



YEAR OF THE
woman



The Greats

2019–2020

UtahStateUniversity®

USU President Noelle E. Cockett shared her presidential priorities on Oct. 1, 2019, at the State of the University Address. Her priorities for the institution include ways in which the university is currently succeeding and aspirations for future success.

All priorities fall within the university's mission of learning, discovery, and engagement.

**USUTM
United**

Presidential Priorities

Inspire Student Success, Including Experiential Learning	1
Provide Access to Post-Secondary Education for Underserved Populations and Communities	3
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Inspire Student Success,

INCLUDING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Going Gold

Honors students and Undergraduate Research Fellows **Bryce Frederickson** and **Ethan Hammer** were named 2019 Goldwater Scholars in a prestigious national competition that recognizes outstanding achievements in science and mathematics.



Frederickson studies combinatorics, a branch of mathematics that analyzes patterns in discrete objects. Following graduation from USU in 2020, he plans to pursue doctoral studies.

Hammer has spent two summers of his undergraduate career conducting research with the National Park Service on varied mammalian species in southern Utah's majestic Cedar Breaks National Monument. Following graduation from USU in 2020, Hammer plans to pursue a doctoral degree in conservation biology.

With this year's award recipients, **USU boasts 31 Goldwater Scholars and 16 honorable mention recipients since 1998**—numbers that rival the nation's top universities.

First Generation Success

A total of 477 first-generation students graduated from USU in May 2019. The Aggie First Scholars (AFS) program was created in 2017 to provide mentors for students without a family history of higher education.



• Combined Clinical/Counseling Psychology doctoral student **Elizabeth Vernon** was asked by the Alzheimer’s Association to present her research results at a national news conference in California on how older adults’ use of sleep medication can affect their risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease.

During the 2018-19 school year, 43 percent of the 619 first-generation students attending the Logan campus were mentored by 82 upperclassmen.

It was life-changing for students like **Karina Hernandez**. Hernandez wasn’t seriously considering attending college after graduation. She attended Diversity Day the fall of her senior year and applied for a scholarship at USU, which she received that day.

“They saw something in me and believed in me so, that was definitely life changing,” Hernandez said.

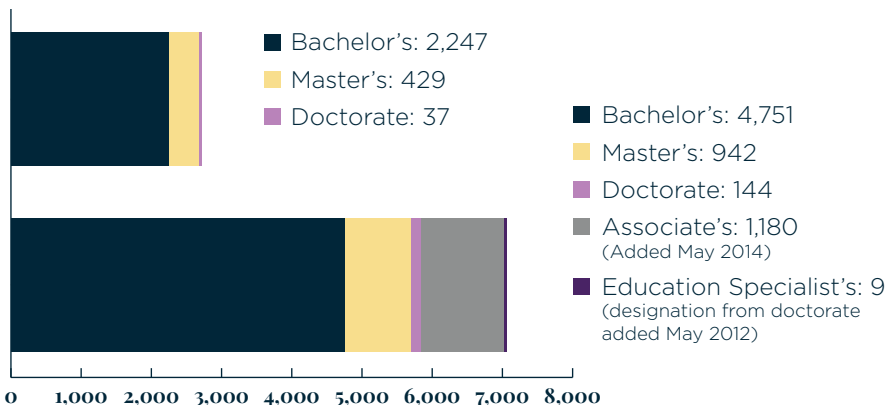
• **Grace Graham**, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, was one of 38 women worldwide to receive the prestigious Brooke Owens Fellowship, a paid internship for undergraduate women studying aerospace engineering. Graham is the first woman from USU to receive the honor and spent her summer working for the Navigation and Geopositioning Systems Department at The Aerospace Corporation in California.

Growth in Graduation

Utah State University experienced an unprecedented jump in graduation rates in 2018-19, more than doubling the next highest growth rate from the past decade.

2008-09
2,713 degrees awarded

2018-19
7,026 degrees awarded



Provide Access to Post-Secondary Education

FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Teaching Skills to Make Class Material Accessible for All

Nearly 100,000. That's the astounding number of PDFs in

USU's learning management program, Canvas, not easily accessible to students who are blind or otherwise disabled.

