deepened impact understanding, and helped drive social change on and off campus.

"Being a fellow has taught me how to think in a way that empowers myself and my community members to think of realistic and effective interventions for the social issues we face in our lives" - Kayla Torres

"As the Marketing & Community Building Fellow for 2024-2025, I found this cohort, community, and professional development to be forever changing. The mentorship of the brilliant directors paired with my lovely peers synchronized for the utmost groundbreaking experience. I look forward to adapting the skills and practices I have acquired through this program in an abundance of strategic social impact-based environments." - Felix Landeros Diaz

"I feel like I've gained a deep skill of empathizing with people and a deep reverence for the people that have come before me who have made the world into what it is today." - McKay Jones

"I've come to value ambiguity and its role in understanding social systems, academic study, and program development. As a result of my experience as a Strategy Fellow, I find I am now less afraid to approach the unknown and the often amorphous answers that I pull from my research." - Abbie Fisher

Want to learn more? Scan this QR Code to watch our 2024-2025 Impact Fellows Video



Monthly Events

Policy Change 101

Policy Change 101 is a hands-on workshop that makes policy and civic engagement accessible. Led by the Policy & Governance Fellow, these sessions break down legislation, provide historical context, and equip students with resources and tools—including letter-writing guides—to advocate for change at the local and national levels.

“The current political climate is intense; but this event helped me find new ways to get involved, connect with representatives and understand the importance of community and resilience.”

- Mitchell Gibson



Impact Volunteer Night

Volunteer Night connects students with local organizations to address real community needs through hands-on service. Organized by the Direct Service Fellow, this event provides insight into community-led efforts, opportunities for immediate impact, and pathways for long-term involvement.

“I liked attending volunteer night, because it is an opportunity for me to take my mind off my current problems and help people.”

- Stephen Thompson





Impact Movie Night

Impact Movie Night features films that highlight critical social issues, followed by a systems-thinking discussion led by the Philanthropy Fellow. With curated resources and collaborations with community partners, these screenings provide insight into social dynamics and offer ways for students to take action through donations or volunteer opportunities.

"Movie night, is a wonderful way to get exposed to new topics I was unaware of..."

- Janessa Purcell



Impact Speaker Series

The Impact Speaker Series spotlights community organizers and activists outside of UVU through intimate interviews and audience Q&As. Led by the Community Organizing & Activism Fellow, these conversations offer firsthand perspectives on social change work and advocacy.

"It was really eye-opening to see how much outreach is done in our community and all the good that people are doing to reach out and help those in need. It is important to listen to people's story."

- Anonymous student

Annual Events

Open House

At the beginning of each Fall and Spring semester, our Community Building Fellows host an Open House for students to come and learn how they can get involved at the Center for Social Impact. This is an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to interact with Impact Fellows and CSI Staff.

"I didn't even know the Center existed! It was so fun to talk to the student fellows there."
- Anonymous student



Local Valley Market

Local Valley Market showcases local makers and entrepreneurs, offering art, crafts, jewelry, beauty products, and more. Students can shop while supporting small businesses and celebrating community creativity. These events are organized by the Social Entrepreneurship Fellow.

"This event was a unique and fun way to engage with campus and other local business owners, I enjoyed it!"
- Vendor





Social Impact Fairs

Social Impact Fairs invite students, staff, and faculty to connect with local community partners and UVU organizations to explore meaningful opportunities for engagement. Participants discover how their unique skills and interests can address community-identified needs through the Six Pathways of Social Impact.

"We love the opportunity to come and interact with students on campus- it makes us feel more connected. " - NMDP!



Alternative Breaks

The Alternative Breaks program offers immersive fall and spring break experiences where students travel to different communities. Guided by local community partners, these trips emphasize deep learning and critical reflection, empowering students to carry their insights into meaningful action in their own communities.

