



In the academic year following Weber State's 125th anniversary, there was only one direction in which we Wildcats chose to look: forward.

Signs of progress were all over campus in 2014-15. One sign — a big, yellow crane that marked the continued construction of the Tracy Hall Science Center — was hard to miss. That building, which is at the leading edge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education design, is now more than halfway complete. It is slated to open for education in fall 2016.

Facilities aren't the only thing growing on campus. Our numbers at Weber State are growing as well. The 2014-15 school year was a record breaker, with more than 5,330 graduates achieving their degrees. Those graduates included NBA Rookie of the Year and two-time All-Star Damian Lillard, as well as our youngest graduate ever, 17-year-old Jessica Brooke. Our student speaker, Shaquille Heath, shared an inspirational story of triumph over life's circumstances.

Our relationship with our surrounding community also continued to grow. Our College Town Initiative with Ogden City expanded to include diversity groups, community partners and other municipalities. Our burgeoning college-town relationship was even recognized with the Larry Abernathy Award during the International Town & Gown Association's 2015 conference.

And, thanks to generous supporters, our bank account is growing as well. You might remember that last year marked the beginning of the public phase of our Dream 125 campaign, an effort to raise \$125 million. By the end of the 2014-15 academic year, we had raised more than \$121 million. I'm grateful that so many have pushed Weber State so close to its goal, and I'm counting on Wildcats everywhere to lend a last push toward the finish!

The Weber State family is dedicated to securing the university's future through providing opportunity, advancing knowledge, enhancing campus and engaging the community. In this annual report, you'll find details on our progress in those areas.



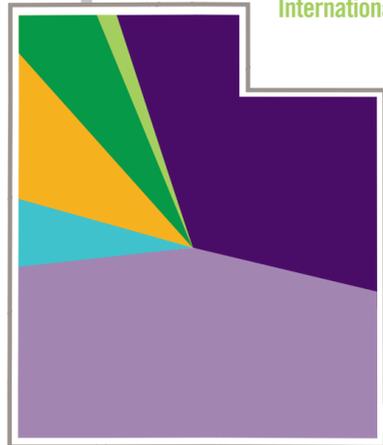
With best wishes,

Charles A. Wight
President
Weber State University

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY FACTS & FIGURES

Fall 2014 Enrollment by COUNTY OF ORIGIN

Weber: 32.9% **Salt Lake:** 6.9%
Davis: 39.1% **Other Utah:** 11.6%
Outside Utah: 8.1%
International: 1.4%



26,266
Fall 2014 Enrollment

THE TOP MASTER'S IN HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION RANKED



WSU's Master of HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
#1 IN THE NATION
 for Affordability and Innovation

In 2014-15, WSU provided more than
\$96.9 Million
 in **SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID**
 to more than
13,900 STUDENTS

\$121,810,919

The amount raised through the
Dream 125
 campaign as of June 30, 2015

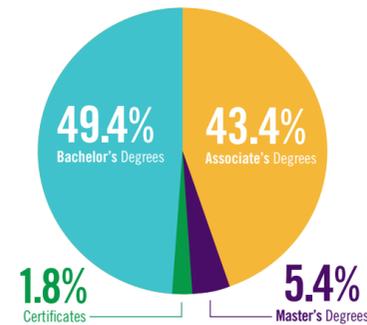
National Leader in HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES:

Of the top 100 two- and four-year institutions that award associate's degrees in America, Weber State University ranks:

8th IN REGISTERED NURSING, nursing administration and CLINICAL NURSING

14th IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS and related CLINICAL SCIENCES

Distribution of Graduates' 2014-15 DEGREES & AWARDS



AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

21



13

MASTER'S degree programs,
 with the recent addition of two new programs
 (NURSE PRACTITIONER and COMPUTER ENGINEERING)



MORE THAN 225
 degree programs

In October 2014, Weber State University celebrated
5 Commendations
 from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' accreditation evaluation committee. The university received no official recommendations, defined as areas for improvement, in the committee's report.



Winner of the 2015 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



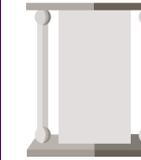
the highest institutional honor given by APFA, an organization that recognizes outstanding achievements in facilities management

TOP 10 DEGREE PROGRAMS

5-YEAR TOTAL
Academic Years 2011 through 2015

1	Nursing	3,162
2	Radiologic Sciences	1,148
3	Business Administration	1,047
4	Criminal Justice	714
5	Teacher Education	690
6	Engineering Technology	688
7	Accounting/Taxation	682
8	Computer Science	679
9	Medical Laboratory Sciences	672
10	Health Promotion and Human Performance	665

During the 2015 International Town & Gown Association conference, WSU and Ogden City were honored with the



LARRY ABERNATHY AWARD

recognizing the strong bond between the university and the city

\$1.4 Million

The amount WSU saved in fiscal year 2014 through SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS and programs



GI Jobs Magazine and Military Advanced Education recognized Weber State as a

MILITARY-FRIENDLY SCHOOL

WSU received the esteemed **2015 Community ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION**

from the **CARNEGIE FOUNDATION** for the Advancement of Teaching

154

The number of student-athletes who earned **ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS** in 2014-15

Four Years Later...

Four years ago, Leonel Torres, or Leo as his family and friends know him, was interviewed for Weber State University's 2011 annual report. It was the first day of his freshman year. He was so new to Weber State he didn't know where the information booth — the meeting spot for the interview — was. At the time, he timidly said: "I'm sorry I'm a little late. I didn't know where I was going exactly."

Fast forward to the summer of 2015. Leo — again being interviewed for the annual report — arrived at the information booth on time. The shy Leo of four years ago was gone. This Leo had confidence. He had just come from his summer job at the Boys & Girls Club of Weber-Davis. "It's fun," he said with a sparkle in his eyes. "Tomorrow is Sports Day, but we do all kinds of things, like take them to the planetarium, swimming, hiking."

