

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



NEW SPACE DEDICATED TO SERVING UVU LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

When Matt Robins graduated from Utah Valley University in 2016, there was no designated space, nor were any staff members working with the LGBTQ community. Seven years later, Robins is the director of the LGBTQ+ Student Services Center. They have more than doubled their staff in the last year, and this month, they moved into the largest dedicated space for LGBTQ+ students on any campus in Utah.

"I am really excited to give back to UVU in this way," said Robins. "But I think I am most excited to see more students impacted by our services. This is a transformative time in their lives, and I want to give back to a community I identify with."

Located in the newly renovated WB 112, Robins said they have seen almost triple the number of students taking advantage of their student lounge space within the first week. The center's primary focus is students to whom they provide 1:1 coaching and support, educational programming, and events. Robins said he hopes that as the center continues to grow, they can expand their services to the campus and community. Currently, they provide Safe Zone Training, FOIs on gender and sexuality, and inquiry panels. They are a small but mighty team making a huge difference.

Robins said you can start small if you want to help make a difference. "Come and learn about the community," he invites. "Utilize pronouns when you introduce yourself, in your email signature, and your bio. Show your support. Be among the number that shows this population they have a place at UVU."

Learn about services:

Instagram @uvulgbtq

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PRESIDENT TUMINEZ NAMED ONE OF UTAH BUSINESS'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

By Barb Smith

President Astrid S. Tuminez was named one of Utah Business's 2023 Women of the Year for Building the state by providing professional education and opportunities to Utahns. President Tuminez was nominated as the "quintessential torchbearer of human potential."

"Education is actually what we need to preserve the American dream and expand the field of opportunity for all Americans from every walk of life no matter who they are, where they are, and what's happened to them," President Tuminez said.

President Tuminez was selected for the award by a panel of judges who read inspiring stories from across the state. Awardees were selected based on their professional impact and their efforts to give back to the communities they serve.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP BALL

The 2023 President's Scholarship Ball was a resounding success. It's a night of elegance and generosity that requires hundreds of employees working thousands of hours. We want to thank some unsung heroes, women, without whom this event couldn't have happened.

Courtney Barkdull, preparing to welcome twins, juggled event preparations gracefully and ensured everything went off without a hitch. The head of culinary arts, **Cody Thatcher**, orchestrated a culinary masterpiece that left attendees raving about the delicious meal. **Ashley Nelson**, Kyle Reyes's presidential intern, provided invaluable support behind the scenes.

"I loved the focus on showing the community UVU's diverse student body. The funds raised from the Ball will support so many deserving students who wouldn't have otherwise been able to afford their education," said Nelson. "It was so special that there was a focus on first-generation students, as they are so often overlooked. I truly can't say how rewarding it is to know that I was able to be a small part of securing the necessary funds for those students."

The climax of the evening was the announcement of the \$667,000 raised for student scholarships. "My most memorable and rewarding moment during the scholarship ball was undoubtedly when we announced the total funds raised; the excitement in the room was electric," shared Barkdull. "There's also something undeniably satisfying about the event finally coming to a close after nine months of meticulous planning and an 80-hour work week leading up to the big night. As we dismantled the decorations and broke down the event, there was a collective sigh of relief, knowing that we had accomplished our mission. It's relieving to go home and not think about the gala for at least a few months before we dive back into planning for next year's Ball."

Ultimately, the legacy of the UVU President's Scholarship Ball transcends the glitz and glamour of a single night. Christie Denniston, Associate Vice President of Strategic Engagement, said, "The legacy for the President's Scholarship Ball will always be the generations of students impacted by every dollar raised for the event. No matter the amount, a single dollar can transform a student's life."

The 2023 UVU President's Scholarship Ball was a shining testament to the power of women leaders and the community's commitment to education.



MAKING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Diane Fallis, or Chef Di as her students and colleagues call her, has been a staple in the culinary arts program for 25 years. Chef Troy Wilson said she is the winningest instructor in their program and has coached multiple students to national titles in baking and pastries. Before coming to UVU, Chef Di was an executive chef, owned her own restaurant, and worked 70 hours a week. Now, she spends over 400 hours between March and July coaching, collaborating, and training with her students.

