



A Message From the President

During the 2015-16 academic year, Weber State realized some big dreams. One of the biggest was the successful conclusion of *Dream 125: The Campaign for Weber State*. Back when the university began that comprehensive campaign, we aspired to raise \$125 million to secure the future of this university.

By the campaign's official closing on June 30, 2016, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters and students had all pushed the total fundraising amount to above \$164 million! Those 16,640 campaign donors' dedication to Weber State will reverberate through the decades. I am humbled by all of our contributors' generosity, which will *provide opportunity, enhance campus and advance knowledge* for years to come.

The successes detailed in this annual report are organized under the campaign themes of providing opportunity, enhancing campus and advancing knowledge. We've also added engaging the community and athletics because Weber State wouldn't be great, Great, GREAT without them.

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY

When recent dental hygiene graduate **Stephanie Carranza** walked across the stage during the spring 2016 commencement, she carried the memory of her sister, **Pamela Carranza**, with her. A fellow WSU graduate, Pamela died of cancer before her own commencement. A new scholarship will carry Pamela's memory as well.

ENHANCING CAMPUS

The conclusion of the 2015-16 academic year also marked the completion of major construction for the Tracy Hall Science Center, which is now open for students. The vision and passion of many supporters coalesced into a campus facility that captures the wonder of science and elegance of mathematics.

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

Lisa Trujillo, WSU's director of clinical education for respiratory therapy, realizes that knowledge is best when it's shared. Toward those ends, she traveled with Weber State students to the country of Ghana in an effort to improve medical knowledge and support there.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Efficient processes don't just improve the bottom line, they improve human lives. Such was the case at Catholic Community Services' Joyce Hansen Hall Food Bank, where WSU students and assistant professor **Sebastian Brockhaus** enabled those in need of food to get it more quickly.

ATHLETICS

A promising young athlete sometimes just needs the right environment and the right color of jersey (purple, of course) to make big dreams happen. Just ask former Weber State player and Utah Jazz team member **Joel Bolomboy**.



With best wishes,

Charles A. Wight

As we reflect upon an amazing academic year, let's continue to look for ways to *make dreams happen.*



WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT
2015-16

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY FACTS & FIGURES

Weber State University was named a
**2016 GREAT COLLEGE
TO WORK FOR**
by the Chronicle of Higher Education

**MORE THAN
225**
degree programs

\$164,392,217.21
The amount raised through the *Dream* **125** campaign

TOP 10th
DEGREE PROGRAMS
5-YEAR TOTAL
Academic Years 2012 through 2016

1	Nursing	3,411
2	Radiologic Sciences	1,144
3	Business Administration	1,125
4	Computer Science	785
5	Criminal Justice	726
6	Medical Laboratory Sciences	689
7	Engineering Technology	676
8	Accounting/Taxation	673
9	Health Promotion and Human Performance	667
10	Health Administrative Services	649

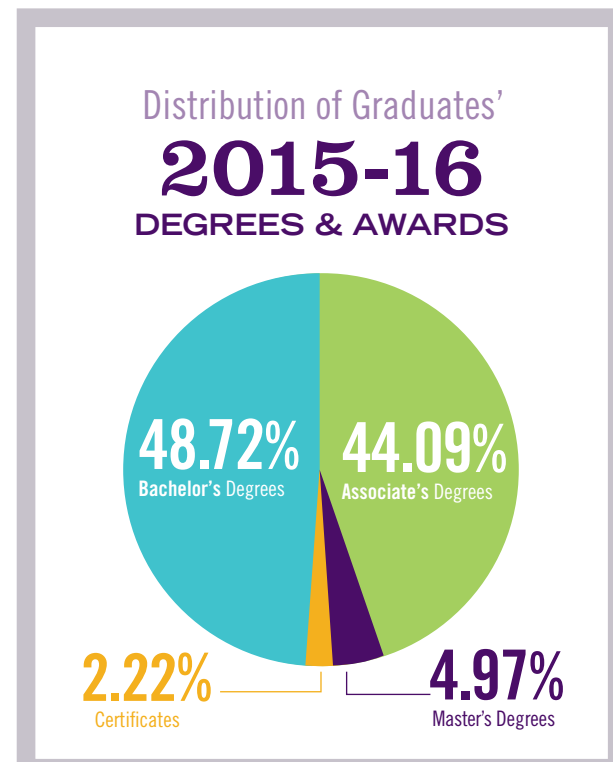
**STUDENT TO
FACULTY
RATIO:**
21:1

\$1.7 million
The amount WSU saved in fiscal year 2015 through
SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS and programs