A psychology major who is double minoring in zoology and chemistry, Leo likes being out in his community. Last semester, the Ogden resident was a research assistant for the Community Research Extension of WSU's Center for Community Engaged Learning. He specifically worked with Ogden United Promise Neighborhood, an organization whose goal is to ensure the children and youths of central Ogden have access to great schools and support systems.

"I worked on a lot of different projects," he explained. "One was to research what keeps people in minority groups from graduating and what gets them motivated to go to college. I sat in with a focus group, asked questions and talked to people about what we can do to help them."

The focus group participants' answers didn't surprise Leo, a first-generation college student. "Many students, many of my friends, don't know where to start," he explained. "They don't know about programs like Dream Weber; they don't know about FAFSA (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid); and many of them, like me, don't have a parent who went to college and could help them through the process."

Today, Leo is happy to share what he knows with others, especially when it comes to financial aid. "I wouldn't be here without it," he said.

Leo expects to graduate next year. It will make his parents proud. "They've always encouraged and supported me," he said, smiling. "I'll be the first one in my family — even my extended family — to graduate from college. After that I plan to keep going to school. It's a little crazy."



Since 2010, the Dream Weber program has resulted in

1,300 BACHELOR'S DEGREES
AND
1,417 ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES
being awarded to participants.



The **DREAM WEBER** program uses a combination of state, federal and private dollars to pay full tuition and fees for up to eight semesters for students whose annual income is \$40,000 or less.

Chief Diversity Officer

Making sure Weber State University represents the varied needs of northern Utah's diverse population is a full-time job. Now, the university has an official full-time position to match the demand: chief diversity officer.

On May 4, 2015, **Adrienne Gillespie Andrews** became WSU's first chief diversity officer. Andrews spent the past two years as President **Charles A. Wight's** special assistant for diversity and the coordinator for WSU's Center for Diversity & Unity. In this expanded role, she is positioned to promote a culture of inclusion at the university.

Andrews is excited about the capacity for change this new position brings to Weber State. "It will help us transform into the institution we seek to become," she said.

That vision, according to Wight, includes a campus community that reflects the community around WSU. "This position better enables us to work toward those ends," he said.

The top item on Andrews' to-do list is developing a strategic plan for diversity at WSU. She also plans to focus on faculty/staff development in diversity areas, strengthening relationships between the university and various cultural, religious and other identity-based groups, and making sure student needs are being met.

"We are at a better place than we have ever been in the 10-plus years that I've been at the institution," she said. "Diversity is becoming a common part of the conversation across campus, whether that is about people, ideas, opportunities, outreach, engagement or other topics."

She credits previous diversity advocates at WSU, as well as the current administration, for their efforts to promote inclusivity.

"I've spent the last two years building on a solid foundation developed by **Dr. Forrest Crawford** and others, and I believe that in my full-time capacity, we will be able to move things further, faster and with greater support because of the leadership we experience under President Wight."



Conference Inspires Future Latino Leaders

Latino students from area junior high and high schools flocked to WSU in March for the 2015 Latinos in Action conference. Richard Montañez, the creator of Flamin' Hot Cheetos and a vice president for PepsiCo, addressed attendees and shared his story of dedication, hard work and perseverance.

The conference also featured workshops, cultural activities and leadership training.

1,400

The number of junior high and high school students who attended the 2015 **LATINOS IN ACTION CONFERENCE**

Understanding Poverty, Creating Opportunities

Weber State faculty, staff and students address effects of poverty, homelessness

Discussing Economic Inequality

When Michael Vaughan started teaching economics 40 years ago — “back when it was called Economics 101,” he said, smiling — he asked students these questions:

1. How much do you think a middle-income person makes?
2. How much does someone need to earn to be rich?

“The answers were always way off,” Vaughan said. “And the students were shocked to hear the right answers. The same holds true today. In many instances, there is a chasm between people’s knowledge and perception of economic inequality and the reality of it.” (See what the answers to these questions would be today in the sidebar to the right.)

That is one of the reasons why the American Democracy Project (ADP) selected economic inequality as its three-year national initiative, explained Vaughan, who after stepping down as Weber State’s longtime provost, now directs WSU’s new Center for the Study of Poverty and Economic Inequality.

INCOME INEQUALITY, according to *inequality.org*, refers to the extent to which income is distributed in an uneven manner among a population.

Weber State, an ADP-participating campus, was one of 30+ colleges from across the country chosen to take part in the initiative, which ties in nicely with the university’s new center, Vaughan said.

The center will focus on three areas: curriculum, research and services. Vaughan is already collaborating with faculty in WSU’s Department of Teacher Education to design a program that could help local residents break the cycle of poverty. “It will be a program that currently isn’t being offered in the community,” he explained.

Vaughan is also working with ADP to help other universities increase participation efforts on their campuses.

“The key word here is democracy. We want to help students think about economic inequality and poverty, to become better informed,” Vaughan said. “At the end of this initiative, I want people to be able to say Weber State took a lead and was a model for other institutions.”

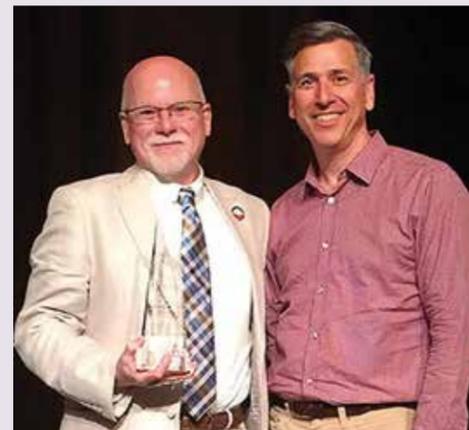
Today, the answers to Mike Vaughan’s questions would be:

How much does a middle-income person make?

The Social Security Administration reports that the median net wage in 2013 was \$28,031. “This means that half of all individuals made \$28,031 or less,” Vaughan explained.

