Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

As our campus community begins to consider what changes may come this year, I hear many of our colleagues asking questions and expressing fear and hurt over potential impacts that may arise. Some of this pain is rooted in history, and some is new. I have shared before, and will re-share often, that I am committed to building a climate here that is rooted in respect, dignity, and empathy for each other — especially in moments of change. As we collaborate across our differences and academic silos to navigate what is next in higher education, I am interested in hearing from you. To that end, I will be organizing a series of visits across campus to gather together, listen and learn – “Coffee and Cocoa with the Provost.” I’ll be sharing more information about these gatherings in the coming days. I hope you will join me in conversation. Together, we have the power to cultivate an ethic of care within our community that will lead the way as we address the challenges of our day. Our strength is each other.

- Mitzi M. Montoya

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University of Utah joins AI Alliance

The University of Utah is one of the newest members of the AI Alliance, an international community of leading technology developers and researchers dedicated to advancing responsible Artificial Intelligence. As part of the community, the U joins other elite research universities, including Yale University, University of Notre Dame and the University of Tokyo.

Research project examines use of AI in crisis work

Research Assistant Professor Meghan Broadbent is working on a doctoral dissertation that looks at the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning tools to assist crisis workers. Among other things, Broadbent is studying SafeUT to determine if AI can be used to help counselors detect risk of suicide among clients.

Ongoing FAFSA impacts are being evaluated

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced delays in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, pushing back the timeline for sending data to universities to March. As of now, our enrollment deadline remains May 1, but we will consider changes, should it be in the best interest of prospective students and families. The deadline for the For Utah Scholarship has been moved to August 1 to ensure new students receive full consideration for the 2024-2025 school year. We will continue to monitor the situation.

College of Education collaborates with Viewpoint

The College of Education has teamed up with “Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid” to share their story. The collaborative initiative between the College of Education, USTEM Research and Practice Hub, the College of Science and Viewpoint will show audiences the significance of higher education for aspiring teachers. Watch a one-minute segment and learn more at the link below:
Love, Your Mind campaign gives support

The Huntsman Mental Health Institute is supporting a campaign in partnership with the Ad Council that aims to encourage people to take care of their minds. The campaign brings together mental health experts and media platforms to target the 70 million Americans who live with mental health issues but do not seek support.

Read more

SCI Institute Anniversary Celebration in the works

The Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute will celebrate its 30th anniversary this spring with a two-day event that will showcase the past, present and future of the Institute. The events will take place on April 24 and 25. Registration is encouraged and is now available.

Read more

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