

## Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs



As November draws to a close and the end of the semester nears, it's an excellent time to reflect on the year so far, express gratitude to those who have helped us navigate its challenges and successes and look forward to what's ahead of us.

This year has been remarkable in many ways, thanks to the efforts you make every day to help students and help each other. For example, I'm grateful for the student success work that has been done in the colleges, with leadership from Chase Hagood and everyone across campus working on the Activate projects. Your hard work will help the U achieve its goals of improving student outcomes and ensuring an exceptional educational experience for all students. I'm thankful to everyone who has committed their time and creative energy in pursuit of this important effort. Student Affairs and the Office for Faculty have helped us navigate the ongoing implementation of HB261 while listening to concerns and keeping the need to create a sense of belonging front and center. I appreciate their leadership and care for our community. Everyone who is helping us move forward and navigate all the challenges we face deserves our gratitude.

As we make our push toward finals and the semester's last activities and events, I hope you'll take a moment to thank and recognize colleagues who have helped you throughout this year. I am hopeful and excited about the path ahead of us as we pursue our aspirations to be a world-class university. The path will not be easy, but I'm confident we're moving in the right direction.

I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a successful end to this busy semester.



### Enrollment Management Celebrates Success

The tireless work of the U's Enrollment Management teams, led by Vice Provost Steve Robinson, was recognized during a Dec. 14 celebration. Notable achievements included:

- The New Student Orientation team welcoming over 10,000 students and parents to campus and hosting the U's first-ever off-site orientation in Honolulu.
- The launch of [Utah Direct](#), a new university pilot program guaranteeing admission to Utah's brightest students.
- The financial aid team overcoming FAFSA challenges, eventually bringing applications up 10% from last year.
- Launch of *The Nest*, the U's new magazine for prospective students.
- The Office of Admissions processing a record number of applications.

Additionally, this fall Enrollment Management welcomed over a thousand prospective students and their families to on-campus Discover the U events, which featured campus tours, information sessions with colleges and other campus partners and, for the first time, translation services for Spanish speakers.

Congratulations to each department—from the Office of Admissions and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid to the Office of Orientation and Transition and the Office of the Registrar—for contributing to advancing the Impact 2030 goal of having 40,000 students on campus.

[Read more](#)

### Global Engagement Hosts International Education Week

The U's Office for Global Engagement hosted its annual [International Education Week](#) Nov. 18-22, bringing together students, faculty and community members to celebrate the global connections that shape the campus experience.

The event has grown in scale and significance at the U over the years, now encompassing more than 20 events that span both the Salt Lake City campus and the Utah Asia Campus in Incheon, South Korea.

This year's lineup included a wide range of activities highlighting the myriad cultures and international perspectives represented at the U. Events included a flag parade, program information sessions for students and faculty, dance performances, film screenings, socials, global career panels, and more. The beloved International Night capped off the festivities. This popular event helps students share their cultural heritage through music, dance, food, and fashion, showcasing the incredible talents of the U community.

The week-long celebration emphasized the importance of global learning and cultural exchange, reinforcing the U's commitment to preparing students to be impactful leaders in an interconnected world.

### Academic Affairs Partners with Gray Decision Intelligence

The Office of Academic Affairs is excited about a new partnership with Gray Decision Intelligence (Gray DI) that provides a suite of data tools to support academic strategy, planning and evaluation efforts at the U.

The Gray DI tools will roll out over Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, providing access to information on student demand, program competition, and wages, skills and jobs associated with academic programs. Along with other critical institutional data at the U, the Gray DI tools can be used to evaluate and manage a successful academic program portfolio, thereby furthering student success.

For more information about the Gray DI tools, please contact Chalimar Swain, project director, at [c.swain@utah.edu](mailto:c.swain@utah.edu), or Liz Conder, UAIR director, at [liz.conder@utah.edu](mailto:liz.conder@utah.edu).

### U Joins Coalition for Transformational Education

The [University of Utah](#) is proud to [announce its membership](#) in the [Coalition for Transformational Education](#), a group of colleges and universities dedicated to fostering evidence-based, learner-centered education that promotes lifelong wellbeing and work engagement.

The CTE's mission resonates deeply with the goals of the university's Navigate U project. Both initiatives emphasize the importance of a shared responsibility among university stakeholders to create a supportive and engaging educational environment.

Explore the University of Utah's page on the coalition's [website](#) to learn more about the opportunities ahead for the U through this partnership.

### Two Models Under Consideration to Enhance Service Delivery

The University of Utah is exploring a shared services model to enhance efficiency and equity across the Colleges of Humanities, Science, Social and Behavioral Science, and School for Cultural and Social Transformation. Two organizational models are being considered: one which includes shared services for all four colleges, and another with the College of Science operating independently. Both models aim to address disparities by improving support for smaller units and ensuring consistent, high-quality services while maintaining college autonomy. Faculty and staff feedback from listening sessions, surveys and an online feedback form are shaping this process. For more details, [see the shared services project's website](#).



### U and Sandia National Laboratories Create New Partnership

The University of Utah and Sandia National Laboratories recently signed a memorandum of understanding to create a strategic partnership to help develop collaborations in various technical areas.

The agreement will also give U researchers and students opportunities to develop new skills and research paths via working on projects in facilities run by Sandia, which is headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[Sandia](#) is a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration and supports several federal, state, and local government agencies, companies, and organizations. More information is available [in this @theU article](#).

### Application Deadlines for Teaching Awards, Grants Draw Near

The [University Teaching Committee](#) reminds faculty of the upcoming nomination and application deadlines for the 2024-25 academic year:

- [Early Career Teaching Awards](#) deadline is Friday, Dec. 6.
- [University Teaching Grants](#) deadlines in 2025 are Monday, Jan. 27, and Wednesday, March 7.

### Nominate a Steve Jobs Archive Fellow

The Steve Jobs Archive is seeking nominations for the [SJA Fellowship](#). SJA Fellows are innovative thinkers working at the intersection of technology and the liberal arts. The archive defines liberal arts as ideas that are driven by humanistic inquiry, encompassing fields like English and literature, art and art history, philosophy, mathematics, music, economics and biology. Nominees must be between 21 and 26 years old.

The nomination deadline is Sunday, Dec. 15. [Click here for a link to the nomination form](#).

### Share Your Ideas for Provost Perspectives

If you have an upcoming event or informational item you'd like to publicize in Provost Perspectives, please send it to Greg Kratz at [greg.kratz@utah.edu](mailto:greg.kratz@utah.edu).