How much does someone need to earn to be rich?

“To answer that question, you first have to define ‘rich,’” Vaughan said. “Is it the top 10 percent, the top 1 percent? \$140,000 places you in the top 10 percent of household income; whereas \$50,742 places you in the top half. I like to ask people to think of it this way: 75 percent of the students in the Ogden School District are on free and reduced lunch. If you’ve got kids in the Ogden School District who aren’t on free and reduced lunch, your situation is better than 75 percent of the residents of Ogden.”



In June 2015, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities honored Michael Vaughan (left) with the William M. Plater Award for Leadership in Civic Engagement. The award recognizes “exemplary leadership in advancing the civic learning of undergraduates through programs and activities that encourage greater knowledge, skills, experiences and reflection about the roles of citizens in a democracy.”

Fulfilling Her Dreams



As the student speaker at Weber State University’s spring 2015 commencement, Shaquille Heath boldly stood before the audience and told her story:

“My birth parents were drug addicts, and their addictions took over so much of my childhood. Sometimes I didn’t have a place to sleep;

sometimes I went hungry; and most times I was alone. This caused me to grow up very quickly. I had to make choices when I was too young to even fathom their consequences. But I did make one very smart choice, and that was higher education.”

Heath, who was adopted at age 13 by her best friend’s parents, excelled in school. At WSU, she majored in communication with an emphasis in public relations.

As a student, she created a campaign for Utah’s Homeless Outreach Service Team to bring awareness to the issue of homelessness. For her skills and desire to succeed, the Salt Lake Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America named Heath Utah’s 2015 Public Relations Student of the Year.

After graduation, Heath set out for California, determined to find work at a public relations firm. Less than a month later, she landed a job with Cutline, a public relations agency in San Francisco. As an account coordinator, she assists her colleagues in developing reports and abstracts. “I absolutely love it out here,” she said. “It’s amazing!”

The Door is Always Open

In the heart of downtown Ogden, a house stands on Adams Avenue. It’s filled with warmth, hope and a purpose: to provide shelter, support, resources and guidance to homeless, unaccompanied and runaway youths in Utah. The Youth Futures Shelter Home opened in February 2015 and is the only one of its kind in Utah. Recent Weber State University graduate Kristen Mitchell is its founder and director.

Mitchell led her classmates in assistant professor Barrett Bonella’s macro social work course, and other Weber State-affiliated classes and groups, in readying the shelter. She successfully advocated for a legislative change that allows for the housing of homeless youths. Relying on donations to help fund the shelter, Mitchell also led fundraising efforts. Alongside faculty, staff, volunteers and her fellow students, she raised more than \$250,000 in one semester.



Mitchell was named a 2015 Newman Civic Fellow, a national honor that recognizes students who demonstrate a commitment to solving problems in their communities. Mitchell is the only student from a Utah university to receive the award this year.

A Degree at 17

When **Jessica Brooke** received her diploma in May 2015, she set a university record as Weber State University's youngest graduate.

Brooke arrived at the university at age 14, having completed her associate's degree in Arizona. Her family moved to Ogden so she could receive a great education in a nurturing environment. She majored in math, minored in chemistry, sang with the choir and learned to drive in the parking lot of the Dee Events Center.

Brooke is currently pursuing her master's degree in public health. Her ultimate goal is to graduate from medical school and become a doctor.



Grand Pianists

Throughout the ages, powerful dynasties have altered civilization with innovation and achievement. Mathematicians during India's Gupta dynasty expanded the decimal system and the concept of zero. China's Ming dynasty completed the Great Wall. As the third pharaoh of Egypt's 19th dynasty, Ramses II built everlasting temples and monuments.

Over the past decade at Weber State University, what some might call the "Keyboard Dynasty" has gained remarkable momentum, racking up first-place finishes in piano competitions, luring gifted musicians from overseas and turning ambitious students into concert pianists.

In statewide competitions since 2009, WSU piano students have gone up against the best collegiate student-pianists in Utah, and have come out on top. In their latest accolade, WSU students took four of five top honors at the 2015 Utah Music Teachers Association (UMTA) Collegiate Piano Concerto Competition, halting 30 years of domination by other powerhouse university programs.

Chinese-born pianist **Tong Miranda Wu** greased the wheels of progress when she came to Weber in 2005. Wu's academic excellence and formidable piano skills elevated the stature of WSU's keyboard program and prompted then-Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. to name her a 2006 Governor's Scholar. Following her 2010 graduation, Wu completed a master's program at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She is currently in her fourth year of doctoral studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she recently earned a diploma in harpsichord performance.

To date, **Fan-Ya Lin** is the most celebrated graduate of Weber State's keyboard program. In 2008, the Taiwanese piano prodigy declined admission offers from renowned music conservatories to study with **Yu-Jane Yang**, WSU's director of keyboard studies. Under Yang's guidance, Lin became the youngest collegiate pianist ever to win the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Steinway Young Artist Piano Competition. In May 2015, Lin earned a Master of Music degree from Juilliard, where she received multiple teaching fellowships and built a solid East Coast following. She has begun a doctoral program at the University of Minnesota School of Music.

Among Weber State's reigning keyboard superstars is senior **Ling-Yu Lee** from Taiwan. After back-to-back first-place finishes in the state division of the MTNA Steinway Young Artist Piano Competition in 2013 and 2014, Lee advanced to the southwest division in January of 2015, where she bested many graduate and doctoral students to win first prize. In March 2015, Lee became the first WSU piano student to win both the MTNA (Utah) Steinway Young Artist and UMTA Collegiate Piano Concerto competitions in the same academic year.



Tong Miranda Wu



Fan-Ya Lin



Yu-Jane Yang (left) and Ling-Yu Lee



New Home for LGBT Center

WSU's new LGBT Resource Center opened its doors in January 2015. Under the leadership of **Jayson Stokes**, the center will fulfill its mission of "cultivating a welcoming and safe environment for the LGBT community, their families, friends and allies through access, learning and support."