"Exploring a new community while seeing the frameworks and pathways be applied in real life scenarios was a groundbreaking rite of passage in my educational career." - Felix Landeros Diaz

BRANDING & MARKETING

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR EVENT DESIGNS, BRANDING,
& MARKETING STRATEGIES

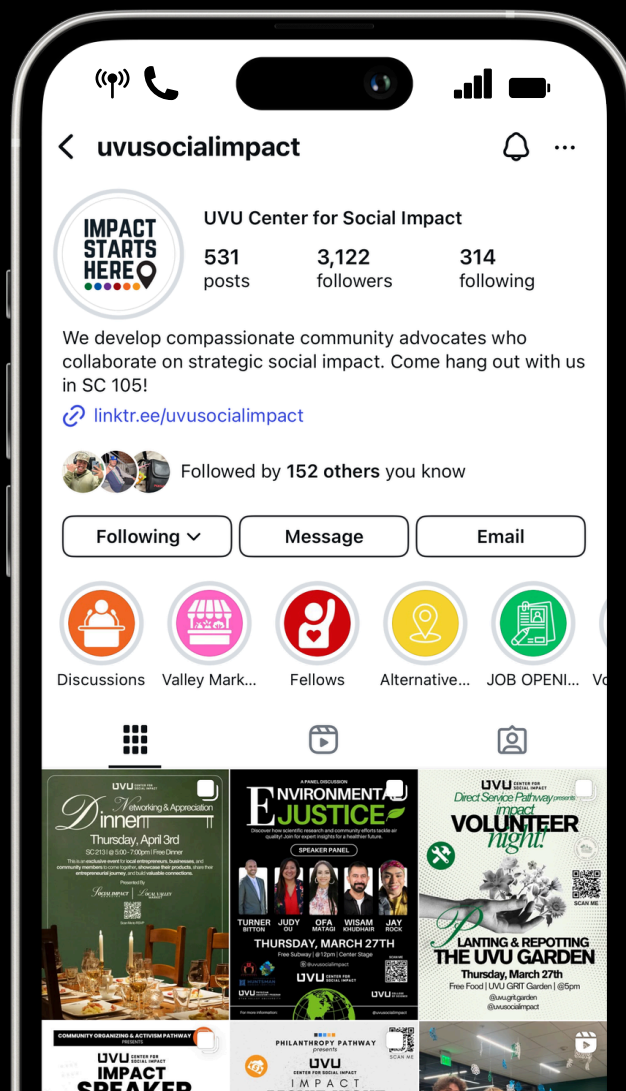


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“As our Marketing Fellow,
Felix Landeros Diaz
transformed our digital
presence. He led
strategic efforts that
**increased our social
media engagement by
over 115%**, not only
through content
creation and branding
but also by fostering
meaningful engagement
with our community
partners. His innovative
thinking and attention to
detail brought a fresh,
authentic voice to our
outreach.”

- Jamey Williams,
CSI Outreach
Program Director



Social Media
Engagement
Growth of Over
115%

Critical Connections

Impact Fellows Podcast



Listen on Spotify



This year's Critical Mass Podcast centered lived experience to unpack the systems shaping our communities. Produced by our Community Engaged Learning & Research Fellow, each episode was a labor of love—from deep research and thoughtful interviews to scripting, recording, and audio editing. Topics ranged from overcoming nihilism to embracing healthy conflict—all with a focus on amplifying voices and sparking deeper understanding.

From the episode Pockets of Care: Conflict as a Tool to Build Community

“Community can’t be something that just happens to us, but it has to be an action we take intentionally, a choice we make. This season on the podcast we’re looking at ways of knowing that will empower us to not only survive the future, but thrive in it.”

-Nick Fife, Community Engaged Learning & Research Fellow



Social Impact *Metrics Lab*

What is the SIMLab?

The SIMLab brings together faculty, students, and community partners to tackle real-world challenges through impact assessment and design projects. Our three Strategy Fellows, trained in social change design and community partner consulting, worked alongside research assistants to conduct in-depth audits for local organizations. Each project led to a customized assessment report and a follow-up design project aimed at closing identified impact gaps—all rooted in community need.



The Refuge Utah

The Refuge Utah is dedicated to supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This year, our student team partnered with them to research gaps in reporting on college campuses. Using their findings, the team created a website and assembled resource packets to better support student survivors and connect them with the help they need.

“Being a fellow has taught me how to think in a way that empowers myself and my community members to think of realistic and effective interventions for the social issues we face in our lives.” - Kayla Torres





THEIR STORY IS OUR STORY

Their Story is Our Story

Their Story is Our Story collects and shares refugee stories to encourage understanding and empathy. This semester, our student team helped develop a more robust partner vetting process and a system for measuring impact.

