



Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

With warmer weather starting to arrive, buds are appearing on the trees, students are emerging outside, and soon-to-be grads are taking pre-commencement pictures in their graduation regalia. This can mean only one thing – spring is actually here, with all of the excitement and hope of the season. With each lengthening day, I am reminded of the resilience and determination that define our community. Together, we navigate challenges with perseverance and an unwavering commitment to student success and academic excellence. I am awed by the remarkable achievements of our students and faculty whose dedication and hard work continue to inspire. As commencement draws ever closer, let us embrace this season of renewal with optimism, celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates and cheering them on toward the bright futures that await them.

- Mitzi M. Montoya



UTAH GAMES RANKED #1 & #2

WORLDWIDE IN 2024 PRINCETON REVIEW

Division of Games is No. 1 and No. 2

The U's Division of Games landed the #1 spot worldwide for public institutions for its undergraduate programs and #2 for its graduate programs, based on the 2024 Princeton Review rankings released last week. With this accolade, the U's Games Division stands at the forefront of game development education, inspiring future generations of artists, designers, programmers, and storytellers.

[Read more](#)



New Eccles School of Business dean is named

Kurt Dirks has accepted an offer to serve as dean of the David Eccles School of Business. Dirks is the Bank of America Professor of Managerial Leadership and director of the Bauer Leadership Center at Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU). He will begin his new role on July 1, 2024. Dirks was selected after an extensive national search.

[Read more](#)

Manish Parashar wins 2024 CRA Distinguished Service Award

The Computing Research Association (CRA) has selected Manish Parashar as the recipient of the 2024 CRA Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his multi-faceted and highly impactful service to the computing research community. [The CRA Distinguished Service Award](#), now in its 36th year, recognizes service in the areas of government affairs, professional societies, publications or conferences, and leadership that has a major impact on computing research.

[Read more](#)

Third annual Day of Collective Action is Wednesday

This year's Day of Collective Action (DoCA) is designed to offer our U community an opportunity to learn, reflect and find ways that each of us can work to build bridges of understanding that aid in building a sense of belonging for all members of the U collective. This year, the DoCA will be rooted in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities

(HBCU) partnerships initiative. Keynote speaker Marybeth Gasman, a Samuel DeWitt Proctor Endowed Chair in Education, Distinguished Professor, and Associate Dean for Research in the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University, will give an address at 12:15 p.m.

[Read more](#)

Engage in Impact 2030 planning process

Your input is invaluable as we shape the future of our university. As a part of the Impact 2030 campus-wide strategic planning process, I'd like to invite each of you to participate in a series of listening sessions that will take place in April. The following sessions are designed to gather faculty and staff insights on key areas of focus for our university's future. Each session has a different theme, allowing us to delve into specific areas that are integral to advancing our university's vision and success. Themes include: student enrollment and success; faculty and staff retention, recruitment and well-being; community engagement, communications and marketing; and advancing research.

All sessions will be hosted via Zoom. Session dates and registration links are available [here](#).

These sessions are an opportunity to share your insights, ideas, and aspirations for our institution's future direction. Please spread the word among your teams and encourage faculty and staff to participate. We look forward to engaging with you in these important discussions.

[Read more](#)

Sustainability office offering Green Cord Sustainability graduation pledge

The Sustainability Office invites all colleges to participate in the U's Green Cord Sustainability Graduation Pledge. The pledge and associated green cords were first developed through a student [Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund](#) grant, and last year several colleges participated. The pledge, in conjunction with the Graduation Pledge Alliance, asks individuals to consider the impacts their job and lifestyle have on society and the environment, and it encourages them to improve both through individual and collective actions. Those who commit to the Sustainability Pledge may pick up a green cord to wear at commencement and convocation to symbolize their commitment.

[Read more](#)

Nominate candidates for Steve Jobs Archive Fellowship

The Steve Jobs Archive (SJA) Fellowship is accepting nominations for its second cohort. The SJA Fellowship is a yearlong, part-time program that supports multidisciplinary artists, musicians, engineers, designers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and others working at the intersection of technology and the liberal arts. It provides fellows with a stipend to use in

pursuit of their ideas, a nationwide community of peers, individualized mentorship, and exposure to bold creative practitioners working across disciplines. [Meet the 2023 SJA Fellows](#) or nominate an SJA Fellow [here](#). One person can nominate up to two candidates. Reach out to SJA Fellowship contact Jenee Gilhooley, jenee@stevejobsarchive.com, with questions.

1U4U grants to focus on sustainability

The 1U4U seed grant program is continuing with a new launch of cross-campus and cross-disciplinary proposals starting in May. With the theme of “The Future of Sustainability,” the Office of the Vice President for Research will extend grants of up to \$50,000 to groups that include at least two separate units. Applications must be submitted by Wed. May 22.

[Read more](#)

205 Park Building University of Utah | Salt Lake City, None 84111 US

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