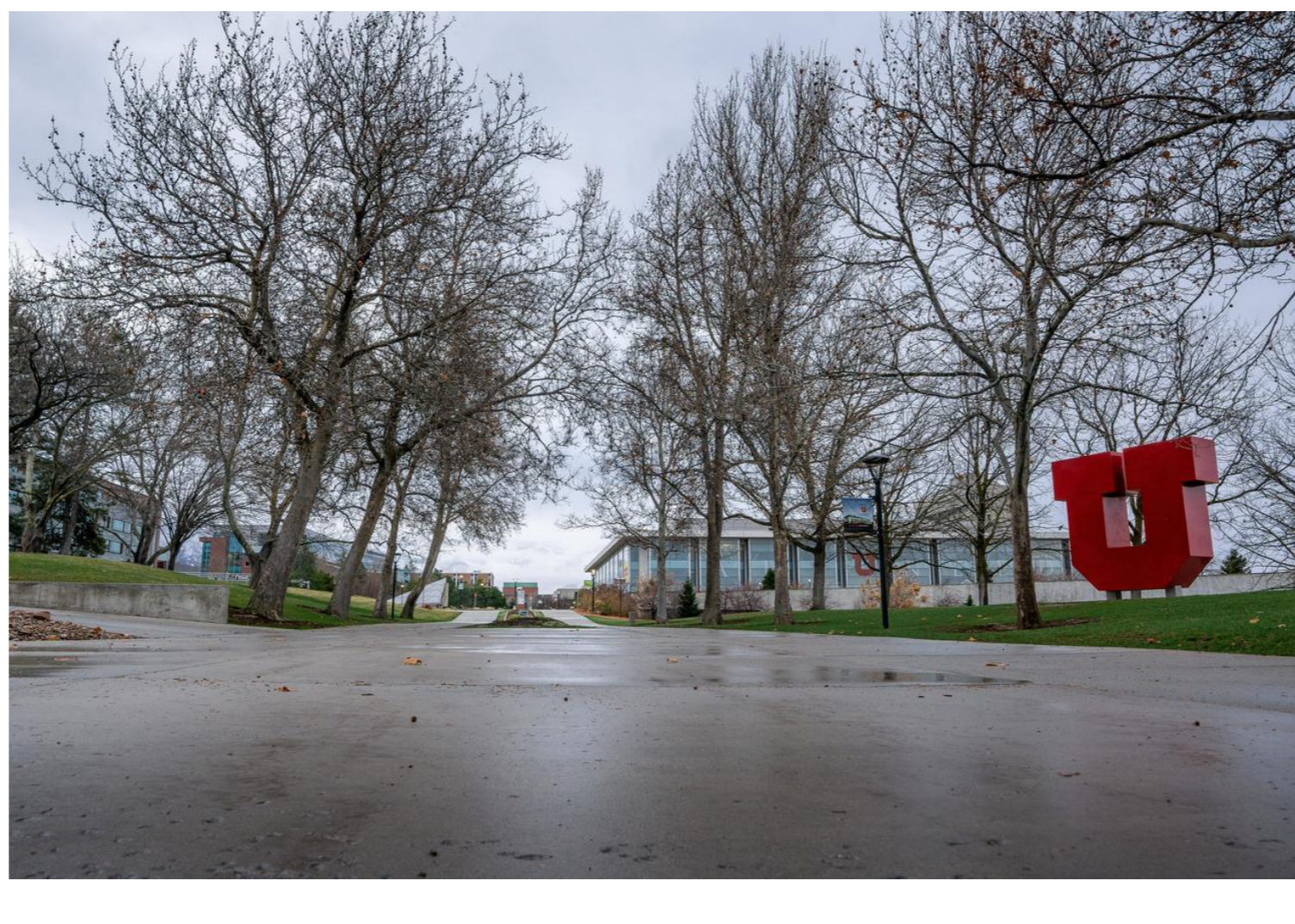


Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs



Every transfer of power at the federal government level brings moments of uncertainty and confusion. The extensive list of executive orders and other actions implemented by the new administration in Washington, D.C., during the last couple of weeks has many of us wondering what these changes will mean for the university, faculty, staff and students.