The center will offer various trainings for students, faculty and community members to help people better understand LGBT issues. It will also host the Marquardt Peace & Possibility Speaker Series. Thanks to a generous donation from the Jane & Tami Marquardt Community Fund, the series will bring high-profile LGBT leaders to Weber State to provide cultural opportunities, enhance "welcomeness" and cultivate an ally community.

Building a Science Legacy

Construction on Weber State University's Tracy Hall Science Center is more than halfway complete. In spring 2015, the project celebrated its "topping out" milestone, the point at which the last beam was placed atop the structure. It is slated to be ready for classes in the fall of 2016.

The Tracy Hall Science Center was made possible through a \$57.4 million appropriation from the Utah State Legislature, donations from caring individuals and the commitment of many other supporters. Located in the heart of campus, where Buildings 3 and 4 were, the 173,000-square-foot building will provide faculty and staff with a modern facility and state-of-the-art tools to meet growing enrollment demands in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

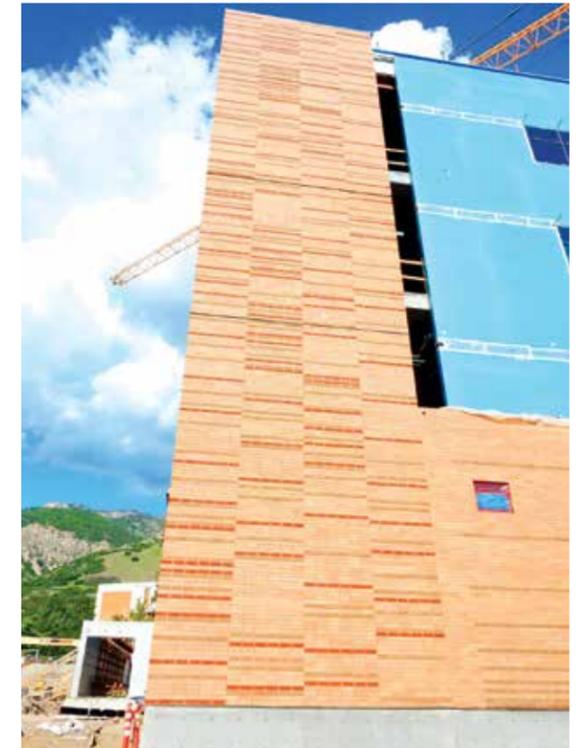
The Tracy Hall Science Center is named for Ogden native and Weber College alumnus **H. Tracy Hall**. A physical chemist, Hall invented the first reproducible process for making diamonds in a laboratory.

His groundbreaking discovery kicked off a multibillion-dollar industry and led to the development of new technologies. In honor of the inventor and scientist, the Tracy Hall Science Center will feature the cube portion of a diamond press that is based on Hall's original design.



Observers of the Tracy Hall Science Center construction project have noticed unique patterns in the bricks. While beautiful, the patterns aren't just aesthetic, they're readable also — if you know how to decode DNA sequences. **Barb Trask**, associate dean of the College of Science and zoology professor, wrote the code for the bricks. "It's wonderful to have science reflected even in the outside of the building," she said. "I can't wait to use it as a teaching tool in my class. When we learn to decode DNA, I can say, 'Let's go outside and read the building.'" Using the genetic code wheel, students will find the patterns on the two tallest towers spell out Tracy Hall Science Center, as well as steps from the scientific method.

To view photos of the construction process, visit weber.edu/annualreport





In 2015, WSU received several accolades for maintaining sustainability successes.

For the fourth consecutive year, the **ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION**

designated Weber State as a

TREE CAMPUS USA

and the Princeton Review selected WSU for inclusion in its Guide to Green Colleges.



The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has recognized Weber State as a

STARS BRONZE INSTITUTION

for its accomplishments in campus sustainability.



The Future is Bright

Sustainability center extends beyond campus to bring solar energy to community

When Jennifer Bodine installed solar panels on the roof of her Ogden home in 2013, the research was daunting. What company should she use? How much would it cost? “We had a lot of questions,” said Bodine, a sustainability specialist in Weber State University’s Energy & Sustainability Office. “But in the end, it was worth it. Now we are producing enough energy to cover all of our energy consumption.”

Two years ago, Bodine had to research solar installation herself. Today, residents of Weber, Davis and Morgan counties can gather information about solar installation in a simple, streamlined way through WSU’s new Sustainability Practices and Research Center (SPARC), directed by assistant geography professor Alice Mulder.

In April 2015, SPARC partnered with Utah Clean Energy and the local community to launch the **Susie Hulet Community Solar Program**, one of the first university-led solar purchasing campaigns. The program helps community members buy affordable residential solar paneling, using bulk-buying power to negotiate significant discounts with a competitively selected installer.

The program is named in honor of the late Susie Hulet, a longtime advocate and benefactor of nature and sustainability programs, who worked with Weber State’s Environmental Issues Committee.

“The program has been a great help to community members who wanted to add solar paneling to their homes but didn’t know where to start,” Mulder said. “It has educated people on the basics and benefits of solar power, as well as facilitated the process of actually getting solar panels installed.”



240+

The number of residents who attended the May-June 2015 workshops hosted by the

SUSIE HULET COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM

100+

The number of individuals who took the program’s **SOLAR SURVEY** in the first week and a half after the survey opened



Promoting Literacy, Strengthening Families

Paul Schvaneveldt was a senior pre-law major at Utah State University when he participated in an internship at the state Legislature that changed his life. He was assigned to work for a senator who also happened to be an attorney. “The senator taught me so much and gave me insight into what life would be like as a practicing attorney,” Schvaneveldt said. “I appreciated his guidance and eventually decided law just wasn’t for me.”

Schvaneveldt “stumbled upon a family and human development program” and “never looked back.” The legal profession’s loss was Weber State’s gain.