"I've come to value ambiguity and it's role in understanding social systems, academic study, and program development. As a result of my experience as a Strategy Fellow, I find I am now less afraid to approach the unknown and the often amorphous answers that I pull from my research." - Abbie Fisher

Curly Me!®



Curly Me!

Curly Me! empowers, educates, and uplifts young Black girls in Utah. This year, our fellows supported their efforts by developing impact measures and helping create their annual report.

"I learned the importance of researching the issue to truly understand how it affects the people involved. Without that understanding, it's easy to make assumptions instead of creating solutions that actually help.

We have to take the time to listen to lived experience, learn, and analyze to make sure the efforts made are thoughtful, effective, and rooted in the needs of the community."

- Saskia Paepke-Chile

2024-2025

Meet the Fellows

Felix Landeros Diaz

Marketing & Community Building Fellow
He/She/They



McKay Jones

Outreach & Community Building Fellow
He/Him





Janessa- Michelle Purcell

Direct Service Fellow
She/Her



Nick Fife

Community Engaged Learning & Research Fellow
They/Them



Mery Deilaire

Social Entrepreneurship & CSR Fellow
She/Her

Sarah Goehring

Policy & Governance Fellow
They/She/He



Jake Togisala

Community Organizing & Activism Fellow
He/Him



Kenny Dimond

Philanthropy Fellow
He/Him





Saskia Paepke-Chile

Strategy & Design Fellow
She/Her



Abbie Fisher

Strategy & Design Fellow
They/She



Kayla Torres

Strategy & Design Fellow
She/Her





Where are they now? Alumni Highlights

Impact Fellow, 2021-2022
She/Her

Bre Lambert



Bre Lambert was an Impact Fellow while studying in the social work master's program at UVU. During her time as a Fellow, she hosted the Impact Fellows podcast and participated in the Oxford Map the System competition, examining disparities in mental health for Black Utahns. Since her fellowship, Lambert has become a fully licensed therapist working with students at the University of Utah's counseling center. She uses skills ranging from organizational strategy to systems thinking and justice-centered design. Bre shared, "Systems theory and how to look at things from a bird's eye view has been so beneficial to the clinical work I do as a therapist...I actually [recently gave] a training on how I use design centered thinking for clinical work, which I'm really excited about."

Impact Fellow, 2023-2024
She/Her

Maya Hardie



Maya Hardie participated in one the Center's first social change design projects, providing systems research and strategic advice to Waste Less Solutions, a local food rescue nonprofit. After her fellowship, Hardie became the assistant director of Phase Two Productions, a full-service video production company based in Salt Lake. While there, she's identified gaps and potential solutions by surveying crew members and implemented an improved training program based on her research. She stated, "[I launched a] program through all of those methodologies that I learned at the Center for Social Impact. And then I think those same methodologies just continue to show up...I don't know how I would have approached something like that before The Center for Social Impact."



Deeqa Hamid

Impact Fellow, 2021 - 2022
She/Her

Deeqa Hamid, a refugee from Sudan who worked with the UN before seeking asylum in the United States, created the Center's inaugural Impact Speaker Series. Hamid is finishing her master's program in social work and mental health and is completing a practicum to become a licensed therapist. Reflecting on her journey, Hamid credits the Center for equipping her with the skills and confidence to engage with communities. "Before being a Fellow, I didn't know where to start," she explained. "Being a part of this program, I learned how to be bold, how to drive myself, how to ask the right questions, and how to be involved."



Taylor Bell

Impact Fellow, 2020 - 2021
He/Him

Taylor Bell was UVU's student body president for the 2019-2020 academic year before becoming an Impact Fellow who ran the Center's inaugural Impact Fellows podcast. Currently, Bell is pursuing a master's degree in fashion design management at the London College of Fashion, where he is utilizing the tools and skills he gained from the Center to navigate sustainability problems within the fashion industry. "Learning [systems and design] tools and understanding the processes and types of complexity of systems has been very important," attests Bell. "And I think just having not only the skills...but the vocabulary. There is a strong correlation [to those tools] in talking about problems in a productive, educated way."



Impact *Exhibits*



One of our core goals is to make data and social challenges more visual, accessible, and engaging—not just through reports or presentations, but by transforming them into immersive exhibits that encourage learning, dialogue, and reflection.