Because this is a constantly evolving situation, it's hard to provide definitive answers or advice at any given moment. However, I want to assure you that university leadership is working hard to stay on top of the situation and provide accurate, relevant information as soon as it becomes available.

As last week's [@theU article](#) about the transition mentioned, we are monitoring presidential executive orders, funding directives, legislative action and court rulings, as well as guidance from higher education thought leaders and our peers at the [Association of American Universities \(AAU\)](#) and the [Association of Public and Land Grant Universities \(APLU\)](#).

In addition to watching for further updates via [@theU](#) and through email announcements, I encourage you to check the [new webpage with FAQs about the federal transition](#). The webpage of the [Office of the Vice President for Research](#) will also include updated [information about federal grant funding](#).

If students or parents come to you with concerns about their federal financial aid, please direct them to <https://studentaid.gov/> for the latest updates. I also recognize that some people will try to take advantage of the current confusion to perpetrate scams, so you may want to advise students to be extra wary of "phishing" attacks and other attempts to steal their personal information. For more information, they can visit UIT's ["Fight the phish!" site](#).

I know these times of rapid change and uncertainty can be scary. I hope the information and guidance we provide in the coming weeks will offer reassurance that allows all of us to focus on why we're here, which is to provide the best possible educational experience for our students and participate in research that will have an enormous positive impact on society. Thank you for all you are doing, and please don't hesitate to contact your deans, associate deans and department chairs with questions or concerns.

— Mitzi M. Montoya

[Read more](#)



Amy Locke will Lead Wellbeing and Resilience Initiative

Dr. Amy Locke, Chief Wellness Officer, will assume leadership of the Wellbeing and Resilience Initiative on May 15 and facilitate its elevation to an integrated "1U" effort.

Locke has internationally recognized expertise in professional well-being, innovative curriculum design and transformative clinical care. She also serves as the Executive Director of the University of Utah Health Resiliency Center and as a Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Nutrition and Integrative Physiology. Her research, educational and clinical interests center around professional well-being, health behavior change and prevention of disease through lifestyle.

For this semester, the Wellbeing and Resilience Initiative is moving from its soft launch in fall 2024 involving leadership from Associate Provost Keith Diaz Moore, Locke and Dr. Sherrá Watkins, Associate Vice President for Health and Wellness, to context-setting, with work being guided by a task force. The task force includes Faculty Fellows Dr. Vana Raman, Dr. Angela Smith and Dr. Michelle Vo; Deans Philip Osteen, Monisha Pasupathi and Kelly Tappenden; and university representatives Ginger Cannon (Office for Sustainability), Daniel Hinojosa (Human Relations), Abby Ross (UAIR), Myra Washington (Office of Faculty) and Marie Wintress, Staff Council President.

The Faculty Fellows have launched three collaborative projects involving current asset mapping, literature review of best practices and ground-sourcing leadership insights—all with reports due by the end of the spring semester. These projects will set a solid foundation for this transition in leadership and create lift for the U to become a leader in creating a campus culture of care.

[Read more](#)

Two Finalists to be Interviewed for Vice Provost/Senior Dean Role

A search committee has selected two finalists for the new position of [vice provost and senior dean of the Colleges and Schools of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#) at the U.

Candidate A will interview on Monday, Feb. 10, and Candidate B on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The vice provost and senior dean (VP/SD) will be the senior academic officer of the Colleges and Schools of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), which includes the College of Humanities, College of Science, College of Social and Behavioral Science and the School for Cultural & Social Transformation.

As the cornerstone of enrollment at the U, by coming together the LAS units will have far-reaching influence across the entire university, and the VP/SD will embrace this pivotal role of the liberal arts and sciences in shaping the U's academic landscape.

The provost's office plans to appoint the new VP/SD by the end of February.

[Read more](#)

Student Success

Goff Strategic Leadership Center Transitions to Institute

The David Eccles School of Business and the U have announced that the Goff Strategic Leadership Center [has officially been elevated](#) to the [Goff Strategic Leadership Institute](#). The name change reflects the institute's expanded scope, impact and vision for the future of leadership education.