Because Canvas is a learning-management platform that undergirds all USU's academics, it is used by nearly every student and professor. Students look up syllabi, group-chat with classmates, download assignments, take quizzes, turn in homework, and email professors. It's easy to see why this inability to use Canvas to its full potential is problematic.

Now, Instructure, the global company that created Canvas, has named **Jared Colton**, a USU technical communications professor, as an *Educator of the Year* for his work to make PDFs housed on the university's server more accessible. To increase accessibility, Colton and his students adopted the computer language HTML, which is used to structure web pages and, when done right, adds multiple ways to better navigate the internet.

What distinguishes USU's Technical Communication program from others throughout the United States is its focus on social justice and the desire to "have our work create an impact beyond one student," Colton said.



Department Division Provides Opportunities

To better serve students in the largest department in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and to advance career and technical education programs, particularly in southeastern Utah, the **School of Applied Sciences, Technology, and Education (ASTE)** was divided.

The change supports USU President Noelle Cockett's priorities of making post-secondary education accessible to underserved populations and communities across Utah and enhancing student success through experiential learning. It also bolsters efforts to fulfill a 2019 mandate from the Utah Legislature that USU's southeast campuses re-define career and technical education (CTE).

ASTE currently has 1,432 students, and the change is a direct reflection of great faculty who are innovative and creating programs and opportunities in which students need and want to take part.



- Education provides opportunities, and when education is not accessible to people with disabilities, the opportunities are lost, says **Cyndi Rowland**, who was honored by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for her work in advancing educational opportunities for people with disabilities. She was recognized for her work with WebAIM, which provides training, consulting, evaluation, and certification to organizations and companies on web accessibility. WebAIM is part of USU's Center for Persons with Disabilities.

- The **Jon M. Huntsman School of Business** now offers a one-year online master's in business administration (MBA) that provides opportunities for working professionals, and a high-quality pathway to both advance and promote their careers. USU Online offers convenience, quality, and accessibility for those who want a university degree, and the new one-year MBA program will allow many students to go back to school to earn their master's.

STRENGTHEN USU'S TRAJECTORY OF

Research Distinction

An AWE-Inspiring Mission

NASA selected USU's Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) mission to study space weather from the International Space Station. Planned for launch in August 2022, the AWE experiment features an imager, known as the Advanced Mesospheric Temperature Mapper, that will capture colorful bands of light in the Earth's atmosphere, called "airglow," to determine the combination of forces driving space weather in the upper atmosphere.

USU physics professor **Mike Taylor**, who has studied upper atmospheric gravity waves for more than three decades, leads the project, which is managed by USU's **Space Dynamics Laboratory**.

The mapping camera will capture images of waves from space, enabling near-global measurements. Such direct observations of these waves will paint a more accurate picture of how they affect Earth's atmosphere, including vital satellite communications and navigation systems.



Image courtesy of NASA.



Hemp Research Underway at USU

Scientists at USU are studying cultivation practices to optimize the yield and quality of hemp for botanical medicines. Plants, Soils, and Climate professor **Bruce Bugbee**, who specializes in the use of controlled environments to study crop growth and yield, explained there are multiple goals for the research, but the primary focus is on the genetics and environmental conditions that produce cannabis flowers with high cannabidiol (CBD) and very low THC content.

Changes in state and federal laws that have legalized the cultivation of hemp/cannabis for CBD oil production provide opportunities for Utah farmers and growers. But because growing hemp/cannabis has been illegal in the United States for several decades, it has been difficult for plant scientists to conduct research.

Some question whether CBD oil is truly effective, and USU researchers are working to provide answers. Bugbee said many important pharmaceuticals have been derived from plants, and there is potential for this research to produce a new class of botanical medicines.

- **Marissa Vigneault**, assistant professor of art history in the Caine College of the Arts, was awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The position is a research support fellowship that provides Vigneault with the time and resources to complete the manuscript for her book about American feminist artist Hannah Wilke and the influence of New York City on her artistic production of the 1970s.