These exhibits reflect our belief that storytelling and data can work hand in hand to create understanding and drive action.

Whether through shirts covered in handwritten experiences or graphs showing the imbalance of wealth, the goal is the same: to help students and visitors see the systems, hear the stories, and feel the urgency.

Our exhibits aren't just events—they're learning labs for empathy, systems thinking, and social impact. And as we look ahead, we're committed to expanding these efforts, inviting more students, faculty, and community partners to see data differently—as art, as story, as call to action.



THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT



The Clothesline Project is an annual visual exhibit centered on raising awareness about sexual and domestic violence. Rows of hand-decorated t-shirts—each created by a survivor or someone who has known a survivor—share powerful personal stories, emotions, and messages of resilience. Each shirt color represents a different person's lived experience. Coordinated by the Pathways Fellows, the project also involved collaboration with community partners to deepen its impact, such as a presentation from The Refuge Utah.

THE SCARCITY MYTH



The Scarcity Myth is an interactive exhibit meant to debunk the myth that food, housing, and wealth insecurity is due to a scarcity of resources, and rather raise awareness about uneven distribution.

Participants engage in visual data displays, a showcase of community resources, and interactive activities, in order to gain inspiration about various ways communities can work to provide access to basic needs. The Pathways Fellows coordinated this exhibit, as well as communications with relevant community partners in order to host a panel discussion with experts from the UVU Care Hub, UVU Student Success Center, and Salt Lake Community Mutual Aid. The conversation explored collaborative approaches to creating systems of care and access.



Learn more about our MLK Exhibit on the next page



Martin Luther King, Jr Exhibit

+ Commemoration

As part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week at UVU, the Center for Social Impact curated a special exhibit showcasing the connection between art and justice. The exhibit featured gold and black designs and highlighted influential Black artists whose work has shaped cultural and social movements. Artists included Beyoncé, Lupe Fiasco, and Kendrick Lamar. The exhibit provided historical context on each artist, their significance, and the ways in which their music and artistry have contributed to movements for justice.

The Center was also heavily involved with the Commemoration keynote event and breakout sessions. The annual Commemoration continues to be a profound and inspiring experience that draws on community to honor Dr. King's legacy in the fight for justice. We look forward to continuing our tradition of supporting MLK, Jr. Commemoration at UVU, and helping to expand its impact in the years to come.

"In times of distress and discomfort, it was hopeful to be in a community where everyone truly showed up as themselves and CARED..." - MLK Commemoration participant

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, UVU celebrated its **31st Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration!** This vibrant and inspiring event aligned with the theme "Creating the Dream – Artistic Expressions of Justice." The celebration showcased performers who honored Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy through poetry, music, dance, and visual art. As contributors to the event, CSI staff members **Cassie Bingham** and **Jamey Williams** played key roles in leading this year's program through outreach, organization, and visionary planning.

Dr. King once said, "**Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better.**" This year's theme embodied that message, emphasizing the power of **artistic expression** in the fight for **justice**. Art has long been a force for social change, amplifying voices of those often unheard, **fostering empathy**, and inspiring **collective action**.



Four performers from our Utah community took the stage, each presenting a unique artistic interpretation of justice and equality. The audience was able to watch films of each performer introducing themselves and explaining why their art related to the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jamera NaQuai – A spoken word poet who performed a written piece entitled "I, Too, Have A Dream."

Ngoma y'Africa – An African cultural group that performed a traditional African dance celebrating heritage and resistance.

Yahosh Bonner – A musical performer that highlighted themes of unity and empowerment from his own lived experience.

Shalandrea Houchen (What's Ya Vibe) – A multifaceted artistic performer that combined singing, dancing, and live painting, captivating the audience with a visual and auditory narrative of justice and activism.