25,955
Fall 2015 Enrollment

In 2015-16, WSU provided more than
\$92 million
in **SCHOLARSHIPS
& FINANCIAL AID**
to more than **13,150**
STUDENTS



WSU has been named to the
**PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMUNITY SERVICE
HONOR ROLL**
for **10** CONSECUTIVE
years

**Weber State University
RANKED AMONG:**

U.S. News & World Report's
**BEST REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES
IN THE WEST**

College Choice's
**BEST WESTERN
Regional
Universities**

Washington Monthly's
**BEST COLLEGES
for
ADULT LEARNERS**

The Princeton Review's
**BEST WESTERN
COLLEGES**

144

Student-athletes earned
**ACADEMIC
ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS**
in 2015-16

14
**MASTER'S
DEGREE PROGRAMS,**
with the recent addition
of the Master of Science in
**RESPIRATORY
THERAPY**

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY

Breaking Barriers

Victoria Alvizurez is the oldest of 35 grandchildren and the first in her family to attend college. A senior, she is majoring in computer science. Her dream is to become a software engineer. In April 2016, Victoria, along with a panel of her peers, addressed WSU's National Advisory Council (NAC). "I would not be in college if it weren't for Upward Bound and my parents, who are my biggest supporters," she said.

A Weber State Access & Diversity program, Upward Bound helps underrepresented high schoolers build academic and social skills.

Stories like Victoria's move **Enrique Romo** to tears. As WSU's executive director for Access & Diversity — a new position created in 2015 — Romo's goal is to "increase the number of underrepresented students in the educational pipeline, and to empower those students to break barriers."

NAC member **Karla Bergeson**, a former banking executive, heaped praise on the student panelists. "I want you to know that diversity is power," she said. "When you share your perspectives with people from different backgrounds, it makes everyone stronger. You are powerful; bring that with you into the world."

Reflecting Our Community

WSU is a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, an organization that champions Hispanic success in higher education. Romo says he would like to see Weber State become a federally designated Hispanic-serving institution (HSI).

To be an HSI, 25 percent of an institution's total enrollment must consist of Hispanic students. Weber State is currently at 10 percent.

"Ogden has one of the largest percentages of Latinos in Utah," Romo said. "We want our enrollment demographic to reflect that of our community. To do that, we need to make sure the voices of underrepresented students are heard and understood, and we will do just that."

ACCESS & DIVERSITY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Access and Outreach

Diversity and Inclusive Programs

Center for Multicultural Excellence

Transition Programs and Partnerships

LGBT Resource Center

Victoria Alvizurez



O-Town Kitchen

On Saturdays in the summer, Weber State graduates Isaac Farley and Nestor Robles can be found at farmers markets stretching from Logan to Park City, Utah. Outdoor markets are the best places to sell goods from their nonprofit organization, O-Town Kitchen, which produces uniquely flavored homemade jams and jellies made from surplus food donated by local businesses.

The kitchen employs homeless parents to make the products, using processes approved by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

“Our jams taste like they were made by mom because we give jobs to single mothers who were having trouble finding work,” the kitchen’s founders explain on their website. “Some of our employees used to be homeless and are getting back on their feet; others are disabled. All of them are loving moms with a passion for cooking.”

Farley knows what it's like to be homeless — he’s been there.

“The most rewarding part is working with moms who are in tough situations, like my own family was,” Farley said.

Both Farley and Robles received their Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in 2015 and minored in entrepreneurship through WSU’s Alan E. Hall Global Entrepreneurship Center.

To hear more of their story, visit weber.edu/annualreport.



40%
of food in the U.S. goes
UNEATEN
*Natural Resources Defense Council

40%
of those experiencing
homelessness in Utah
are **FAMILIES**
*Utah Department of Workforce Services

Stumbling Into a Perfect Fit

Students come to Weber State for different reasons. Some are lured by scholarships. Others are drawn to the reputation of a specific program or professor. To cut costs, many students choose a school close to home. Joshua Redhair came to WSU in 2013 because he was trapped.

On his own since 18, the Provo, Utah, native had flunked out of Utah Valley University and was working a dead-end retail job in Riverdale, Utah. “It took a couple of years of that before I realized I wanted to travel the world and get involved in politics one way or another,” Redhair said. Luckily, Weber State (with its open-admission policy) was just around the corner.