Today, Schvaneveldt chairs WSU’s Department of Child and Family Studies. He also directs Weber State’s Family Literacy Program and Healthy Marriage

and Relationship Education Project, in which he works with 16 local agencies and groups to serve lower-income, ethnically diverse individuals and families in Weber and Davis counties. The two programs were honored with WSU’s 2015 Exemplary Collaboration Award.

Family Literacy Program facilitators mentor and train Ogden-Weber Head Start parents to be more engaged in their children’s literacy activities and teach discipline and child-guidance skills.

“Our motto is, ‘A parent is a child’s first and most important teacher,’” Schvaneveldt said. “We encourage parents to start reading to their children early and often. One of the strong predictors of how well children will do in school is their vocabulary at age 5. The larger the

“I noticed that, as I worked with the child, his parents would get distracted by video games, phone calls and other children. I started to bring simple activities along that would also be of interest to the parents. They slowly started to engage more. Now the child is read to almost daily (as opposed to never being read to at the beginning of the year).”

—A Family Literacy Program facilitator

“I loved this course! It has changed my life in a tremendous way, and I am much more hopeful and confident that I will find a partner and be in a healthy relationship. I am also more confident that I will make good decisions.”

—A participant in a Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education class

vocabulary — which comes through talking, reading, singing and playing together — the greater the likelihood the child will graduate high school and attend college.”

Facilitators of the Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Project help individuals, whether married, engaged, divorced or single, learn to build and sustain healthy, stable relationships.

“When people are knowledgeable about the skills needed to have healthy relationships, like communication and conflict resolution, they have more stable marriages, and less abuse and violence in their relationships,” Schvaneveldt said.

Each semester, students from the Department of Child and Family Studies work with these two programs. They visit parents in their homes to teach them literacy activities and conduct relationship classes for groups of 30 to 40 people.

“I like to get students into the community,” Schvaneveldt said. “Many of them want to be marriage and family therapists, so this gives them real-life experience. It’s gratifying to see them work hard and be successful.”



500

The total number of individuals served annually by WSU’s

FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

and Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Project

100

The percentage of students from the Department of **CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES**

who have been accepted to **GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

over the last eight years. Their applications are bolstered by real-world experiences such as the Family Literacy Program and Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Project.



A Colorful Challenge

Weber State University President **Charles A. Wight** has studied dangerous explosives during his career as a chemistry professor, had a sledge-hammer bust a cement block on his stomach while lying on a bed of nails, and even had a boa constrictor snaked around his shoulders, all joyfully done in the name of education. In April 2015, however, he faced what may have been the scariest challenge yet: finger painting with the enthusiastic youngsters from WSU's Melba S. Lehner Children's School and the WSU Charter Academy.

Wight accepted the finger-painting challenge as part of the annual Week of the Young Child, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Bestselling author Richard Paul Evans, of *The Christmas Box* fame, issued the challenge on campus during the 2015 Utah Early Childhood Conference, where he was the keynote speaker.

Wight painted a purple rendition of the Stewart Bell Tower. His wife, **Victoria Rasmussen**, painted a delightful Wildcat. Joining them was **Jack Rasmussen**, dean of the Jerry & Vickie Moyes

College of Education. The three, dressed in white jumpsuits, also allowed the children to paint directly on them.

"Weber State University values all education — whether it's a college education or promoting the development and imagination of young people," Wight said. "And who could resist something as fun as this?"

75

The number of children who participated in the **FINGER-PAINTING** challenge at WSU

Visit weber.edu/annualreport to watch the president finger paint with the children.

The Big 3-0

In 2015, the National Undergraduate Literature Conference (NULC) celebrated its 30th year of successfully bringing student writers together with literary luminaries such as Norman Mailer, Michael Chabon and Ray Bradbury.

English professor **Mikel Vause** helped launch the conference for students to help them gain confidence in researching, writing and presenting work to peers from other institutions.

A number of authors who committed to the writing profession after attending the conference as students now present at NULC.

"Meeting and speaking with acclaimed authors who are known internationally as masters of their literary craft can and does act as inspiration and helps generate the motivation to seek a life in the world of letters," Vause said.

NULC remains the only national conference of its kind, said co-director **Carl Porter**, who became involved with the conference more than 20 years ago.

"Thousands of undergraduates have responded to NULC for 30 straight Aprils," Porter said. "It is a remarkable tradition and a reminder that literature matters."



WSU Student Pioneers Innovative Medical Testing Method

When a third-party ostomy company wanted to research alternative methods of testing prototype catheters — methods that didn't involve animals or humans — WSU computer science student **Tina Van Riper** applied to work on the project. Using MRI images, Van Riper created 3-D computer models of the gastrointestinal region of the human body. She found that, by inserting the catheter design into the computer program, companies could detect design malfunctions and reduce the need for live animal or human test subjects. For her work, Van Riper received the 2014 Academic Excellence Award from the Women Tech Council.



Outstanding MHA

Affordability, innovation and accreditation make Weber State University's Master of Health Administration (MHA) program one of the country's best.

U.S. News and World Report ranked it No. 1 in Utah and 47th overall.

Of the 50 most innovative programs in the country, WSU's MHA tops the list as the most affordable.

The online site Top Master's in Healthcare Administration evaluated criteria such as national accreditation, variety of degrees, active student and alumni groups, faculty engaged in research, and online and executive programs.

A new executive MHA designed for professionals began its first semester in the fall of 2015. Students meet for in-class instruction just two days per semester at Weber State Farmington Station — a new professional education center that just opened in the Station Park outdoor retail development center.

The Future of Family Care

A new Master of Science in Nursing-Nurse Practitioner (MSN-NP) program will put Weber State on the forefront of advancing the field of nursing. This is the first master's degree for nurse practitioners at a Utah public institution. It was approved by the state Board of Regents in July 2015, with an expected start date of fall 2016.

The program is designed to prepare registered nurses to diagnose and manage acute and chronic health problems, prescribe medications, plan treatments, and teach patients to promote and maintain health.