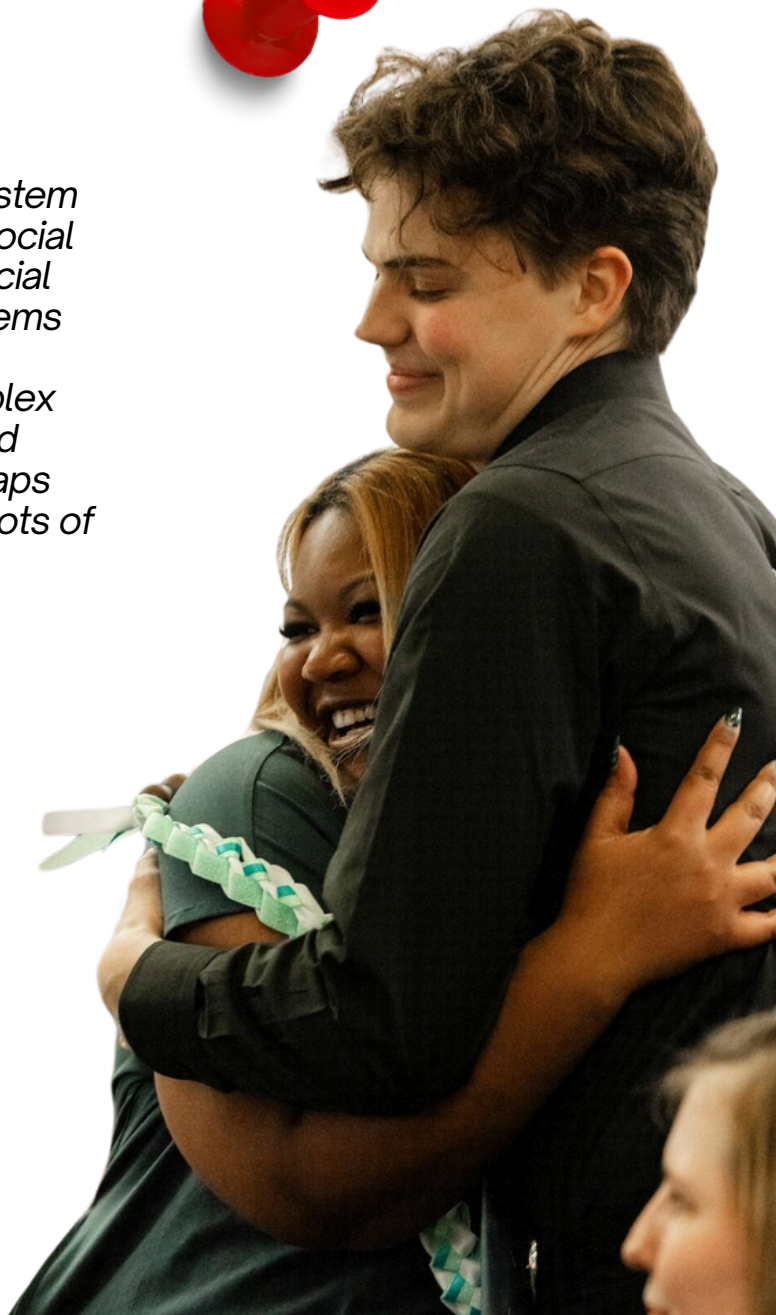
Oxford Map the *System*

A Research Competition

During the fall semester, UVU students participated in the annual Oxford Map the System local competition hosted by the Center for Social Impact, where 13 teams researched local social issues they are passionate about, using systems thinking—a method of analyzing how interconnected elements contribute to complex problems. Through a series of workshops and mentorship, students developed systems maps and visual presentations that explored the roots of issues affecting their communities.

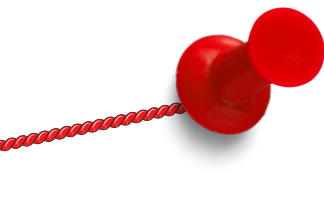
The Map the System competition has grown every year since it started at UVU in partnership with Oxford, and we are looking forward to expanding the competition, collaborating with other universities and centers, and strengthening systems thinking education. The Center also aims to increase student participation and engagement with systems mapping skills.

