

UNNEWS

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS AND EVENTS

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WSU's Julie Park Chosen as Executive Director of Internal Audit

Helping the university succeed is her number one priority

In her new office in the Miller Administration Building, Julie Park moves organized mountains of paperwork from a meeting table to her desk. Just as she sits down to look through them, the phone rings. In three minutes, she gets three calls. "It gets busy around here," she laughed.

After six months on the job, Park already feels quite settled in her new role as Weber State University's executive director of Internal Audit. After all, it's not unfamiliar territory.

Park worked seven years as a financial analyst in the private sector, but Weber is where she really wanted to be. "I applied for three different jobs: one in budgeting, one in accounting, one in auditing. The third time was the charm," she said. "Turns out, it was the right fit."

Park served as senior auditor/information technology (IT) auditor from April 2004 to June 2007. She was WSU's information security manager from June 2007 to August 2009, when she accepted the job as the university's executive director of Internal Audit. "I guess you can say I've come full circle," she laughed.

Now Park, who also has an MBA from Utah State University, heads up a staff of three auditors. They oversee regularly scheduled financial, operational and compliance audits, as well as special reviews and investigations, and report their findings to the president of the university and the Board of Trustees.

And, because of Park's IT background — she is a certified information systems auditor, a certified information security manager and is also certified in the governance of enterprise IT — Internal Audit now has the ability to review systems like Blackboard and Banner in-house. In the past, the department has had to hire those jobs out.

Because the word "audit" often makes people feel uncomfortable, Park wants everyone to know her department is here to help the university succeed. "While WSU already makes great efforts to be compliant and minimize risks, there is always room for improvement, especially in this ever-changing, high-tech world. We're here to help, and I'm glad to be part of that effort."

AMY HENDRICKS, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

What You Need to Know About Dream Weber

In January Weber State University introduced Dream Weber, a new financial aid program that provides free tuition to students whose annual household income is \$25,000 or less. The program is modeled after a similar program at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Since many faculty and staff may be asked about the program by students, prospective students or high school counselors, below are answers to some frequently asked questions.

? WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE DREAM WEBER PROGRAM?

To be eligible for the Dream Weber program, students must be a legal Utah resident, have a household income of \$25,000* or less, qualify for federal Pell Grant funds, and be an undergraduate student with less than 150 credit hours.

HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY?

To apply for the Dream Weber program, students must apply for admission to WSU, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by March 1, and complete the WSU financial aid application and the WSU scholarship application by March 10.

HOW LONG CAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

Eligibility for Dream Weber lasts for a total of eight (8) semesters or until a student earns 150 college credit hours.

\$ CAN FUNDS RECEIVED FROM DREAM WEBER BE COMBINED WITH OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS?

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Yes. Students should apply even if they aren't sure whether they are eligible for the program. WSU has a large number of academic and need-based scholarships that can help offset educational costs.



WHY IS THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMIT SET AT \$25,000?

We ran several models at different household income levels and determined at \$25,000, WSU could sustain the program in the future.



HOW MUCH WILL THIS PROGRAM COST THE UNIVERSITY?

The financing of Dream Weber comes from a variety of sources dedicated to student scholarships and financial aid. These include federal funds, state funds and private donations to the university that are designed for scholarships. Private donations will cover about \$500,000 of the total financial assistance each year.



HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE USE OF THIS PROGRAM?

WSU currently enrolls about 1,300 students who would qualify for Dream Weber. We also expect approximately 500 new students to enroll.



GIVEN RECORD ENROLLMENT AT WSU, DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO ATTRACT EVEN MORE STUDENTS?