"This isn't an easy job, and you have to be willing to put in the work," Chef Di said. "I've hit glass ceilings in every job I've had, but you have to be willing to keep climbing that ladder."

Although according to Fallis, 60-70% of her students are female, that's the opposite of the industry standard. She is very frank with her students about what they might face as they strive to succeed. "The reason I am a pastry chef is because my first boss sent me to the bakery because he wouldn't allow women in his kitchen," she said. "In the 35 years I have been in the industry, things have changed, but still, if you have to ask someone to pick up a 50-lb. bag for you, you'll never be taken seriously." She tells her students it takes hard work and a willingness for self-advocacy.

According to Chef Troy Wilson, the Department Chair for the Culinary Arts Institute at UVU, she isn't afraid of hard work. "It's a difficult industry to be in. But she is so talented, so gifted, so good with the students," he said. "To be able to get them trained to the point where they can win, it really has the potential of changing their lives."

Although Chef Di still competes herself, that's not where she sees her greatest success. "I'd much rather coach the students," she said. "I get as much satisfaction from them winning. Our preparation is a partnership, and I love seeing the students succeed."

Chef Wilson believes that her success is particularly helpful to female students through possibility modeling. "[Her success] is really reassuring to them," he said. "It inspires them knowing that they can do well if they just put their mind to it and put in the effort."

That effort and dedication have led to back-to-back championships for Chef Di, her students, and UVU.



WIN \$2,000! BUILD YOUR RESUME! **MAP THE SYSTEM** Social Impact Research Competition

How it works:

- Attend four weekly instructional workshops starting last week of October
- Create systems maps of a social problem you're passionate about
- Present your research at the competition
- **Winning team wins \$2,000 & runner up wins \$1,000**
- Receive mentored guidance for disseminating research at academic conferences & in the community



REGISTER BY OCTOBER 22 AT MIDNIGHT!



Instagram @uvusocialimpact
www.uvu.edu/socialimpact

UVU CENTER FOR
SOCIAL IMPACT

PRESTIGIOUS STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

The Center for Social Impact hosts an annual research competition titled *Map the System!* This program is done in partnership with Oxford University and provides a resume-building opportunity to student participants since they not only create a full research project with visuals but also present publicly at the final on-campus competition.

The winning individual or team will receive \$2,000, and the runner-up will receive \$1,000! Teams can consist of 1 - 4 students. Just one person on each team is required to be a UVU student.

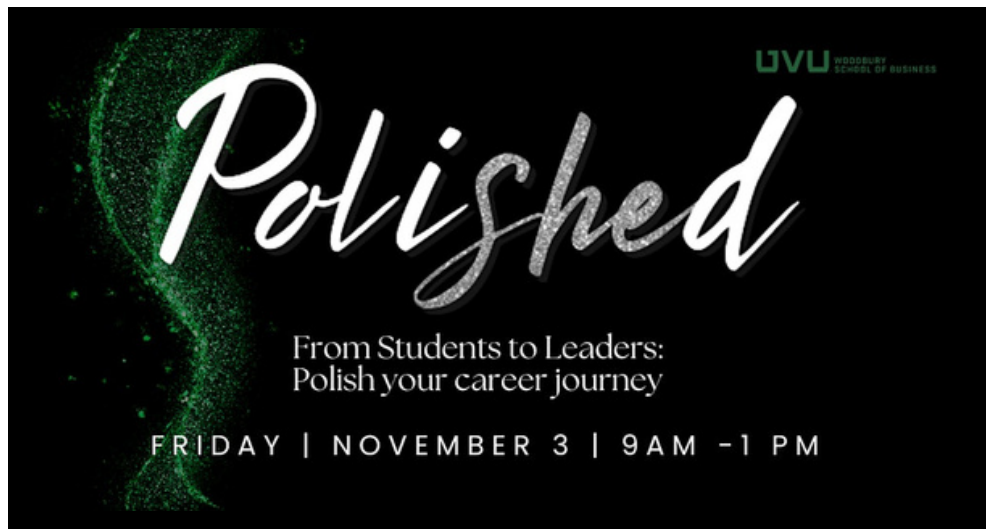
This competition asks students to choose a social issue they are passionate about and learn how to analyze the system around the problem in order to find opportunities for addressing it. At least one student from each team will need to attend four weekly in-person instructional workshops on Tuesdays from 5-7 p.m., starting October 24.