- College of Science Dean **Maura Hagan** is among 100 U.S. scientists and 25 international associates elected to the 2019 National Academy of Sciences, one of the world's premier academic institutions, which provides science advice to the U.S. federal government and other national and international policy-making organizations.

- USU College of Science researchers **Zach Gompert** and **Tianbiao "Leo" Liu** both received a 2019 Faculty Early Career Development 'CAREER' Award from the National Science Foundation. Gompert, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology and the USU Ecology Center, is investigating the causes and consequences of natural selection that varies across space and time. Chemist Liu is conducting seminal research in sustainable energy that focuses on high-energy density and high-power density battery technology.

- Professor **Lisa Berreau**, who serves as interim vice president for research and is a faculty member in USU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society.

Year of the Woman

TELLING OUR STORY: AGGIE WOMEN, 1890–2020

Utah State University joins the nation and state in celebrating significant voting rights anniversaries in 2020: the 150th anniversary of suffrage for Utah women; the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in the United States; and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. As the university honors these important milestones in our history, and as part of those celebrations, Utah State University also declares the 2019–20 school year the **Year of the Woman**.

USU celebrates often-unknown Aggie women—those who served as pioneers from the institution’s earliest days, to those paving the way for future generations of leaders and innovators. From the first day of classes in 1890 as the state’s land-grant campus, women have been actively engaged as students, staff, and faculty. Their voices have impacted the cultural, scientific, economic, and social fabric of Utah State University for generations.

Highlights:



When classes at the Utah Agricultural College began in 1890, the college enrolled 139 students, 106 men and 33 women. Miss **Vendla Berntson** is registered as the first student.

Ethelyn Oliver Greaves receives the first master’s degree given to a woman at UAC.



English student **May Swenson** graduates. She would go on to become known as one of America’s best contemporary poets, offering a new perspective on the human condition, death, sexuality, and the art of poetry.

1890

The first “Woman’s Advisor,” **Hazel Love Dunford**, is hired in what is dubbed an “innovative move” by UAC administration.

1916

1921

UAC Alum **Mignon Barker Richmond** is the first African-American woman to graduate from a Utah college.

1934



1967

The first woman graduates from the College of Engineering, **Adonna Watkins Drake**, in mechanical engineering. She also becomes the first woman to graduate with a master's in the same field two years later.

1971



Larzette G. Hale appointed as head of the School of Accountancy, a position she holds until 1990. She is, at the time, the only African American woman to hold both a Ph.D. and CPA.

1978

Aggie athletics crowns its first national champions as the **women's volleyball team** defeats UCLA in the national final and finishes 40-4 on the year.



USU alumna **Mary Cleave** ('75 MS, '80 Ph.D.) carries a USU Centennial Banner on her multiple orbits as a space shuttle crew member. She became a NASA astronaut in May 1980 at the age of 33 and is a veteran of two space flights.

1985

Lara B. Anderson is the first woman Goldwater Scholar and the second scholar for USU. As of 2019, 17 women have been named Goldwater scholars or received honorable mentions. In 2004, she becomes the first woman at USU named as a Rhodes Scholar.



2001

Christine Hailey named the first woman Dean of Engineering. Hailey was a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, who also was director of the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education, a National Science Foundation-funded center for learning and teaching located at USU.

2012

2013

Briana Bowen named USU's first Truman Scholar; three years later, in 2016, **Madelyn Fife** wins the prestigious Truman award.



2016



Noelle E. Cockett named 16th president, and first woman president, of Utah State University.

For more "firsts" visit: www.usu.edu/year-of-the-woman



COMMUNICATE AND DEVELOP EXCELLENCE IN

Water, Land & Air Research

Can You Bear The Cuteness?



Researchers at USU's Predator Research Facility for the USDA-National Wildlife Research Center in Millville, Utah, are caring for twin black bears—sisters found orphaned at two months old, weighing just 3 pounds each.