“We want students to feel empowered and less overwhelmed when they encounter complex challenges.” - Cassie Bingham, CSI Director



"Map the System is a unique opportunity for students to become deeply knowledgeable—almost like experts—on a social issue they care about. It's incredibly rewarding to see the effort they put in and how they begin to recognize the real-world implications of the issues that surround us." - Bailey Whitaker, CSI Assistant Director

*The World Economic Forum Top 10 most in-demand skills of 2025 include **Analytical Thinking, Complex Problem Solving, and Critical Thinking**, all skills developed during Map the System*



2025 Winners

Janessa Purcell & McKay Jones

This year's Map the System winners, McKay Jones and Janessa Purcell, explored the impact of air pollution on marginalized communities in West Valley City, here in Utah. Janessa and McKay made it a priority to pair their in-depth secondary research with lived experience from community members directly impacted by the issue. By talking to these community members, they learned about how important data and research on this topic remains inaccessible to frontline community members. This inspired Jones and Purcell to organize an event where these community members could share their experiences, ensuring the research remains accessible and centered on those with lived experience. **As the first place winners, they will travel to Oxford University this summer to compete at the global level.**



From left to right: McKay Jones & Janessa Purcell; Air Quality in West Valley, 1st place | Rachel Esplin-Slauson & Haylee Vander Werff; Sexual Assault in Utah, 2nd place | Kam Wong; Youth Recidivism in Utah, 3rd place

Alternative Breaks

Fall & Spring

Each semester, we take students to discover the Six Pathways of Social Impact in other communities through hands-on field experience





Spring Semester Destinations

San Diego Masob

"There was a point when meeting the Community Partners that I knew that I needed to have something related to social impact or humanity work in my life. All the knowledge I had gained on this trip, and reflecting on all I had learned at this Center, kind of just hit me all at once, and I knew that this is what I need in my life long term."

- Jose Sorcia

20 participants

10 community partners visited

86% of participants said this experience influenced their desire to stay involved with social impact work

16 participants said they understand systems thinking better because of the trip

"Alt Breaks taught me that even the smallest actions can make a meaningful difference.

Start by creating a safe and loving environment for everyone around you. Build a circle of trust, and work together to support and uplift your community."

- Luana Santos

Developing *Impact Skills*

88% of our students say they frequently use Social Impact skills in their lives

A skill I have learned from my events is how to cultivate strong relationships with community partners. As a PR major, having strong media relation skills is essential. The Speaker Series opened up a lot of opportunities for me to learn how to strategically communicate with people and work together to create impactful and engaging events. - Jake Togisala (24-25)

100% of our alumni respondents use lessons learned as a fellow in their current life

I use social impact skills every day, even if it is just in small ways. I use it at work and home; it has been so helpful for me. - Melanie Wolfe (23-24)

70% of our current students strongly agree that they could create a detailed plan to manage a project from start to finish

50 of our fellows alumni say they felt they built a real community on and off campus during their fellowship

90% of our current fellows want to pursue a social impact role after college because of their experience

Social impact sounds intimidating because it seems like something big and extravagant, but in this school year I have learned...Social impact is an accumulation of many different aspects that contribute to the bigger conversations. You engage with community partners with interpersonal relationships. You use critical thinking skills and systems thinking to identify a social issue that resonates with you. Then you put those skills into practical use by doing something about it. - Abbie Fisher (24-25)

Project-based *Service Learning*

At the Center for Social Impact, we take pride in our close collaboration with Academic Affairs—a partnership that is vital to our mission. We support faculty training and help run the university's service-learning courses, which provide students with immersive, project-based experiences that bridge classroom theory with real-world practice. Service learning empowers students to apply academic concepts to address pressing societal challenges. By working with community partners, students not only deepen their academic knowledge but also hone critical skills such as leadership, problem solving, and civic responsibility. One professor described it best: **"Service learning creates high-impact experiences that students carry with them, shaping their personal and professional growth."**



483

Service Learning Sections Taught in 2024

8,991

Students Enrolled

179,820

Project Hours Recorded

8

Unique Colleges/Departments Represented

Community Partners

Featured Partners



Heal Utah



Strength In Shades



The Policy Project



My Story Matters



Project Read



Spy Hop



What is a Community Partner?



Being a **Community Partner** with the **Center for Social Impact at UVU** means collaborating to create meaningful change through service, education, and advocacy. As a partner, you play a vital role in connecting students with real-world opportunities to engage in social impact work, whether through internships, volunteer efforts, or project-based collaborations. This partnership fosters mutual growth—students gain hands-on experience while contributing to your organization's mission, and together, we strengthen the community through sustainable, impactful solutions.

Interested in partnering
with us? **Scan Me**



Heal Utah



HEAL UTAH

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE OF UTAH



HEAL Utah's mission is to protect and campaign for Utah's environment. They promote clean air, sustainable energy, and environmental justice across the state. Through grassroots advocacy, public education, and innovative policy solutions, HEAL Utah empowers communities to protect Utah's natural resources. They hope to foster communities that provide dignity to all and healthy living. They have also engaged with students on campus through the Center's monthly Speaker Series.