Career opportunities for nurse practitioners are expected to increase across the country, particularly in rural areas.

"If you look at the cost of health care, a nurse practitioner is not quite as expensive as a physician but can still give quality care," said Susan Thornock, WSU School of Nursing chair. "They will work directly with physicians and can help meet health care needs now and in the future."

135 The projected number of students in the nurse practitioner program by the year 2020



COMPUTER ENGINEERING

is expected to become one of the most lucrative and in-demand professions in the next three years.

—A *USA Today* analysis of workforce projections by Economic Modeling Specialists Intl., a division of CareerBuilder, 2014

Meeting the Needs of a Constantly Connected World

Almost everywhere you look these days, you're greeted by a gadget. Weber State's computer science and electrical engineering programs are bolstering the workforce that creates those gadgets and much more.

Since 2010, combined enrollment in both programs has grown by more than **45 percent**, with a total of 961 students currently declared.

As the world advances technologically, both computer science and electrical engineering fields are in high demand. What better place to earn a degree in those fields than a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)? Both Weber State's computer science and electrical engineering programs have that qualification, which employers like Hill Air Force Base desire. Further, both the computer science and electrical engineering programs have a job placement rate of close to 100 percent.

"There's a consistent demand for our graduates," said **Brian Rague**, chair of WSU's Department of Computer Science.

Rague said it's possible to have an additional 1,000 computer science students in the next three years. Meanwhile, the electrical engineering department is continually searching for more available space and faculty to meet the demand.

"It's the right kind of problem to have," said **Kirk Hagen**, chair of WSU's Department of Engineering.

In Demand: Computer Engineers

Weber State University now offers a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering and an accelerated five-year Master of Science degree in computer engineering. More than 25 students were expected to enroll in fall 2015, with anticipated growth to more than 110 by 2020. The programs are housed in WSU's College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (formerly the College of Applied Science & Technology).

With the continued growth of digital technologies, more industries are expected to have demand for engineers. This sparked WSU's initiative and ongoing commitment to meet the educational needs of both private industry and government, including Hill Air Force Base.

STEM for Kids

WSU PREP is a new summer program that motivates and prepares kids to pursue degrees and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Students enroll for three consecutive summers after their sixth-grade year. The program is free for students in Ogden, Weber and Davis school districts.

69

The number of students enrolled in **WSU PREP** in 2015



Weber State University President Charles A. Wight chats with Connor Beishline, a student in WSU PREP.



International Appeal

Weber State University now offers something you can't get anywhere else in Utah: a bachelor's degree in international business economics.



"Other schools have an international component to their business programs — they offer courses and certificates — but they do not offer an actual four-year degree in international business," said Doris Geide-Stevenson, economics chair for the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics.

The new program is geared toward business students who want to work for a multinational organization or find employment outside of the United States. Majors must be fluent in two or more languages and participate in study abroad.

"In terms of integrating study abroad and language, our program really is unique," said Geide-Stevenson, who expects to see the program's first graduates in the fall of 2017. "This new degree broadens our offerings to domestic students and has the potential to attract more international students."

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Border to Border for Charity

During the summer of 2014, WSU assistant nursing professor Kathleen Cadman traveled with her dad down the Pacific Coast from Canada to Mexico. It wasn't your typical road trip, however. Instead of driving a car, they rode their bikes. Cadman and her father made the monthlong journey to raise money for Outreach International, a nonprofit organization that provides sustainable community development resources to impoverished countries around the world. Cadman completed a similar ride from Florida to California in 2010.



1,852

Approximate number of miles traveled during Cadman's 2014 charity bike ride





College-Town Energy Creates Buzz

Weber State's college-town circle is growing bigger by the day. The College Town Initiative between the university and Ogden City has led to a chain reaction of energy that had some major sparks in 2014-15. In February, for instance, university and city leaders from across northern Utah gathered to celebrate deep-rooted partnerships.

Other expansions included the inaugural meeting of the College Town Advisory Committee, a large committee consisting of industry and community partners who will lend their expertise to the town-and-gown effort. In addition, the city and university met with groups from across the community in an initial Diversity Connections gathering, which seeks to strengthen communication channels and relationships with residents who reflect the unique and diverse makeup of the Ogden area.

All this college-town activity has the world buzzing. Weber State and Ogden both received the Larry Abernathy Award from the International Town & Gown Association's conference in June 2015. Clemson, South Carolina's Joint City-University Board bestowed the award, which recognizes excellent college-town relationships.



Weber State University and Ogden City representatives receive the Larry Abernathy Award in Washington, D.C. From left are Richard Hyer, Ogden City Council chair; Bill Cook, executive director for the Ogden City Council; Shane Farver, chief of staff for WSU's President's Office; and Brad Mortensen, vice president of University Advancement for WSU.



50 Years of the Browning Center

It was a dream come true. The grand opening of Weber State's sprawling \$1.8 million Fine Arts Center on Dec. 13, 1964, symbolized the school's cultural coming of age and the promise of a bold future. Students and faculty finally had a place large enough to accommodate ambitious productions and learning activities. Residents of neighboring communities gained a venue to experience the finest culture the world had to offer.

It's only fitting that 50 years later, on Jan. 9, 2015, the fine arts building, now known as the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts, hosted an anniversary bash unlike any other.

An eclectic mix of performers — including Ogden's legendary jazz saxophonist Joe McQueen; NFL tackle-turned-opera singer Ta'u Pupu'a, a WSU alumnus; and the (Sara) Pickett Dance

Ensemble — dazzled the sold-out crowd. WSU theatre graduate and X-96 radio morning show co-host Bill Allred emceed the affair, which also kicked off the Browning Center's Buy-A-Seat campaign. After a half-century of steady use, seats in the Austad Auditorium and Allred Theater are well past retirement age. With the help of generous donors, and an appropriation from the Utah Legislature, wider, more comfortable theater chairs have been installed, a new seating arrangement has been implemented to improve acoustics and accessibility, and the hearing-assistive technology has been upgraded.