Researchers at the facility study both wild and captive bears to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. **Julie Young**, a Wildland Resources associate professor, and her graduate student, **Patrick Myers**, have done research that challenges the perception that animals raised in captivity tend to lack the skills and intuition to thrive in the wild.

The duo detail the use of tracking collars to digitally follow bears after release—monitoring where they travel, forage for food, and den for the winter. Although most black bear rehabilitation programs release cubs after their second year, USU is studying bear cubs released closer to their first birthday—a possibly more effective way to reduce both the cost of recuperation, and to improve the chances of eliminating problem behaviors.

Reducing USU's Carbon Footprint



President Noelle Cockett formed a campus **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Steering Committee** charged with developing specific options for USU to deliver on a commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. In addition to the steering committee, the president also called for three working groups that will report to the steering committee. These working groups will provide input in three areas: USU's Energy Portfolio; Air Travel and Internal Price on Carbon; and Education on Best Practices.

USU has reduced emissions per student by about 20 percent since 2007.

- **Zach Miller** from USU's Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, is collaborating with Pennsylvania State University to study three national parks to better understand what kinds of strategies might reduce the amount of the nearly 100 million pounds of waste generated at the picturesque sites every year. Miller says that while national park visitors are predisposed to be environmentally responsible and follow behavior that benefits and protects the national landmarks, the parks themselves need to reinforce messages of moral responsibility and make it easy for patrons to dispose of waste properly.

- Geoscientist **Tammy Rittenour** is currently pursuing research in Sicily, investigating how the island's uplift and glacial sea level change are recorded in the sedimentary record as part of a National Science Foundation's Division of Earth Sciences grant. The three-year, collaborative grant affords further glimpses into the powerful forces shaping the Earth, along with enticing research opportunities for students.

- **Brian Steed**, an alum of USU's Department of Political Science and an attorney and expert on environmental law and policy, was appointed director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources in May 2019. The DNR is an important manager of common resources with oversight over Utah state parks, animal resources including hunting and fishing permits, the state's water resources, and coal and oil development.

Increase Diversity

OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF, AND PROMOTE

Inclusiveness & Respect



Sharing a Meal, Sharing a Story

The Cache Valley Diversity Dinner, held in March, provided a chance for members of the community to share a meal with those they may have never interacted with and to hear each other's stories.

The dinner was hosted by **USU President Noelle Cockett**, and organized by USU's Aggies Think, Care, Act committee in collaboration with Cache Valley community leaders. The Logan City School District sponsored the event by providing the venue.

Fostering a Diverse & Inclusive University

USU's new **Diversity and Inclusion Task Force** conducted the first-ever survey of students, staff, faculty, and administrators about diversity and inclusion on campus. The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force will use the survey data to create strategic goals for the university system.

Launched by President Noelle Cockett, the task force was created to assess campus climate on inclusion, develop a five-year strategic plan for diversity and inclusion, convene key players on a regular basis to oversee implementation of the strategic plan, and produce annual progress reports to monitor effectiveness of the plan.

Since she became president in October 2016, Cockett has signaled a broad university commitment to these goals. She has invested in Aggies Think, Care, Act with support for an annual Inclusive Excellence Symposium and established the Latinx Cultural Center to serve as a conduit for service, engagement, advocacy, and visibility for the Latinx community, both on and off campus.



USU Reaffirms Commitment to “Start by Believing”

USU and CAPSA partnered to improve the response to disclosures of sexual violence on campus and in the community by promoting *Start by Believing*. *Start by Believing* means shifting the response from blame to support when survivors disclose incidents of sexual violence.

Historically, many victims of sexual violence have been blamed for the crimes against them in ways victims of other crimes have not. This approach discourages survivors from reporting, fails to hold perpetrators accountable, and makes it more difficult for them to seek and receive the support they need to heal from such traumatic experiences.



New Name Provides Equality

USU’s Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office updated its name to the **Office of Equity** in August. The name change not only reflects the growth of the office and its areas of oversight, but also better reflects the services the office provides.