@healutah





Strength in Shades



Strength in Shades celebrates and uplifts BIPOC and women owned small businesses, by fostering community, promoting wellness, and providing personal development opportunities.

They've fostered a unique makers space where diverse makers, artists, doers, and dreamers can come together in safety to support and encourage one another. Their mission inspires resilience, confidence, and collective growth. Strength in Shades has been honored with the Center for Social Impact's Impact Strategy Award. Over the years, they have remained supporters of the Center, frequently offering education and mentorship to our students.



@strengthinshades

Project Read



Project Read

Project Read transforms lives by addressing adult literacy in Utah County through personalized tutoring and community partnerships. Their tailored approach equips learners with critical skills for education, employment, and daily life. With a belief in the power of literacy, Project Read opens doors to opportunities and a brighter future. They have been a trusted partner and have opened their doors to new career opportunities for fellows and students who engage with their volunteer program. Project Read has connected with numerous classes at UVU and has collaborated on service projects with the Center for Social Impact.



@projectread_utah





The Policy Project



The Policy Project drives impactful change by advocating for thoughtful policies that improve lives across Utah. Their work bridges communities and lawmakers, focusing on issues like healthcare, education, and equality. By empowering individuals to engage in the legislative process, they foster a more equitable and inclusive society. The Policy Project recently engaged with a group of students during the Center for Social Impact's Fall Alternative Break, inspiring future changemakers by sharing their work, guiding them on how to navigate the legislative process, and highlighting ways to create meaningful impact at the local level.



@thepolicyproject

My Story Matters



My Story Matters creates transformative opportunities for individuals to share their unique journeys through storytelling. By helping individuals discover and celebrate their identities, the organization fosters resilience, self-worth, and connection. Their work inspires communities to embrace diversity and honor the power of every story, aligning with our shared value of listening to lived experiences. They have partnered with various instructors at UVU and consistently come prepared to engage with new partners and students interested in their mission during our impact fairs.



@mystorymatters





Spy Hop



Sky Hop/Phase 2 Productions is a creative powerhouse offering video and multimedia solutions that amplify impactful stories. With a commitment to social change, they collaborate with organizations to deliver engaging content that resonates and inspires action. Their work combines artistry and advocacy to create meaningful connections. This partnership was initiated through a recent Fellow and UVU alum, who now applies systems thinking and design thinking to enhance their processes, mission, and outcomes.



@spy_hop



Student Spotlight

Shaping Future Leaders through Social Change Design



At the Center for Social Impact, we strive to equip students with tangible skills that extend beyond an educational environment —tools they can take with them into their careers, communities, and personal lives. For Kayla Torres, these skills have become the foundation of her work in mentoring, advocacy, and systems change.

Kayla first encountered systems thinking through the Map the System competition, where she and her team explored the contributing factors of LGBTQ+ suicide in Utah. That experience opened her eyes to the power of mapping complex issues and inspired her to dive deeper by joining the Center's Impact Fellows program as a Strategy and Design Fellow.

Now, Kayla isn't just learning these frameworks—she's applying them every day. Through her work with The Refuge, an organization focused on sexual violence prevention and survivor support, she has taken a complex, undefined challenge and broken it down into something valuable. Using tools like problem memos and Gantt charts, she structured her approach and built strategies that are now helping The Refuge assess gaps in survivor resources.

"The frameworks I learned at the Center gave me clarity," Kayla says. "They helped me understand where to start and how to move forward. Without them, I would have been lost in the ambiguity." Beyond her work with The Refuge, Kayla has taken what she's learned and brought it directly into her community. She founded the Changemakers Collective, a club focused on systems thinking, and now teaches these concepts to students at a juvenile facility.



