



Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Welcome to fall semester! I hope you had a productive and restful summer. It's exciting to begin a new academic year. I hope you will join me in welcoming new faces to our campus and offer support where it is needed.

We expect that free speech activities and academic freedom will be active on campus this year. As a reminder, the U supports thoughtful and respectful discourse, but it also has an obligation to ensure the safety, security, and function of our campus, which is to provide education and instruction. You can review an FAQ regarding protesting, posting fliers on campus, and more, [here](#). In addition, the Office for Faculty has prepared a helpful [guide](#) for faculty support in relation to academic freedom, classroom management and public engagement. Please share these resources with your colleagues.

We begin this year with some notable [changes](#) in response to HB 261. Read an FAQ about HB 261 guidance for students [here](#). On July 1, staff from the Black Cultural Center, Center for Equity and Student Belonging, LGBT Resource Center and Women's Resource Center were reassigned and the Center for Community and Cultural Engagement and Center for Student Access and Resources were created. As I noted in my [newsletter](#) in June, while this is not the path that we would have chosen, we are committed to

continuing to serve our students and providing them the support that they need to succeed. According to HB 261 and guidance from USHE, the U can apply for new centers that focus on cultural education, celebration, engagement and awareness, and we hope to pursue that path. As we work through these changes and applications, we will strengthen our community by extending dignity, respect and understanding to each other. The U is committed to fostering a campus environment that welcomes everyone, and where all students, faculty and staff can thrive.

Finally, with football season at our doorstep, we look forward to welcoming visitors and fans to our campus. Our home opener against Southern Utah University is Thursday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. This will impact parking as several lots on campus will be closed all day. Alternative parking will be available at Stillman Field. Please see this [map](#) for more details. If your class will be significantly impacted by the parking or transportation constraints, you have the flexibility to consider alternative instruction models or work with your supervisor to consider alternative work arrangements.

The busyness of campus is already buzzing! I look forward to an incredible year.

Mitzi M. Montoya



Utah Direct program is announced

Under a new program called “Utah Direct,” high school seniors with a GPA of at least 3.5 in four Utah school districts won’t need to wait to find out if they’ll be accepted to the University of Utah. Instead, qualifying students will be sent a letter this fall guaranteeing their admission if they apply to come to the U.

[Read more](#)



U receives \$23 M cancer moonshot award

Valerio Pascucci, professor in the Price College of Engineering’s [Kahlert School Of Computing](#), is collaborating with researchers at Tulane University and the University of Georgia on a new [Biden Cancer Moonshot](#) project that aims to revolutionize cancer treatment by scanning tumors during surgery to detect cancer.

[Read more](#)

Faculty invited to join Olympic research project

The U and Université Côte d’Azur in Nice, France, announced a collaborative international research program geared toward sustainable and inclusive Olympic and Paralympic

Games. Interested faculty whose research areas intersect with the project's four pillars (sustainable environment and biodiversity, sustainable infrastructure and planning, sustainable socio-economic impact, and sustainable health and well-being) are invited to apply to be a contributor.

[Read more](#)

New materials come to U library

In Spring 2024, a Marriott Library Ad Hoc Selections Committee invited all members of the University of Utah community to submit specific, big-ticket, one-time purchase suggestions to enhance Marriott Library's research and teaching collections. Click [here](#) to read some of the materials that were purchased.

Nursing students transcend borders

This summer, a group of nine [University of Utah College of Nursing](#) students and three faculty traveled halfway around the world to share in a collaborative learning experience with the University of Rwanda. Read about their lessons learned and helpful contributions at the link below.

[Read more](#)

Welcome two new deans

Please welcome two new deans to campus! Kurt Dirks, dean of the David Eccles School of Business, and Charles Musgrave, dean of the Price College of Engineering, joined the U on July 1 and have been working hard since they arrived. Dirks joins us from Washington University in St. Louis, while Musgrave was previously at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Welcome!

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