Supported by a robust endowment and a recent \$10 million gift from Gregory J. Goff, the Goff Institute offers leadership programs for students, alumni and professionals, equipping individuals and organizations with the skills to tackle real-world challenges, embrace ambiguity and challenge the status quo.

Founded on the belief that leadership is for everyone, the Goff Institute has grown into a premier hub for strategic leadership development. Since 2020, the institute has experienced a 700% increase in demand for its undergraduate programs, engaging students from nearly 80 majors and 13 colleges across the U. This includes over 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students along with over 1,000 professionals in the business community.

Showcasing the [value of higher education](#), the Goff Institute sets itself apart with its innovative approach to curating the right real-world experiences for students at the right time. This includes everything from matching first-time interns to organizations and training them on sought-after skills to transforming how professionals and organizations engage with strategy through the Goff Lab.

[Read more](#)

Research Excellence

U Professors Receive PECASE Awards from White House

Five U professors are among this year's recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers.

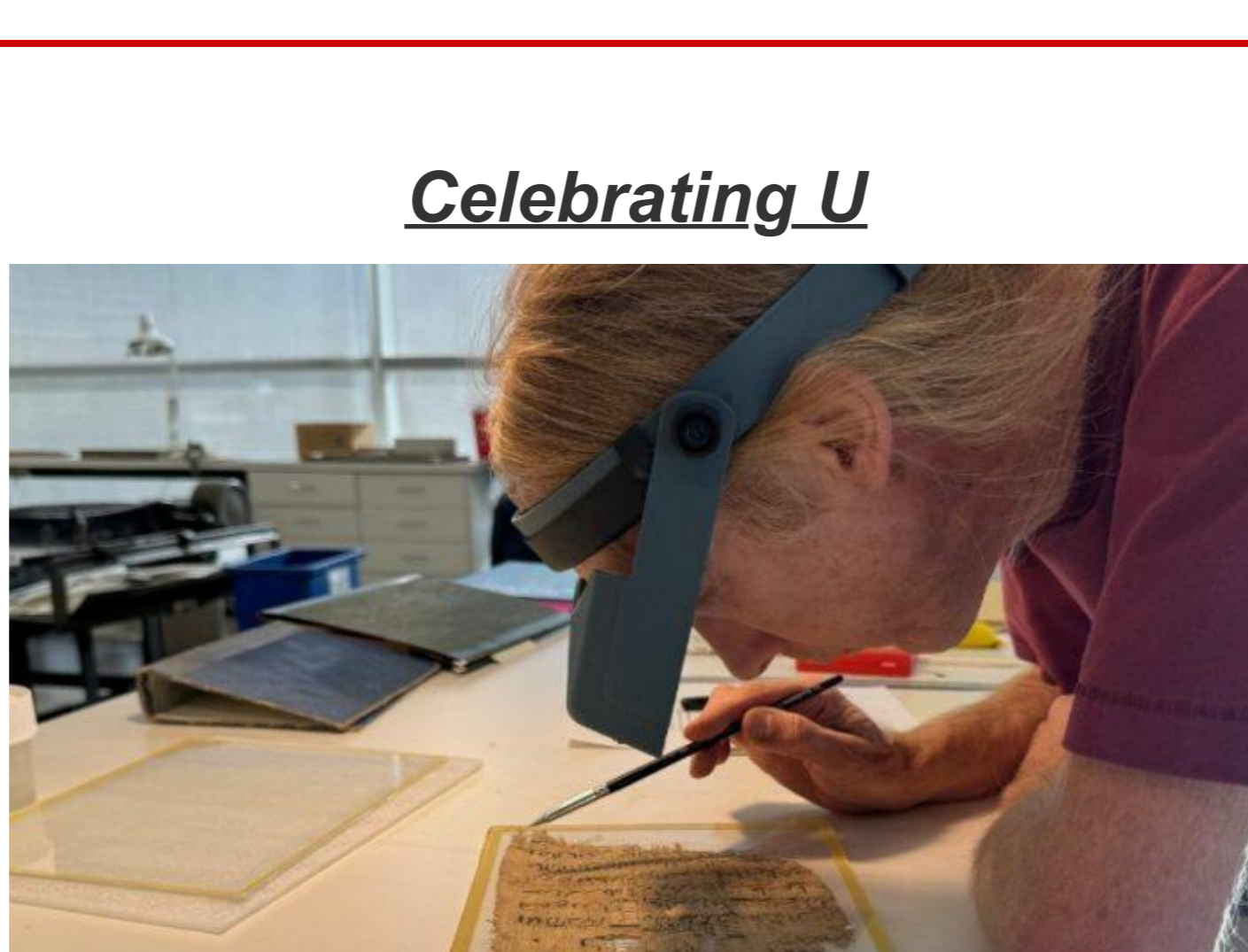
President Biden awarded nearly 400 scientists and engineers with PECASE awards during his last week in office. Established by President Clinton in 1996, PECASE recognizes scientists and engineers who show exceptional potential for leadership early in their research careers.