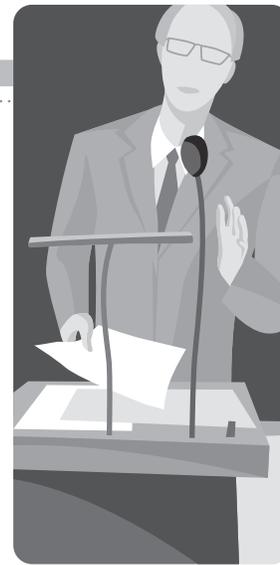
Utah is falling behind other states in terms of the number of people age 25-34 with college degrees. For our state and country to be competitive in the future, it is essential to attract more students to higher education. WSU created the Dream Weber program as one component to improve college participation rates.



WHY NOW?

In this time of economic difficulty, we have a responsibility to do what we can to make the dream of a college education more affordable. Recent donations earmarked for a program such as this served as the impetus to launch the Dream Weber program at the beginning of the filing season for fall 2010 federal financial aid.

*The federal government determines household income using FAFSA.



Honors Eccles Fellowship Combines Research with Teaching

Three members of the Weber State University faculty have been named Honors Eccles Fellows for the 2010-11 academic year, allowing them to spend more time on their research interests, while also sharing that research with students in an honors course.

David Ferro, associate computer science professor, and **Eric Swedin**, associate professor of information systems and technologies, will combine to teach “**Colloquium: Science Fiction and the History of Science and Technology**,” where they will examine current and historical writings of science fiction in the context of scientific and technological developments.

In addition, performing arts professor **Erik Stern** will offer a class titled, “**The Body of Religion**,” which will explore the way different cultures move, how that movement defines a culture and what can be derived from movement.

Judy Elsley, director of WSU's honors program, is thrilled about the program's possibilities.

“We always get really exciting classes from the fellowship,” she said. “It's offering something above and beyond what's already available in the departments.”

A committee, made up of Elsley and the previous year's fellowship recipients, reviews applications at the beginning of each academic year. Fellows are chosen based on their proposed new and different ideas, interdisciplinary subject matter and the applicant's ability to connect research for the class with their own research.

Stern is excited to share his research with students. “When you move in the way another culture does,” Stern said, “you experience the culture in a way that words cannot get you to experience.”

The Honors program will host a reception recognizing current and past fellows on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. in Stewart Library 225.

getintoweber

Feb. 4: WSU's Student Involvement and Leadership convocation will feature NAACP chairman Julian Bond, noon, Shepherd Union Wildcat Theater, free, 801-626-7243 or adriennegillespie@weber.edu.

Feb. 5: WSU women's basketball vs. Montana, 7 p.m., Dee Events Center, \$7/\$5/free to WSU students with Wildcard ID, 801-626-8500 or 1-800-WSU-TIKS.

Feb. 6: The WSU Associated Actors and Technicians (AAT) will present a student-directed and produced play, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,"

7:30 p.m., Val A. Browning Center Eccles Theater, \$10/\$7/students free with WSU ID, 1-800-WSU-TIKS or 801-626-6431.

Feb. 9: WSU will host "Weber Reads: Tom & Huck" featuring WSU teacher education professor Forrest Crawford and English professor Gary Dohrer, on "Challenging Huckleberry Finn," 12:30 p.m., Stewart Library Hetzel-Hollein Room, free, 801-337-2632, weber.edu/weberreads.

Feb. 10: WSU's Department of Performing Arts presents Jazz at the Station with Joe McQueen and Friends, 7 p.m., Union Station (2501 Wall Ave., Ogden), free, 801-626-6431 or weber.edu/performingarts. (Well-behaved children are welcome.)

Feb. 11: Weber State University "Day at the Capitol" will feature the university's best and brightest students as they present their undergraduate research and community outreach efforts, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Utah State Capitol Rotunda (350 N. Main St., Salt Lake City), free, 801-626-8541.

Feb. 11: WSU Davis will hold a "Health and Fitness Workshop: The 8-Week Guide to a Healthy Lifestyle," 4-5 p.m., WSU Davis Room 117 (2750 N. University Park Blvd., Layton), free, 801-395-3514 or erikashby@weber.edu.

