



Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Undergraduate Research Awards Ceremony, one of the many celebratory events honoring students at this time of year. I am so proud of our students who are already advancing research that can change our world, and I'm grateful to the faculty who are helping them to achieve their dreams. One data point associated with this event particularly resonated with me: **47 percent** of the recipients of outstanding research awards from the Office of Undergraduate Research this year are Honors students. Honors students also comprise **50 percent** of the U's presidential interns and **30 percent** of the student government leadership. Despite this outsized impact, only **10 percent** of our undergraduate population are Honors students. Our Honors College is a key recruitment and retention tool for high-achieving students who want to join the best and the brightest at Utah's flagship university. The Honors College attracts students who care about the common good and are interested in developing skills for community building and engaged citizenship, along with their chosen major. I appreciate all of our deans, faculty and staff who work with the Honors College to support these students as they pursue their thesis and complete their degrees. It is time and energy that is well spent. I look forward to celebrating all of our students and their accomplishments at commencement next week. This is a work that is challenging, phenomenal, and fulfilling.



U celebrates 2024 faculty award winners

Each year the U recognizes its fantastic faculty selected to receive awards by the University Teaching Committee and other campus-wide selection groups. From Distinguished Professors to Early Career Award winners, these nominated faculty impact our students' lives and campus community for the better. They are researchers, educators, mentors, and more. They make a difference every day. Read more about our 2024 awardees at the link below.

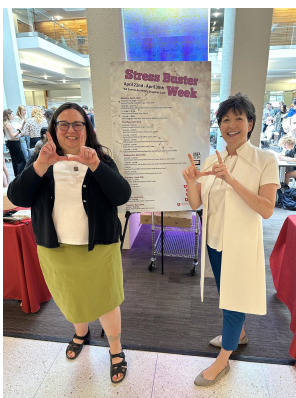
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Additive Manufacturing Research Center opens

Following the 10-year, \$10 million research agreement [announced earlier this year](#) between the U's [Department of Materials Science and Engineering](#) and [IperionX](#), the two partners, along with college leadership, celebrated the opening of a new state-of-the-art additive manufacturing research center on campus. The Titanium Additive Manufacturing Research Center will create new opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge technologies.

[Read more](#)



Provost hands out pizza at library

I had the privilege of passing out pizza at the J. Willard Marriott Library today with Dean Sarah Shreeves. It is always a joy to take a moment to visit with students and distribute much-needed study fuel in the form of cheese or pepperoni. Stress Buster week began on Monday with mandalas and therapy dogs and the fun continues through Tuesday next week. Take a moment to stop by and wish our studying students well! The schedule can be found [here](#).

Attend University Commencement 2024 next week

Don't forget to to celebrate our graduates at the University Commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. MDT at the [Jon M. Huntsman Center](#). This gathering honors graduating students from our colleges and schools across campus in a university-wide event. We also encourage you to attend college convocations. These events are a highlight of the year, don't miss out!

[Read more](#)

U has 9 Fulbright semifinalists

Congratulations to our students who have been selected as semifinalists for the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, this nationally competitive program supports academic exchanges between the United States and more than 140 countries around the world. Since this announcement was made in early March, at least four of the students have been named as finalists. We are cheering them on!

[Read more](#)

FAFSA problems continue

Changes to the FAFSA proves are having a major impact on enrollment. Read this article for more information about the drastic reduction in applications across the country and potential impacts.

[Read more](#)

Why controversial speakers come to campus

While clashes between belief systems play out on the sidewalks, hallways and auditoriums of the U, many campus stakeholders are wondering why the university allows controversial speakers, comedians, and student protests to find stages on campus. Why is this happening? And why can't we stop it? Read this article to learn more about how events are scheduled at the U.

[Read more](#)

New U Service Corps program is announced

President Taylor Randall recently announced a \$1 million U Service Corps program that will complement the state's [One Utah Fellowship Program](#). The U's initiative will target students with demonstrated need and who haven't earned merit-based scholarships. The internship program provides students with opportunities to perform 120 hours of service per semester, gaining valuable work experience and earning \$5,000 in scholarships and wages. The initiative joins a suite of signature internship and service programs offered by the Hinckley Institute of Politics, the Bennion Center and U Career Success to support students and serve the community.

[Read more](#)

Rankings show significance of College of Nursing

Congratulations to the College of Nursing who received rankings from U.S. News and World Report for two programs that are significant in the state of Utah:

Doctor of Nursing Practice program: #25 (#17 publics); the only ranked DNP program in Utah.

Nurse-Midwifery program: #11 (#9 publics); the only ranked midwifery program in Utah.

[Read more](#)

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