The registration deadline is Sunday, October 22 at 11:59 pm, so **REGISTER NOW!**

POLISHED CONFERENCE—FROM STUDENTS TO LEADERS

Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual *Polished: Women in Business* conference. The event will be held on Friday, November 3, 2023. The goal of this event is to allow students and young alumni to explore career path opportunities that are awaiting them by hearing from CEOs, working professionals, and women heavily involved in the community. This event is a mix of exploring a career path in finance, habits to be an entrepreneur and leadership. Lindsey Lewis, a UVU alumni, is one of the speakers and will share how UVU's personal financial planning track led her to success. This opportunity is yours to share and attend.

[For more information please visit the Polished event on Eventbrite.](#)



DR. JULIE HANKS



SAVE THE
DATE

WORKING MOTHERS CONFERENCE

11.13.2023

Learn more about registration,
event details, and what topics will
be covered in breakout sessions!



TIFFANY ROE

FOR UVU FACULTY AND STAFF

WORKING MOTHERS CONFERENCE— REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Being a working parent comes with a host of challenges, and working moms in Utah face unique societal, cultural, and religious pressure. Join us for our first UVU Working Mothers Conference, where we aim to discuss some of these challenges and healthy ways to navigate them. The goals of this conference include:

- Creating a space where working mothers can facilitate supportive relationships with those in similar situations,
- Providing education on relevant topics,
- And showing support for UVU's working mother population and discussing the resources available.

While the conference will be most relevant for those who are current or future working mothers, we welcome all employees who are interested in the topic to attend. This could include working fathers, allies of working mothers, and those who supervise working mothers.

Take the day to hear from *Dr. Julie Hanks*, *Tiffany Roe*, and UVU's own working mothers to learn helpful skills and cultivate new relationships. This conference will take place on November 13th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Grande Ballroom. The conference is free to attend, but registration is required. See the QR code for additional registration information.

Research SPOTLIGHT

November 10th

12 pm to 2 pm

Science Atrium

*Satiate your curiosity
Showcase your treasure*

Women in Physical Science

*email 10950321@uvu.edu for more information

WOMEN IN PHYSICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH GATHERING

Have you ever wondered what it's like to present at a conference? Do you want more practice before UCUR or a discipline-specific conference?

We want you to present your research or any research ideas you are interested in starting. Contact Hannah Thrupp at 10950321@uvu.edu to sign up!

For Students

01.

Learn more about research opportunities and meet researchers

02.

Bring up research topics and find like-minded people to discuss it with!

03.

Possibly come up with a theoretical plan for your research idea!



Women in Physical Science

RASHA QUDISAT NAMED RECIPIENT OF UTAH BUSINESS LIVING COLOR AWARD

Utah Valley University (UVU) Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer Rasha Qudisat, Ph.D., was selected by Utah Business as one of 24 recipients of the *Living Color Awards*. The Living Color Awards highlight individuals in the community who work toward a more equitable and inclusive future for Utahns.

"I am deeply humbled and grateful to have been selected as the Living Color Honoree for 2023," Dr. Qudisat said. "This award symbolizes the power of equity, inclusion, and collaboration in creating a welcoming and inspiring environment for everyone at UVU. It inspires us to continue building on our successes and to pave the way for future generations to create a more inclusive and equitable Utah."

Congratulations to Dr. Qudisat, and thank you for the work you do to make UVU a better place!