“My original plan was to get my associate’s degree and transfer to a ‘better’ school. Then I got into Weber State’s political science program, met my professors and thought, ‘Wow! This is an amazing place, and I want to stay here!’” recalled Redhair, who graduated in the spring of 2016.

In the summer of 2015, Redhair participated in a study abroad program led by Stephanie Wolfe, assistant political science professor. During the eye-opening trip to Africa, he interacted with victims and perpetrators of Rwanda’s grisly 1994 genocide. The experience motivated him to work for a nongovernmental organization that promotes peace and development in war-torn regions.

First, though, comes graduate school. Following a summer internship with the international group Never Again Rwanda, the former college dropout has begun a master’s program at the University of Kent’s Brussels School of International Studies in Brussels, Belgium.

To hear more about Redhair’s journey, visit weber.edu/annualreport.



Farley, right, and two O-Town Kitchen participants inspect a delivery of fruit.

ENHANCE CAMPUS



Crews work to bore deep-water wells below the parking lot on the north side of the stadium.

A Green Legacy

It comes as no surprise that a college campus has a lot of energy. But Weber State literally uses sustainable energy sources above and below ground to power the institution and save money.

The Utah Association of Energy Users recently presented WSU with its Outstanding Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Conservation award, noting a number of innovative projects including one now hidden below the parking lot on the north side of Stewart Stadium.

Over the summer, crews bored more than 200 wells, 275 feet deep, to tap into the earth's consistent temperature. Since the 1960s, Weber State has warmed and cooled its buildings with super-heated steam or chilled water circulating through 1.5 miles of pipe in tunnels connected to every building.

WSU will continue to use the pipes, but now part of the water's path will travel through the wells, where temperature is restored to an even 57 degrees. This will dramatically reduce energy consumption.



15%

WSU's reduction in
CARBON EMISSIONS

29%

Reduction in **ELECTRICITY**
CONSUMPTION

33%

Reduction in **NATURAL GAS**
CONSUMPTION

*As of fiscal year 2015 when compared to a 2007 baseline

Taking advantage of the power of the sun, a new 2-megawatt solar installation will soon begin generating nearly 100 percent of the electricity needed at WSU Davis.

The sun also will power the university's fleet of utility vehicles. Maintenance crews drive electric golf carts that, this year, will be mounted with solar panels on the roofs to generate electricity.

Campus neighbors are following the university's example.

In collaboration with the Susie Hulet Community Solar Program, the university educated 600+ community members about the benefits of solar energy. Households in Davis, Morgan and Weber counties installed more than 2,500 solar panels, resulting in nearly 1 million kilowatt-hours of energy generation each year.

Energetic support of sustainability is turning every corner of Weber State green. The English department just received the first Green Team award. In a newly created competition, participating departments earn points for energy and waste reduction.

"Living a green lifestyle is a central characteristic of the WSU community," said **Jacob Cain**, WSU's operations director. "Our long-term strategy is to get completely off fossil fuels, get onto electric and then produce electricity renewably. That's our carbon-neutral strategy in a nutshell. We took our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050 seriously. We know how we're going to do it and will probably reach our goal 10 years ahead of schedule."

New Tracy Hall Science Center Dazzles

After a VIP-studded ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 24, 2016, the \$77 million Tracy Hall Science Center is officially open. Named in honor of H. Tracy Hall, a Weber alumnus, scientist and inventor of the laboratory process for making synthetic diamonds, the 189,544-square-foot science center merges the wonders of science and math with the beauty of nature.



Tracy Hall Science Center BY THE NUMBERS

- 2 RESEARCH TOWERS
- 4 FLOORS
- 14 classrooms
- 20 research laboratories
- 25 teaching laboratories
- 88 full-time faculty and staff
- 294 ROOMS
- 600 tons of structural steel
- 11,554 yards of concrete
- 258,752 BRICKS



A Record-Setting Gift; A Much-Needed Renovation

On Feb. 8, 2016, Weber State announced a \$6.8 million pledge from alumnus **John E. Lindquist**, president of Lindquist Mortuaries and Great Western Insurance. It is the largest single cash gift from an individual in school history. Five million dollars will help fund an extensive remodel of the aging Social Science building.

“The current building reflects the priorities and learning models of the past,” said **Frank Harrold**, dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences. “This generous donation will help provide a building that integrates the best knowledge of the present and projections for the future, and it offers an educational experience in the social sciences that prepares our students for the world they will face.”

The remainder of the donation will likely be earmarked for scholarships.



