



Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ten years ago, the University of Utah embarked on a bold new path to build international partnerships in higher education through the creation of a new campus in Incheon, South Korea. In 2014, the Utah Asia Campus was home to fewer than 20 students who chose from three undergraduate degree programs: communications, psychology and social work. Now, 620 students are enrolled in nine major and five minor programs, plus a master's degree in communications. The establishment of an international campus that brings students from UAC to Salt Lake City for one year — and allows students from the U to study in South Korea for up to two semesters while paying in-state tuition — has been incredibly successful. This semester alone, 49 students from our Salt Lake campus are studying at UAC. This venture, and the international opportunities made possible through it, are essential to the U's aspirations to achieve unsurpassed societal impact and offer students a broad horizon of possibilities and connections that reach beyond Utah to the rest of the world. I join UAC in celebration of its 10th anniversary and substantial growth, which has benefitted our entire U community. As we move forward with a strategic eye on the U's footprint around the world, I'm excited to explore new areas and consider where we can best share our strengths with our global community. To our friends and colleagues in Incheon, chukhahaeyo! We are proud of you.



Symposium marks one year of Responsible AI Initiative

The U [One-U Responsible Artificial Intelligence Initiative](#) (One-U RAI) hosted its [Inaugural Symposium](#) last week and welcomed a wide-ranging roster of experts, including keynote speaker Elham Tabassi, one of TIME magazine's "[100 Most Influential People in AI](#)" and a leader at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Leaders shared updates, showcased translational and applied AI work at the U, and sparked discussions on how campus can leverage its collaborative culture to become a national leader in responsible AI. The initiative recently launched several opportunities to become involved, including [distinguished visitors](#), [faculty fellows](#), and [postdoctoral fellows](#), and in the spring, it will conduct cluster hires to grow the U's pool of AI researchers.

[Read more](#)



Work on student success projects continues

Several key projects launched this year diagnose and address seemingly minor problems that, cumulatively, could derail students from graduating. According to a National Institute for Student Success (NISS) [study](#) of the U this spring, small changes can have a major impact on students. The campus-wide Navigate U initiative, incorporating recommendations from NISS, is an integral part of achieving the university's [Strategy 2030](#) goals for the next five years — including lifting its six-year graduation rate from 64 percent to 80 percent. NISS recommended four key actions to improve graduation rates: standardize advising systems, align student communications, empower units to make data-informed decisions and create standardized pathways to guide students into the right academic field.

[Read more](#)

Campus-wide Wellbeing + Resilience initiative begins

In recognition of a cascade of challenges experienced in our community and in higher education over the last several years, including periods of turbulence and uncertainty, a new OneU Wellbeing + Resilience Strategic Action Plan is underway. Associate Provost Keith Diaz Moore [presented](#) the foundational background behind the initiative at Academic Senate on Monday. The initiative will be focused on developing and implementing a comprehensive plan that supports faculty, staff and students across all levels of the U. First steps in the process include a call for Faculty Fellows, the creation of a baseline assessment of campus assets and needs, and review of best practices from other institutions.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Check out new digitized primary source materials

The U now has access to millions of pages of primary source content through a purchase of the Adam Matthew (AM) primary source collections. This access will empower greater research and teaching for faculty and students alike. The database can be accessed through [the library's website](#) and is available for all current University of Utah students, staff and faculty.

[Read more](#)

New cohort of presidential scholars is named

Five new Presidential Scholars have been selected in recognition of their exceptional achievement and contributions to the educational mission of the U. The purpose of the award is to promote retention of these talented individuals who are significant contributors to scholarship, education and outreach, and who are at particular risk of recruitment by other institutions. The 2024 recipients are:

Michelle Litchman, College of Nursing

Matthew Tokson, S. J. Quinney College of Law

Tyler Faith, Department of Anthropology, College of Social and Behavioral Science

Adam Bress, Department of Population Health Sciences, Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine

Sean Lawley, Department of Mathematics, College of Science

New student guide to AI is posted online

The Center for Teaching Excellence has released a comprehensive student guide for using AI. The guide gives tips for effective ways to use AI, explains ethical standards in AI use, suggests ways to create effective prompts, and more. Find the guide [here](#) and posted in the AI Tools for Education “guides for students” [tab](#).

Interim director of Sustainability Office is announced

After more than four years of leading the U's sustainability efforts, Kerry Case has stepped down from her role as chief sustainability officer. Ginger Cannon, the U's active transportation manager, is serving as interim director of the Sustainability Office. She brings more than 15 years of experience working in sustainability, a strong network of partnerships across the U and great experience developing and implementing institutional plans. The Sustainability Office will now report to Keith Diaz Moore.

[Read more](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.