[William Anderegg](#), professor of biology and director of the [Wilkes Center for Climate Science and Policy](#) at the U, is one of the PECASE recipients. Anderegg's nomination, along with 111 other awardees, were recommended by the National Science Foundation.

Four faculty from the John and Marcia Price College of Engineering also [received PECASE awards](#): Amir Arzani, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering; and Kate Isaacs, Ryan Stutsman and Bei Wang Phillips, all associate professors in the Kahler School of Computing. Isaacs is an associate director of the [Scientific Computing Institute](#), where Arzani and Wang Phillips have appointments.

[Read more](#)

Celebrating U



Library Uses Modern Techniques to Restore Ancient Papyrus

For over 3,000 years, papyrus was the dominant writing material in the Middle East and Mediterranean world before the introduction of paper. Languages as diverse as Egyptian, Greek and Arabic were written on it.

The Special Collections Department of the J. Willard Marriott Library is home to [ZZO fragments of Arabic language papyri](#), dating from the 8th through the 10th centuries CE; it is one of the largest collections of Arabic language papyri in the United States.

In the summer of 2024, the library's Preservation Department conservator Jeff Hunt attended a seminar at the University of Michigan on papyrus conservation. He learned the techniques in cleaning, repair and reglazing of papyri, which he is now applying to the U's papyri collection.

For more information on the process Hunt is using and the U's collection, see [this blog post](#).

[Read more](#)



Global Collaboration Aimed at Strengthening Water Resiliency Before Olympics

As climate change reduces snowpack, Olympic Games host cities are confronting the dual challenge of protecting water resources and reducing carbon emissions to ensure winter sports can continue. To help find innovative solutions, graduate students from Université Côte d'Azur (UniCA) recently joined the U's Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy for their annual Hackathon. This year's event focused on water management issues critical to both locations.

"Water resiliency is one of the defining challenges of our time. U researchers are tackling it head-on by exploring critical questions across water science, policy, engineering and health sciences and addressing issues like water access, quality and sustainability," said Erin Rothwell, Vice President for Research at the U. "By working collaboratively with policymakers, organizations and communities, we're deriving innovative solutions to ensure a sustainable water future—locally and globally—for generations to come."

This collaboration builds on a [growing partnership between the two universities](#), which initially began in 2017, then grew into a Film & Media Arts study abroad program, and has now expanded into a joint research initiative in sustainable Olympic Games.

"It is truly inspiring to witness the bonding bond between the two universities," said President of Université Côte d'Azur, M. Jeanick Brisswalter. "This collaboration exemplifies our shared commitment to addressing global challenges, particularly through the lens of the sustainable development goals."

[Read more](#)

Rosenblatt Prize Nominations Due Friday, February 7

Nominations for the 2025 Rosenblatt Prize are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7.

The Rosenblatt Prize for Excellence is a prestigious award open to faculty who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, service and/or administration. The prize has been historically awarded to a wide range of researchers and educators from many different disciplines and is committed to maintaining a representative diversity of the work performed at the U.

For more information about the Rosenblatt Prize for Excellence, please visit <https://rosenblattprize.utah.edu/>.

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.