

WOMEN'S COUNCIL APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- APRIL 3-7 ————— "A PLACE TO TAKE A STAND" PLEDGE WALL
SC STUDENT LIFE WALL 1
- APRIL 10-14 ————— SHOW ME YOUR SAFETY - RIBBON HANGING
RIBBONS AVAILABLE IN LC 302, HF 102, & SL 201
- APRIL 11 ————— SAFETY & SUPPORT RESOURCE FAIR
HALL OF FLAGS, 10 AM-12 PM
- APRIL 14 ————— DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCE
GRAND BALLROOM, 9 AM-3 PM
- APRIL 14 ————— "THE LAST DROP" PREMIERE
RAGAN THEATER, 3-4 PM
- APRIL 17 ————— SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS RESOURCE FAIR
GRAND BALLROOM, 5-9 PM
- APRIL 17 ————— CRIMINAL JUSTICE SEXUAL ASSAULT WORKSHOP
GRAND BALLROOM, 6-8:30 PM
- APRIL 24 ————— TAKE BACK THE NIGHT - CAMPUS WALK
SC 213A, 6-9 PM

2023 WOMEN'S SUCCESS CENTER SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

We are excited to announce that our annual scholarship luncheon, hosted by doTERRA International LLC, raised \$477,172 this year.

The donations will provide textbooks, tuition scholarships, and Wee Care scholarships for our students.

Utah ranks as No. 50 in the nation for women's equality, with inequity in education, health, and political empowerment. To combat these problems, UVU is committed to helping the women in our student body succeed, graduate, and thrive. College degrees significantly contribute to a woman's success and well-being and can benefit a student's happiness, family, community, and beyond.

Since we first opened in 2011, we have empowered students by offering scholarships, providing support, and removing the barriers that prevent women from finishing degrees.

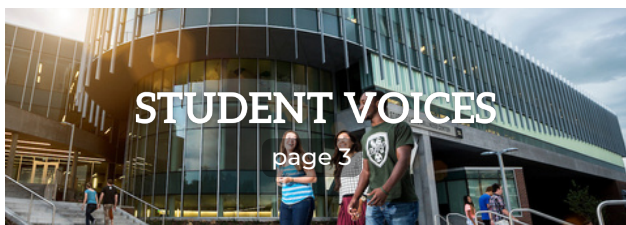
Thank you to our donors for fostering women's success at UVU—your impact will last a lifetime for our students and their families.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS
page 2



FACULTY & STAFF
HIGHLIGHTS
page 2



STUDENT VOICES
page 3

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Domestic Violence Among Utah Women

Christiana Wagstaff and Dr. Jessi Hill

Christiana Wagstaff and Dr. Jessi Hill were charged with pulling together an expert team to explore the issue of domestic violence. Surprisingly, data hadn't been updated since 2017. That original snapshot had very little information (maybe 15 pages). The team, under Christiana's leadership, felt that there were several important gaps that needed to be highlighted. As they dug into the data, they were surprised at how little woman-specific data there was.

"Law enforcement agencies aren't required to tag something as domestic violence in their reports," said Hill. "Much data includes both men and women, even though women are the primary victims of domestic violence and intimate partner violence. We were also surprised at how little data had been updated since the 2017 report."

Hill continues, "I was surprised at how much DV [domestic violence] is happening in Utah and the huge need for funding and support there is."

The report states, "Each year, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducts a comprehensive survey that asks DV programs from around the country to report needs and services provided during the same 24-hour period. During the specified one-day period in 2021, 916 victims received services from 14 DV programs in Utah. If that same number of individuals received services each day, DV programs would serve 334,340 people each year, or 38.2 people each hour. From the survey, we know that through hotlines alone, DV programs receive 14.0 calls per hour. Although Utah ranks 16th out of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico regarding the total number of people served, 217 individuals went unserved on the day surveyed. If that same number of individuals went unserved each day, 79,205 requests for services would go unmet each year. That places Utah 49th out of 52 in terms of the percentage of unmet requests."

Click [HERE](#), to see more findings.

Utah Women Stats
Research Snapshot



UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP Project

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FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Ashley Wilson- UVU Title IX Coordinator



Ashley Wilson joined UVU as the Title IX coordinator in January. April is sexual assault awareness month and a great time to highlight the work being done by the Title IX office.

Before joining UVU, she was a practicing attorney, but as a UVU alumna, she felt it was time to "give back." Wilson said, "UVU provided me with the opportunity to obtain an affordable, high-quality education when I thought I had no options. That opportunity paved the way for me to obtain a full scholarship to law school and subsequently enjoy a fulfilling legal career."

Wilson told us that the Title IX office is a "small but passionate team. It is exciting to see the impact of our work and to know that we are part of a larger movement towards a more just and equitable society, she said." Working with Ashley are two investigators, Ashlyn Robb, and Laura Gale. "They have the knowledge, professionalism, empathy, and sensitivity needed to care and support all involved while remaining unbiased and impartial throughout the investigative process," said Wilson.

When asked why Title IX is important for students, faculty, and staff, Wilson said, "Title IX is more than just a law; it is a movement that has helped create a fairer and more inclusive society. In the broader context, Title IX and UVU policy recognizes that discrimination and harassment are unacceptable, regardless of whom it affects. Our office plays a crucial role in UVU's commitment to providing an inviting, safe, and supportive environment for its students, faculty, and staff by enforcing not just state and federal law but also university policy which prohibits all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Everyone has the right to equal access at UVU – whether it be employment, education, or otherwise – and that is why this work is so important."

Wilson concluded with a look forward when she said, "I am excited for what the future holds as we seek to increase awareness of our office and how we can help our UVU community. So, stay tuned for new learning opportunities such as activities, training, and workshops."

Visit their website to see how students, faculty, and staff can utilize the Title IX office. [CLICK HERE](#)

STUDENT VOICES

Student Panel Discussion

Autistic students are pursuing their academic and career goals on college campuses in increasing numbers.

On April 4th, 10-11:30 am, Brady Hakes, Doc Clegg, Rachel Leonard, Robert Rhein, and Dr. Jane Carlson, director of The Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism at UVU will lead a student panel discussion to talk about how they are finding success in college and overcoming challenges along the way. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to come to learn about harmful stereotypes and microaggressions and better understand what it means to be an ally and help create a campus where everyone belongs!



Take Back the Night Student-led march

Take Back the Night is the oldest worldwide movement to stand against sexual assault and violence. For this event, there will be making posters and marching across campus fighting for the right to walk alone at night, without fear of being assaulted or harmed. Isabella Finlinson who is leading the event this year said first got involved with this event through the UVU Victim Advocate's office as part of a service project for one of my Criminal Justice classes. 1 in 4 women will experience sexual assault in college. Isabella Finlinson is marching for the women she personally knows who have experienced sexual assault in college and all of the many women out there who have gone through something they should never have to go through.