For details about the Buy-A-Seat campaign, contact the Development Office at 801-626-6194.



Classified!

Every year, Weber State University students, faculty and staff extend their reach into communities near and far. They tutor struggling junior high school students. They survey neighborhoods about community issues. They build women's centers in Mozambique, Africa, and dining halls for orphanages in northern Thailand.

In acknowledgement of this longstanding commitment to the greater Ogden community, the region, the state and the world, as well as its dedication to teaching students through community-engaged learning, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching awarded Weber State the esteemed 2015 Community Engagement Classification.

Only 361 of the more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the U.S. carry the designation. WSU first earned the distinction in 2008 but was required to renew its application for classification in 2015.

"Community engagement is deeply woven into the fabric and culture of the university," said **Brenda Kowalewski**, director of WSU's Center for Community Engaged Learning. "You'll find it across campus, across curriculum and across programs. It's everywhere. We, as an institution, truly 'walk the walk.'"

In addition to the Carnegie classification, Weber State was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service for the eighth consecutive year. Launched in 2006, the honor roll is the highest federal



recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to community-engaged learning and civic engagement.

WSU President **Charles A. Wight** said it is an honor to receive the two distinctions and a privilege to serve the people of Ogden, the people of Utah and the people of the world.

"More than 125 years ago, a fledgling school known as Weber Stake Academy formed to serve the community's needs," he said. "Today, what is now Weber State University remains dedicated to that community through providing quality education, promoting economic development and contributing to the richness of our regional culture. In turn, WSU is grateful for our neighbors' support and investment, which has been there all along."

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY {2014-15}



6,554
Number of students engaged in the community



163,060
Service hours contributed by WSU students

\$3,833,541*
Value of service hours

*Calculated by Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs



WSU Works to Lessen Poverty, Hunger in Africa

In 2014, WSU economics students and faculty used money from two grants to travel to Malawi, Africa, where they recorded preliminary data on agricultural practices and surveyed farmers on their willingness to engage in subsidized programs that promote conservation.

“The Malawi project is focused on creating incentives to promote adoption and compliance of conservation agriculture,” said WSU assistant economics professor **Gregory Parkhurst**, who led the research. “In the Malawi region, the poverty level is above 70 percent, and the education level of most farmers is about fourth grade. Farmers engage in conventional practices that strip the soil of vital nutrients, which cause a reduction in the quality and amount of topsoil. This reduces yield, which increases poverty.”

The process of conservation agriculture involves returning the stalks of plants back to the soil after harvest, rotating crops on the fields and using better mechanical practices in planting and harvesting. This increases vital nutrients in the topsoil, makes the soil denser and reduces erosion.

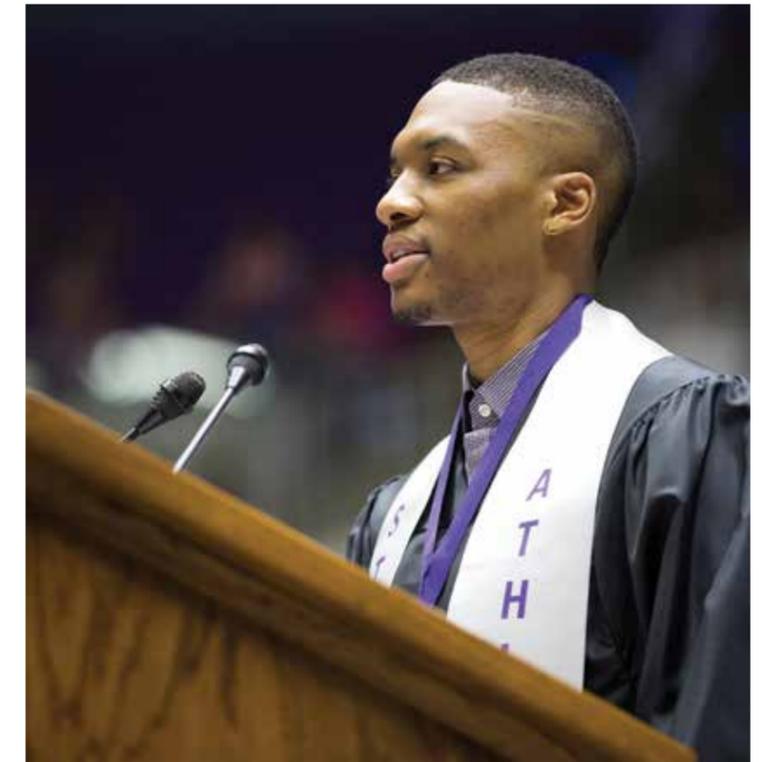
WSU students and professors gathered and interpreted the surveys. The data helped economists recommend subsidy amounts that would motivate farmers to adopt conservation agriculture for the long run. The findings were presented in Washington, D.C.



1,800

The number of Malawian farmers who were surveyed as part of the conservation agriculture study

WILDCAT ATHLETICS



Lillard Returns for Graduation

“Anything you start you should want to finish, especially your education,” Damian Lillard told graduates during WSU’s 145th Commencement in May 2015. Shortly after delivering his speech, the NBA All-Star and former Weber State All-American picked up his diploma at the College of Applied Science & Technology (now the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology) convocation. Lillard, who finished his course work during the NBA off-season, earned his degree in professional sales.

Lillard’s commitment to education triggered a media frenzy, earning Weber State national coverage after his graduation went viral on social media.



4+ MILLION

The combined number of people reached through Weber State University and WSU Athletics’ **FACEBOOK PAGES** following graduation

CHAMPIONS



WSU added a few more trophies to the case in 2014-15, as the softball and men's tennis teams each earned Big Sky Conference championships, and Waldo won a national championship.