Kayla Torres

Strategy & Design Fellow
She/her



“The kids I work with have spent their whole lives feeling disenfranchised,” she explains. “I come from a similar background, and systems thinking gave me the power to claim who I am and where I’m going. I want to give that same power to them.” - Kayla Torres

Kayla is currently integrating everything she has learned at the Center into her capstone project, where she is refining how she teaches social change frameworks to the youth she mentors. Her approach is rooted in lived experience, practical application, and the deep belief that knowledge should lead to action. “I didn’t just learn about impact strategy—I learned how to use it,” she says. “And now, I get to pass that knowledge on to others. By teaching them how to understand and navigate complex systems, she’s giving these students the tools to take control of their futures. She believes that when people can see their place within a system, they can begin to change it. Looking ahead, Kayla is determined to keep applying and sharing the strategies she’s developed. She plans to pursue a career in education, ensuring that systems thinking remains a resource for future generations.

“This experience has only strengthened my conviction to become a professor,” she says. “Systems thinking is a dying art, but it’s crucial for marginalized communities. I want to keep it alive and pass these tools on to as many students as I can.” Through her leadership, Kayla is directly contributing to the Center’s mission of developing compassionate community leaders. Her work exemplifies how students can move beyond learning theory to applying real-world solutions—driving change not just for themselves, but for the communities they serve.

24
25

A Year In Review

Community Partners

55

"The students at the center are amazing! The work they do is thorough and will be used by my organization for years to come."

- Curly Me!

Event Attendance

800+

Attendees

"I often left with a new angle to view life through, which has assisted me in pointing myself toward a path I am proud to walk."

- Student Participant

Student Persistence

100% for
Fellows

92% for
Associates

"Life-changing experience that helped me grow up a little, especially by teaching me what it means to utilize everyone's unique talents on a team. Prepped me for professional life and enhanced my degree by giving me the tools to actually engage with my community."

- Former Impact Fellow



A Special Thank You

We are fortunate to work with some amazing faculty, community partners, staff and students. As per our tradition we like to award people who are doing outstanding work aligned with our mission. This year's winners are:

Service Learning Super Stars

Dr. Ben Johnson
Dr. Nicholas Bredie
Dr. Raiden Gaul
Dr. Noelle Taylor
Dr. Lauren Brooks

Impact Strategy Awardees

The Refuge
Mery Deilaire
Kayla Torres
Dr. Kristen Lambert
Jamera NaQuai
Matt Robinson

Social Impact Scholars

Mery Deilaire
Saskia Paepke - Chile

Ethical Leadership & Social Impact Minor and Certificate

Explore how ethical leadership, innovation, and strategy intersect to solve complex problems!

Register for MGMT 1550: Introduction to Social Impact Frameworks for the Fall 2025 semester. Class will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15 on the main UVU campus. For detailed course information and to plan your academic path visit the course catalog.

If you're nervous about committing to the minor, check out our Intro to Social Impact 1 Credit Class: MGMT 494R



Dr. Jonathan Westover

Academic Director of Service-Learning and UVU Center for Social Impact
He/Him

Dr. Jonathan Westover is stepping down as the Academic Director of the Center for Social Impact after over a decade of leadership, leaving behind an incredible legacy of growth and impact. When he first took on the role, service learning at UVU engaged about 2,500 students annually—now, that number has grown to nearly 9,500, with faculty participation more than doubling. “We’ve seen a steady maturity of service learning over the years,” Westover reflects, crediting the shift toward project-based experiences that give students real-world skills while making a meaningful impact in the community.

Beyond the numbers, Westover’s influence helped shape the strategic direction of the UVU Center for Social Impact and played a key role in launching UVU’s long-anticipated Social Impact minor and certificate (read more to the left). His dedication to creating impactful learning experiences has left a lasting mark, and his work will continue to shape service learning and social impact at UVU for years to come.

“Students want to do stuff that matters...even if they start out just taking a class they have to take, they usually get excited once they see the real-world impact of their work.”

WHY IT MATTERS

For Us & *Our Communities*

By grounding our work in Relational Care, Social Change Design, and the Six Pathways of Social Impact, we ensure that efforts are strategic, thoughtful, and—most importantly—effective. Impact isn't just what we do—it's how we do it and what has changed as a result of our actions.

Follow us on Instagram!
[@uvusocialimpact](https://www.instagram.com/uvusocialimpact)



Join our monthly newsletter!



Report Credits

The Center for Social Impact is so grateful to everyone that makes our work a possibility. Whether through co-educating, advertising, mentoring, cheering us on, or helping run the day to day events and operations - we could not do it without you!

Thank You



Special Thanks
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2024 - 2025

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