12

The number of departments and programs housed in the Social Science building

1972

The year the building opened

4,000

The number of people the building serves per day



Where Have All the Books Gone?

Fortunately, they’re just in storage while the Stewart Library undergoes a renovation. The south wing of the library will be finished in December 2016, and the north wing will reopen in June 2017. When completed, the library will feature quiet study and collaborative spaces for students, offices for faculty research, better natural lighting, easier elevator accessibility, a testing center and improved collection shelving. The library has remained open to students and community patrons during the renovation.



Getting in the Loop

It’s music to the ears of hearing-impaired patrons of the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts ... literally. A recent \$100,000 investment in hearing assistive technology leaves the center’s three main stages outfitted with induction loop systems, or hearing loops, that interact with telecoil-equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Browning Center director **Frank Bradshaw** said the beauty of the new system is that no one else in the audience will ever know who’s hard of hearing and who isn’t. “A person with hearing loss no longer has to check out a clunky device at the box office, wear it around the neck or sit in a special seat,” he explained.

Utah Rep. **Gage Froerer**, who is deaf in one ear, knows the frustration of attending films, lectures and other public performances and not being able to follow along. “If you’re missing all or part of a conversation, you become kind of invisible,” Froerer said. “You’re put into an uncomfortable situation, so you just back off and tend not to participate in those types of events.”

Froerer, whose legislative duties included working with an association of audiologists, encouraged Bradshaw to purchase hearing loops. “We thought it was important to be proactive about making the performing arts as accessible as possible to all populations, including the hearing-impaired,” Bradshaw said. “To our knowledge, we are the first major theater in Utah to install hearing induction loops.”

344,000

The number of Utahns who are deaf or hard of hearing

*Utah Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE



Tiny on Space, Big on Sustainability

A team of seniors in WSU's College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology spent a year designing and building Ogden's first net-zero "tiny studio." At 498 square feet, the energy-efficient studio will annually produce at least the same amount of energy it uses. Students worked under **Jeremy Farner**, associate professor of design engineering technology, and used space in the backyard of WSU associate geography professor **Julie Rich**. A new group of students will continue work on the interior of the building during the 2016-17 academic year. The studio will be a living laboratory where students and community members can learn about green building and sustainability.

Standing Ovation

Adding more bling to the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities' treasure-trove of national honors, two performing arts students drew rave reviews at consecutive Kennedy Center American College Theater festivals in Washington, D.C.

Shawnee K. Johnson received a 2015 Distinguished Achievement award for her fearless portrayal of a hard-nosed English professor, humanized by terminal cancer, in the heart-wrenching drama *Wit*.

William Peterson's moody lighting design for WSU's psychological thriller *9 Circles* captured the festival's 2016 Barbizon Award for Excellence in Lighting Design and earned him an all-expenses paid design week with the Cirque du Soleil team in Las Vegas. **Jessica Greenberg**, assistant professor of lighting, sound and projection design, guided Peterson through the challenging creative process. For her dedication to students, Greenberg received the Lindquist College's 2016 Outstanding Mentor Award.

