



Provost Perspectives

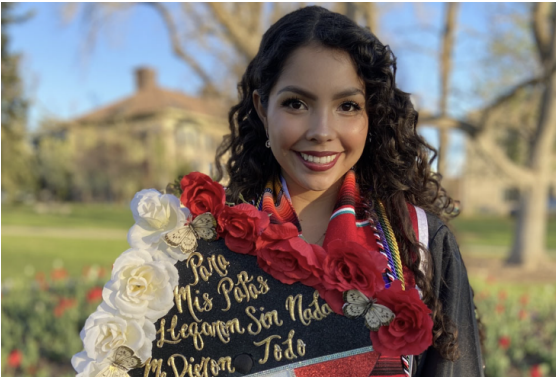
A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

As we celebrated our students and faculty at commencement and college convocations last week, I was moved to see how excited students were to experience this momentous occasion. Grads posed in their robes, some families arrived two hours early to grab a seat in the Huntsman Center, and near the end of the ceremony, faculty stood and applauded their students in a heartwarming show of support. While this has been a year of challenges, graduation is always an inspiring reminder of why we move forward together with an eye on the power of higher education to change lives and positively impact our world. As we see new questions about higher education arise in this dynamic period of time impacting the U and universities across the country, we will continue to share updated information, including a new [FAQ](#) posted recently on attheu.utah.edu that answers questions about camping on campus and another that addresses [divestment](#) and public universities. President Randall's recent [op-ed](#) in the Deseret News shares further insight into the activities of the last week. We continue to celebrate and encourage [free speech and academic freedom](#)^[1] and lawful protesting. One of the most powerful roles of higher education is our ability to create bridges that begin as concepts and end as tangible steps forward. We do this in service to our community as we peacefully and lawfully welcome, gather and express a multitude of ideas. Thank you to each of you for

pushing us to be better, for your individual acts of compassion, and for your contributions to a campus climate based on mutual respect and open dialogue. Onward —

Mitzi M. Montoya

[1] <https://deanofstudents.utah.edu/expression/index.php>
<https://academic-affairs.utah.edu/academic-freedom/>



Student wins Knight-Hennessey award

Andrea Daniela Jimenez Flores has been named as the U's first student or alum to be named a [Stanford University Knight-Hennessey Scholar](#). The Knight-Hennessey Scholars program is designed to support Stanford graduate students in developing essential leadership skills as part of a multidisciplinary and multicultural community. The program focuses on fostering the values of independence of thought, purposeful leadership, and a civic mindset in its participants.

[Read more](#)



Two students receive Goldwater scholarship

Congratulations to Muskan Walia and Nathan Patchen who have been named as Goldwater Scholars. [The Barry Goldwater Scholarship](#) is a prestigious award given to undergraduate sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers. Goldwater Scholars often go on to hold distinguished research and leadership positions across many disciplines. For the 2024-2025 academic year, 438 scholarships were awarded to college students across the country.

[Read more](#)

New EDI guidance for campus is shared

Since the end of the 2024 Utah Legislature, university leaders have been working internally across campus and in collaboration with the Utah System of Higher Education to review and assess the impacts of House Bill 261, "Equal Opportunity Initiatives." New guidance released last week includes information for faculty preparing syllabi and other course materials for the summer and fall semesters, foundational legal interpretations and updates to university hiring practices and staffing.

[Read more](#)

Faculty award winners are recognized

Read about the exceptional faculty members in teaching, research, mentorship and service. These faculty members were recognized at a recent awards dinner and as part of the program leading up to the commencement ceremony.

[Read more](#)

Strategy 2030 summaries are posted

Several sessions as part of Strategy 2030 have taken place. Each session is summarized and published on the Strategy 2030 website. Visit the link below to learn more about what has been discussed.

[Read more](#)

Congrats to College of Fine Arts Outstanding Seniors

Big applause to the outstanding seniors selected by the College of Fine arts. Congratulations to **Christopher Woodward, Leslie Jara Ortiz, Riley Mortenson, Isabel Cossa**, and **Camden Barrett**, who have demonstrated outstanding artistic and scholarly merit in their units and fields. Read more about the outstanding seniors below.

[Read more](#)

Center for Teaching Excellence seeks teaching fellows

The [Martha Bradley Evans Center for Teaching Excellence](#) is now accepting applications for the [2024-25 Martha Bradley Evans Teaching Fellows](#). Each year, fellows' projects focus on critical issues in pedagogy in higher education. In 2024-25, we will focus on innovative applications of AI to teaching and learning. Overall, 4 fellows will be funded at up to \$10,000 each. The opportunity is open to tenure-line and career-line faculty at .75FTE or greater.

[Read more](#)

College of Health moves up in rankings

Congratulations to the College of Health who received improved rankings from U.S. News and World Report:

Physical Therapy: Moved from #13 to #11.

Occupational Therapy: Moved from #42 to #27

Audiology: Moved from #29 to #22

Speech Language Pathology: Ranked #32

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