



Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

After receiving guidance from the Utah Board of Higher Education regarding the implementation of HB 261 on university campuses, the Office of Student Affairs **announced** last week that a new organizational structure will take effect starting July 1. You can read more about those **changes** [here](#). The new organization reflects the minimum steps the U must take to comply with the law, per Utah System of Higher Education guidelines. On June 6, the Utah Board of Higher Education outlined a process by which universities can seek approval for the creation of centers on campus. The U will use this process to apply for the creation of a new Community and Cultural Engagement Center. When that process is complete, the U can use the same process to apply for approval of other centers, such as the Black Cultural Center.

I recognize that these changes are difficult and, in acknowledgement of the historically impactful work on this campus (including 53 years for the Women's Resource Center, 21 years for the LGBT Resource Center, and more than 50 years for the Center for Equity and Student Belonging and its predecessor, the Center for Ethnic Student Affairs) this is not the path we would have chosen. However, as this new organization takes shape, I am confident that our students, faculty and staff will continue to receive the personalized support and services they need to thrive and succeed as we foster an ongoing culture of

care. All around us are radical shifts, but as educators, it is our calling to rise to the challenges of the day and find a better way forward. Our U of U community has not changed. As we lead by example, supporting each other in association and academic excellence, focusing on individualized care for each student, we will foster an environment where every student can excel and reach their full potential, despite the challenges we face.

Mitzi M. Montoya



Lokiceratops rangiformis comes to the U

A remarkable species of horned, plant-eating dinosaur was recently unveiled at the [Natural History Museum of Utah](#). The dinosaur, excavated from the badlands of northern Montana, is among the largest and most ornate ever found, with two huge blade-like horns on the back of its frill. Notably, this groundbreaking research from co-lead author Mark Loewen, NHMU paleontologist and professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics, included the work of an undergraduate student from the U.

[Read more](#)



U robotics team wins bronze in NASA challenge

Congratulations to the Utah Student Robotics club for placing third in NASA's Kennedy Space Center Lunabotics Challenge! The team from the John and Marcia Price College of Engineering designed a rover, named ELE, that can move material on the moon. They took third in three categories: the Presentations and Demonstrations award, the Caterpillar Autonomy award, and the Robotic Construction award. The team competed against a field of 41 other groups at Florida Space Institute's Exolith Lab.

[Read more](#)

National Responsible AI summit convenes at the U

More than 100 representatives from industry, government and academia gathered at the U this month to discuss how to harness AI to address society's most pressing problems. At the daylong summit, experts from various fields discussed how they can join forces to address AI challenges and opportunities. Health care panelists spotlighted current and future AI applications, such as detecting when an orthopedic patient falls, predicting and diagnosing illnesses, summarizing and simplifying doctor-patient communications,

translating for non-English-speaking patients and using wearable devices so rural patients, for instance, can be monitored remotely.

[Read more](#)

Price College of Engineering launching faculty upskilling program in AI

The Price College of Engineering is pioneering a unique campus-wide program for upskilling U faculty in AI across all colleges and units. The U-AI program is designed to equip faculty with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively integrate AI into their research practices. Over the course of the program, participants will learn the fundamentals of AI and machine learning, including their applications and benefits, and also dive deeper into focus areas that are most relevant for their research interests. The Price College of Engineering will cover the cost of this program. The U-AI program is open to faculty from all disciplines and backgrounds who want to explore the potential of AI in their research. No prior experience with AI or computer programming is required. Applicants with all levels of prior expertise who are interested in learning about AI and connecting with technical experts in this field are invited to apply. Faculty who wish to apply should submit their application by 5 p.m. on July 8 [here](#). The program will take place from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27; and from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 2-5 p.m. on October 4 and 18. Contact the program's coordinators, Professors Vivek Srikumar (svivek@cs.utah.edu) and Sneha Kumar Kasera (sneha.kasera@utah.edu) if you have questions.

Share input on physical campus planning concepts

The Campus Planning team is looking for further feedback on the long-range University Physical Development plan, following open house meeting events in March. Almost 900 comments were provided online during the first stage of community outreach. Visit the link below to review drawings and add additional input.

[Read more](#)

New material can help clean up 'forever chemicals'

New research from the Price College of Engineering has now introduced a new tool in the fight against PFAS. [Ling Zang](#), professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering in the Price College of Engineering, and Rana Dalapati, a postdoctoral researcher in his lab, recently published a [study](#) in the journal *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* that demonstrates the efficacy of the researcher's new porous material, a metal-organic framework (MOF) that they have dubbed "U-1" that glows when it binds to PFAS. By visually identifying PFAS concentrations as it removes it from the water supply, U-1 can improve the efficacy and thoroughness of remediation efforts.

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