Feb. 12: WSU men's basketball vs. Northern Arizona, 7 p.m., Dee Events Center, \$25/\$22/\$18/\$15/\$10/\$8/free to WSU students with Wildcard ID, 801-626-8500 or 1-800-WSU-TIKS.

Welcome to WSU

Ludwig Possie, Library; Kevin Karician, Health Professions; Randall Hammack, University Police; Kelly Mecham, Construction Management; Cara Angell, Women's Studies; Mary Rohan, Student Health Center; Roxana Luna, Academic Support Services; Sarah Stanton, Women's Center; Malissa King, Health Professions; Maria Alcantar, Academic Support Services.

On the Move

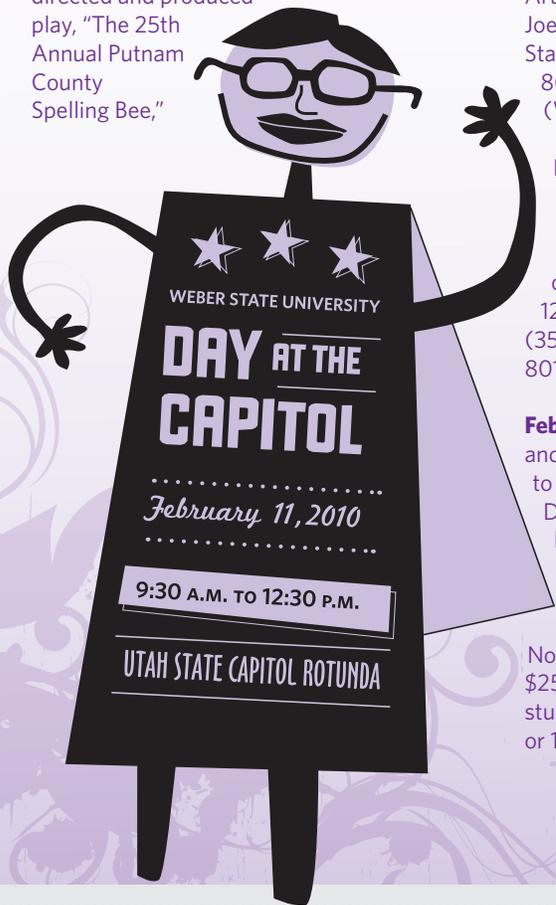
Nancy Jarvis, Analyst, Sponsored Projects; Brad Budge, Coordinator, Purchasing; Mark Halverson, Director of Campus Planning and Construction, Facilities Management; Rick Wade, Director of Campus Services, Facilities Management; Nicole Erickson, Project Manager, University Communications.



Retired

Scott Loughton, English; Sandy Sowerby, University Communications.

Source: Board of Trustees reports, November and December 2009, January 2010.



PURCHASING has added a new e-mail address to receive scanned backup documentation for requisitions.

Backup documentation can now be sent to the Purchasing Office via fax, campus mail or e-mail.

Regardless of the method used, it is important for all backup documentation to reference the requisition number on each page.

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

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CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

Course Examines Societal Impact of Computer Gaming

A new computer science course at WSU is asking students to set aside the computer code and take a critical look at the positive and negative impact of computer games on society and culture.

The new course, approved by the Board of Trustees at its monthly meeting in December, is being offered for the first time this spring. During the semester students will examine and analyze the art, history, philosophy and impact of digital entertainment (video and computer games along with simulations) on individuals and society.

Palumbo Recognized as Outstanding Music Educator

Music professor Michael Palumbo has been selected to receive Utah's Outstanding Music Educator Award for 2008-09 by the Utah Music Educators Association for his outstanding contribution to music education in the state. Palumbo is the founder and director of the WSU String Project, a program for young musicians and string music education students.

The award was presented during the general session of UMEA's Professional Development Conference earlier this month.