The year 2019 was the first in which USU operated with a robust staff of experts hired to prevent and respond to sexual violence, and ensure USU remains an inclusive campus community. As part of its efforts, the institution hired five new staff members in the Office of Equity, two new staff members in the victim advocacy office, and a new coordinator for fraternity and sorority life.

New Dean Advocates for the Art of Changing One’s Perspective

Rachel Nardo, newly-appointed dean in the Caine College of the Arts in July 2019, joined USU with the goal of providing an environment that promotes distinction in artistry and character, while also encouraging respect for the many forms of personal and artistic diversity the arts allow.

“Diverse experiences in the arts have the power to transform our thinking and help us achieve huge shifts in perspective,” she said. “If we want the future of humankind to thrive and flourish in peace, these types of transformative experiences—diverse and global—are crucial to the success of our students.”

Nardo joined USU from California State University, Office of the Chancellor, where she served as the director of the multidisciplinary, international Summer Arts program for seven years.

Entrepreneurship

USU Alumni Develop Industry-Changing Aviation Technology

Bailey Scheel ('14 mechanical and aerospace engineering) and **Eric Sargent** ('09 aviation) are part of a team at Garmin International that created a flight control system for general aviation aircraft. The alumni worked together for two years on Autoland, the flight control system that, in the event of an emergency involving pilot incapacitation, controls and lands an aircraft at the nearest suitable airport with no human intervention. Garmin, a tech giant that makes GPS devices, sports and fitness gear, and wearables, is

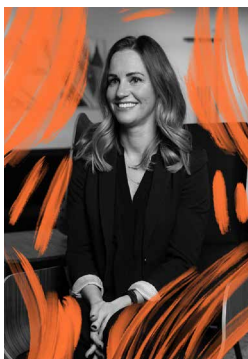
a leading manufacturer of aircraft electronics including flight deck displays and autopilot technologies.

Sargent, a graduate of USU's renowned professional pilot program, was the Autoland test pilot for the Piper M600 aircraft. Scheel is a senior aviation programs engineer and manager at Garmin, where she leads innovative projects involving Garmin, airplane manufacturers, and the FAA.



Eric Sargent (top) and Bailey Scheel (bottom).

Three Aggies Named “Forty Under 40” by *Utah Business*



Alumni from USU’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences are among *Utah Business* magazine’s 2019 “Forty Under 40” business leaders.

Tyler Buswell (American studies/political science, ’05), **Benjamin Kolendar** (philosophy, ’10) and **Jessie Lynn Richards** (English/technical writing, ’04) were among the honorees the magazine described as “innovating the future of the business landscape in Utah.”

Buswell is a shareholder and attorney specializing in commercial real estate with Kirton McConkie in Salt Lake City. Kolendar represents Business Development & Economic Development, a department he helped found and now directs for Salt Lake City. Richards directs the nonprofit foundation Fight Against Domestic Violence, which focuses on increasing education, awareness, and resources for victims, survivors, and the community.

Top to bottom: Tyler Buswell, Benjamin Kolendar, Jessie Lynn Richards. Images originally appeared in the February 2019 issue of *Utah Business* magazine, photographed by Ori Media.

• Engineering Education Assistant Professor **Idalis Villanueva** received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor awarded by the U.S. government to scientists and engineers. She is the first faculty from USU to receive the award since it began in 1996, and she is the only 2019 award recipient from Utah. A first-generation student from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, Villanueva is an award-winning faculty researcher who currently oversees six ongoing multi-institutional research studies and has secured a total of \$2.5 million in research funding.

• **Aggie Made**, a program that highlights the products and celebrates the notable innovations of creative USU alumni, debuted in fall 2019 as a way to recognize current students and alumni and the ways in which they are making an impact in the world. As the program matures, Aggie Made will become a badge of honor that highlights the collective accomplishments of USU alumni, no matter where they are in the world.



Expand Outreach

TO UTAH CITIZENS IN THE AREAS OF
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Bachelor of Science in Nursing Granted Accreditation

The Nursing program, at USU's main campus in Logan, received accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Nationally recognized as a specialized accrediting agency for post-secondary and higher degree programs, ACEN ensures the application of standards, policies, and criteria in nursing education. The program's initial accreditation is effective through October 2023.