A Team With a Dream

Six years removed from a reboot of the softball program — following a nearly 30-year break — Weber State made its debut in the NCAA tournament. En route to a school-record 38 wins, the Wildcats steamrolled through the Big Sky tournament to punch their NCAA ticket. Twelve Wildcats earned All-Conference honors, while Mary Kay Amicone was named Big Sky Coach of the Year.



SOFTBALL

WSU school record:
38 wins



MEN'S TENNIS

Three underclassmen accumulated a total of



40 wins

FOR THE WILDCATS

Game, Set, Match!

The men's tennis team earned 10 consecutive conference victories, helping the Wildcats secure back-to-back Big Sky regular-season crowns.

Juniors Jakub Gewert, Todd Fought and Landon Barlow each earned All-Conference honors and led WSU to the Big Sky postseason tournament. The three underclassmen accumulated a total of 40 wins for the Wildcats, who are primed for a three-peat attempt next season.

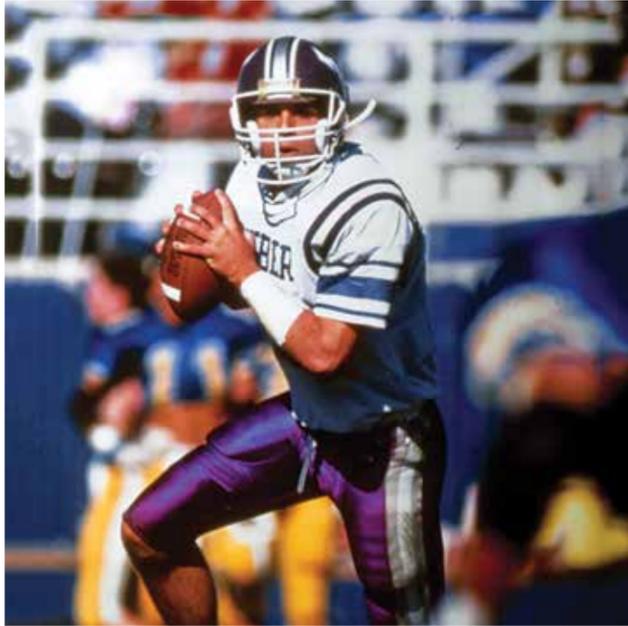
Waldo Wins National Title

Weber State knows Waldo has spirit, but now the whole country does too. Joining the WSU Spirit Squad in Daytona Beach, Florida, for the NCA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships in April 2015, Waldo won the NCA Collegiate National Mascot Championship.

Waldo defeated mascots from across the country, posting a winning score in a competition that judged character, creativity, crowd interaction, dance and the use of props.

To see Waldo's winning performance, visit weber.edu/annualreport





JAMIE MARTIN

Ranks first in school history in **TOTAL OFFENSE**

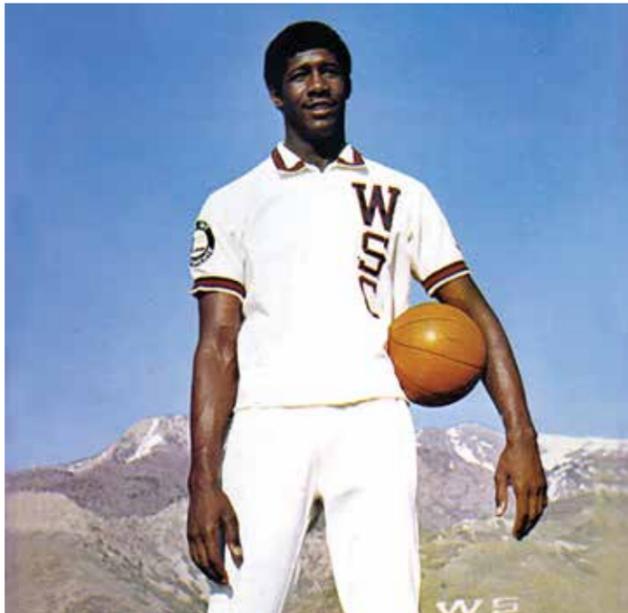


Athletics Retires First Jerseys

Standout quarterback **Jamie Martin** set WSU records in the early 1990s and still ranks first in school history in total offense. Beloved basketball player **Willie Sojourner** enjoyed immense success as a Wildcat in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and remains WSU's career leader in rebounding and the Big Sky Conference's career leader in rebounding average. The two recently made history again by having their Weber State jerseys retired.

Martin earned Division I-AA All-American honors and won the 1991 Walter Payton award, bringing national recognition to WSU's football program. In November 2014, Martin, who went on to enjoy a career in the NFL before becoming a high-school football coach, became the first WSU athlete to have his jersey retired.

Sojourner led Weber State to three straight Big Sky Conference titles and three consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament from 1968-1971. He played professionally in the American Basketball Association and in Europe. Sojourner, who died in a car crash in 2005 at the age of 57, is the first WSU basketball player to have his jersey retired. His family attended the ceremony in January 2015.



WILLE SOJOURNER

WSU's career leader in **REBOUNDING** and the Big Sky Conference's career leader in **REBOUNDING AVERAGE**



New Team Hits the Field

In the spring of 2015, 18 members of Weber State University's newest club sport, men's lacrosse, picked up their sticks for their inaugural season. The team, led by student **Kyle Gorrell** and coached by **Peter Stevenson**, recently began the admissions process into the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse Conference (RMLC) in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association.

17 The number of **CLUB SPORTS** offered at Weber State

Wildcat Chases Olympic Dream

Former Weber State women's track standout **Taylor Ward** hit the streets of Houston in January 2015, running a Chevron Houston Marathon time of 2:38:30 to qualify for the Olympic Trials.

The trials will be held in February 2016 in Los Angeles, where the 2014 WSU graduate will have a chance to represent the U.S. in the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. Ward was a four-year letter winner and Big Sky Conference champion in the 10,000-meter during her time at WSU.

2:38:30

Taylor's Chevron Houston Marathon Time





WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY

weber.edu