Music Students Have Strong Showing at Regional Competition

Six Weber State University music students are national finalists after taking first place in events at the Southwest Regional Music Teachers National Association Competition in Honolulu, Hawaii.

These winners advance to the national MTNA competition being held March 20-24 in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Weber State University winners are pianist Fan-Ya Lin, violinist Moriah Wilhelm, flutist Jana Gardner, and the Tria Fata Piano Trio, which includes violinist Katie Palkki, cellist Sam Runolfson and pianist Nicholas Maughan.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES Sees Growth in Job Placements



Services for Students with Disabilities at Weber State University is helping an increasing number of students find jobs thanks to its partnership with a federal program.

“Students with disabilities typically have very limited work experience,” explained Angie McLean, a specialist with Services for Students with Disabilities. “They have to focus and spend more time on their studies. The hardest thing is to get students involved and help them understand the importance of internships.”

McLean works with a federal recruitment and referral service, Workforce Response Program (WRP), that helps college students with disabilities connect with federal employers nationwide.

Since 2007, the number of WSU students placed through the WRP has more than tripled, from five students in 2007 to 11 students in 2008 and 16 students in 2009. Three of the students who received paid internships in 2009 were offered full-time employment.

WSU has worked with the federal program since the 1980s. This year, the dramatic increase in interest prompted a federal recruiter to spend three days in January interviewing WSU students.

“Last year we had 34 students interview,” said McLean, who has coordinated the program at WSU since 2003. “It’s a positive experience where students can openly discuss their disability and feel comfortable asking about accommodations.”

Summer employment opportunities can be tailored to students in particular majors.

Graphic design engineering technology student Penny Stiverson worked as an engineering aid at Hill Air Force Base last summer through the WRP program. “It was a relief to work in a field related to my education,” Stiverson said.

“Our managers have been extremely pleased with the results of the program,” said Alan Niederhauser, chief of the affirmative employment branch for Hill Air Force Base. “These students perform work that we need done. We had four or five this summer who we’ve invited back for another year.”

Niederhauser said WSU’s proximity to the base makes the program more accessible for many students. He said the 12 to 13 WSU students Hill AFB places each year represent close to 50 percent of all the WRP students employed by the U.S. Air Force nationwide.

“Last year we had 34 students interview. It’s a positive experience where students can openly discuss their disability and feel comfortable asking about accommodations.”

—Angie McLean

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FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Assistant professor of Spanish **Isabel Asensio** published a book chapter titled “The Syncretism of Candomblé and Feminism in Helena Parente Cunha’s *Woman between Mirrors*.” The book, published by Pickwick Publications, is titled *Mother Tongue Theologies: Poets, Novelists, Non-Western Christianity*.

Jonathan Clark, a zoology professor, presented a talk at the Third International Barcode of Life Conference in Mexico City last November titled “DNA barcoding reveals the diversity of shore flies from Great Salt Lake.” Co-author was WSU undergraduate student Krystle Minear.

Telecommunications and business education professor **Diana J. Green** and Carol Blaszczyński, information systems professor at California State University, Los Angeles, recently received the 2009 Delta Pi Epsilon Innovative Instructional Practices Award at the organization’s national conference.

French professor **Cheryl Hansen** presided over the Utah Foreign Language Association’s annual meeting at WSU in November. She has been

a member of the UFLA Board for 20 years and served as the association’s president for 2009.

Carol Merrill, director of the Women’s Center, recently received the 2010 Athena award. Presented annually by local chambers of commerce, women’s organizations and universities, the award is given to individuals who contribute their time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community and actively assist women in realizing their full leadership potential.

Sam Zeveloff, chair of the Department of Zoology, published the article “A Ground-Based Paintball Mark Re-Sight Survey of Mountain Goats” in the *Proceedings of the Sixteenth Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council*. Co-authors were Christopher Schulze, a former student who is a conservation officer with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Richard Schulze, who recently retired from Utah’s DWR.