



Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

We are racing ever closer to honoring our students and faculty at commencement, which is now less than a month away. For several days, we will have the opportunity to attend convocations and celebrate this momentous milestone with our campus community. This year's commencement theme is focused on recognizing the class of 2024, which, for many students, marked the end of a last year of high school that was disrupted by the global pandemic and a first year of college that was impacted by quarantines, closures and lockdowns. I'm proud of these students for working through these challenges, and I'm proud of our faculty who regularly adapt to support students and usher in their success even in difficult times. This year, our faculty banner project will honor some of our amazing faculty award winners who have not previously been featured in the project. These banners are on view, year-round, on the light posts on South Temple, between 1300 East and 500 East, and on University Street between 400 South and 200 South. The new banners will be installed in May. We will also be honoring our faculty award winners at a special banquet later this month, and they will be included in the commencement program. I look forward to celebrating each of our faculty who contribute to the success and mission of the university.

- Mitzi M. Montoya



New sustainability engine is launched

The Office of the Vice President for Research announced a new sustainability engine to bring together faculty, communities, governments and industry to tackle the societal challenge of water. The Peak Water Sustainability Engine will support the development of water innovations and technology, driving interdisciplinary research with a holistic watershed approach. The launch of Peak Water aligns with the 1U4U seed grant topic for 2024, “The Future of Sustainability.”

[Read more](#)



FORGE receives new U.S. Dept. of Energy grant

The Utah Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) recently received just over \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to continue its research. This funding is earmarked for critical next-step activities in accelerating breakthroughs in Enhanced Geothermal System technologies. Beginning this month, FORGE will be using its dedicated underground field laboratory to conduct a large, industry-scale stimulation to connect its injection and production wells.

[Read more](#)

USNWR releases new rankings

U.S. News and World Report has released new official rankings. A few highlights from the rankings include the full-time MBA program in the David Eccles School of Business, which rose 10 spots to an overall ranking of No. 38, and rose 8 spots to a public ranking of No. 15. The part-time program rose 4 spots to an overall ranking of No. 17, and one spot to a public ranking of 11. The S.J. Quinney College of Law received its highest ranking yet as No. 28 among all law schools and No. 11 among public law schools. The Stegner environmental program is also No. 7 overall, and No. 3 among public universities.

[Read more](#)

Provide feedback on Navigate U implementation

The Navigate U team would love to hear your candid feedback on implementation, from communication to the tool itself. Please share your thoughts on what has gone well, what needs improvement, and ideas for growth on the survey link below.

[Read more](#)

Debate provides opportunity to promote civic engagement

The U is hosting the 2024 Presidential Debate. This will be an exciting time for our campus community as it provides opportunities to promote student interest and civic engagement. The promotion of student led projects related to the debate can be an important vehicle in the teaching and learning process. *Where appropriate, we invite course instructors to promote and announce in their classrooms the opportunity for students to develop projects related to the presidential debate.* This can be done in the Summer and/or the Fall 2024 semesters. There are a plethora of topics to choose from, including political topics to be debated, topics important to today's college student, free speech on college campuses, issues related to the state of Utah or local communities, socioeconomic issues, trends in presidential debates, international issues, and many others. Course instructors can develop for-credit assignments related to debate topics. For course instructors who choose to have their classrooms participate, we would like to know what you are doing. Please send information on your student-led project to Martell Teasley (Martell.Teasley@utah.edu) who will compile a list of all projects. Include the name of the instructor, the name and course ID, and a brief description of the project.

[Read more](#)

Impact 2030 Strategic Planning listening sessions begin this week

In preparation for participating in listening sessions this week, take a look at this letter from President Randall outlining five key things to know about the strategic planning process. Please share this with your departments and let them know about the opportunity to participate in this process.

[Read more](#)

NSF announces graduate fellowship awardees

The National Science Foundation announced its 2024 Graduate Research Fellowship Program awardees, with 22 students with connections to the U receiving the award out of nearly 14,000 national applications. An additional eight students who are either currently at the U or received their baccalaureate degree at the U were listed as honorable mentions. As the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The reputation of the GRFP follows recipients and often helps them become life-long leaders that contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching.

[Read more](#)

Floyd O'Neil Marriott Library Research Fellowship is accepting applications

The annual Floyd O'Neil Marriott Library Research Fellowship is accepting applications until May 3. This \$3,500 grant honoring Dr. Floyd A. O'Neil fosters scholarly pursuits within Special Collections. Named after the former director of the American West Center, this fellowship facilitates scholarly exploration by granting access to the unique collections found in the Marriott Library Special Collections. It provides access to diverse materials, including manuscripts, multimedia, Western Americana, Rare Books and Book Arts, enabling scholars to delve deeply into their inquiries. Applications require a project proposal, budget, timeline, resume or CV, and references.

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