USU offers the following nursing programs:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) — Logan
- Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AAS) — Blanding, Moab, Price, Tooele, Uintah Basin
- Practical Nursing Certificate (PN) — Blanding, Moab, Price

USU Extension Awarded \$1 Million Grant for Opioid Initiative

The grant for the Tribal and Rural Opioid Initiative from the Health Resources and Services Administration funds an integrated opioid response effort that bridges prevention, treatment, and recovery in Tooele County, with additional tribal outreach in the Uintah Basin area.

Rural communities are often critically underserved when receiving healthcare resources, which also extends to addiction prevention and treatment, and Tooele County currently has the second highest opioid-related mortality rate in the state. The Rural Communities Opioid Response Implementation Grant runs from Sept. 1, 2019 to Aug. 31, 2022.

- Psychologists at USU's **Sorenson Legacy Foundation Center for Clinical Excellence** launched the ACT Guide, and students at all of USU's campuses now have free access to the online tool. ACT Guide is an online mental health program centered on acceptance and commitment therapy. The need for mental health services has increased throughout the nation in recent years, and universities in particular have seen a sharp rise in demand due to reduced stigmas around mental health coupled with rising rates of depression and other mental health problems.



Continue to Compete

IN THE UPPER-ECHELON OF THE
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

Mountain West Victory for Cross Country Team

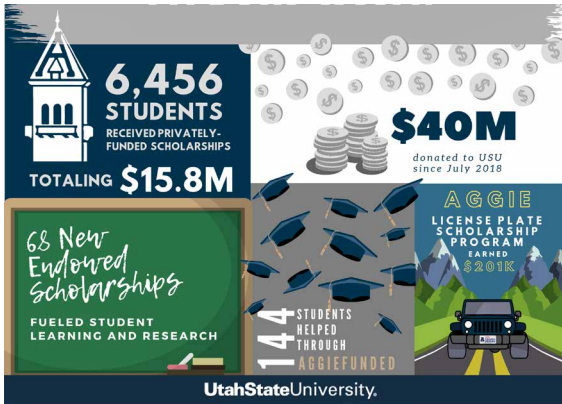
Utah State's **men's cross country** team captured its first-ever Mountain West title at the Mountain West Cross Country Championships in November 2019 on its home course. The USU men won the team title with 42 points, led by senior **Dallin Farnsworth**, who became the first Aggie to ever win a MW Championship race. Farnsworth's time of 23:12.2 broke the MW Championship record, surpassing the previous record by 22 seconds. Farnsworth, a native of Pocatello, Idaho, also earned MW men's *Student-Athlete of the Year* honors.

Men's Basketball Team Nationally Ranked



Following its three wins in the 2019 Mountain West Tournament, the Utah State **men's basketball** team was nationally ranked for the first time since the 2010-11 season as it came in at No. 25 in both the Associated Press and *USA Today* coaches polls. Guard Sam Merrill was 2019 MW *Player of the Year*.

Fund the Future



Private Donations Increase Significantly

Utah State University saw a significant boost in funds raised from private sources in the 2019 fiscal year. The increase was due, in part, to a large number of first-time endowment owners, a sharp increase in planned gifts and an engaged alumni base.

The USU Foundation received \$40.4 million, a 53 percent increase from the previous year. The funds support a dynamic array of student opportunities, programmatic initiatives, and institutional endowments.

Endowment Created for Faculty Excellence

Utah State's **Jon M. Huntsman School of Business** established the Fund for Faculty Excellence in May 2019 to help attract superior talent to the institution. The permanent endowment within the Utah State University Foundation has been capitalized with \$15 million: \$12 million provided by the Huntsman Foundation through previous gifts, and an initial match from the Huntsman School of Business of \$3 million.

For more than a decade, Jon M. Huntsman and his family sought to enable USU's Jon M. Huntsman School of Business to develop leaders of distinction in commerce and public affairs.