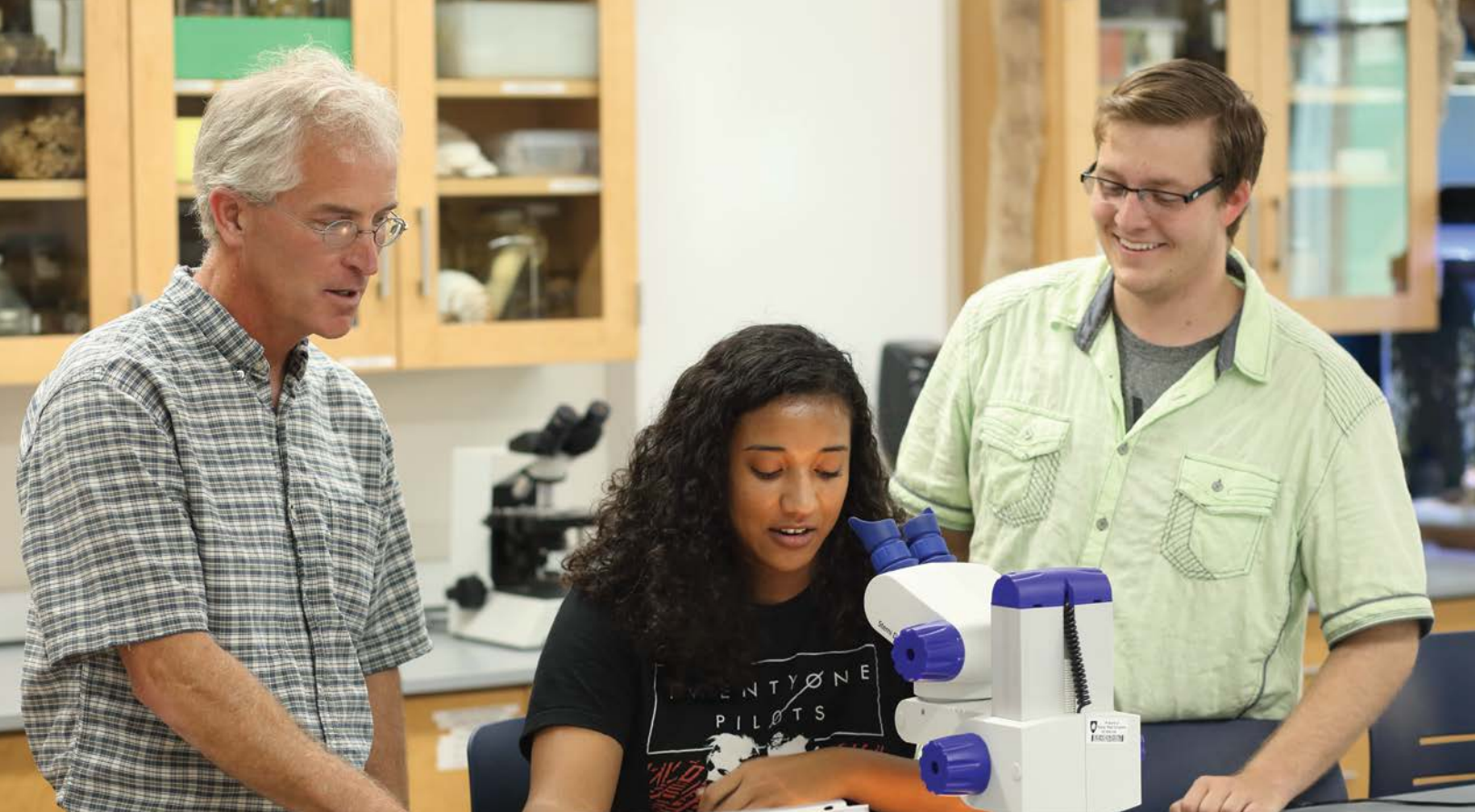
Graphic design student **Kiersten Garner** was among the top five winners of the Society of Publication Designers' 2015 national student design competition.

By winning an invitational tournament in November 2015, **Weber State Debate** scored its first top-10 national ranking from the Cross Examination Debate Association.



Lindquist College Welcomes New Dean

In July 2016, the Lindquist College bid a hearty bienvenue to its new dean, **Scott Sprenger**. Previously, Sprenger was provost at the American University of Paris. He is also the former associate dean of Brigham Young University's College of Humanities.



John Mull, left, guides students through an exercise during the grand opening of the Tracy Hall Science Center.

‘Mull’-ing Over Entomology

Meet John Mull, Weber State University’s own Ant Man.

“What got me interested in ants is the range of ecological effects they have,” said Mull, a professor in the Department of Zoology. “They are involved in a whole slew of interactions with other species, from bacteria and fungi, to plants, to larger animals that eat them.”

To hear Mull speak so passionately about ants, you’d never know the narrow-waisted insects weren’t his first choice of study. Mull earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Pittsburgh, where he researched birds. He attended Utah State University for his doctorate in biology/ecology. It was there Mull switched his focus.

“When I got to graduate school, I thought I would continue to work on birds, but my advisor said he wasn’t interested in having a student working on birds, so he gave me three different options: spiders, grasshoppers or ants,” Mull said.

And the rest is history.

Mull’s current research involves the ways in which animals — including ants — disperse seeds from the endangered dwarf bear-poppy, a plant that grows only in a few locations

in Washington County, Utah. He’s also done extensive research on harvester ants, a species with colonies in the foothills near the Ogden campus.

Mull shares his research findings with students in his courses, including ecology and entomology. He has also joined students for their fieldwork, including research on bees in Snow Canyon State Park and research on two federally endangered plant species.

Mull is also involved with WSU’s annual Ritchey Science and Engineering Fair, the Environmental Issues Committee, the Honors Program and Zoology Club. His work in the community includes having served as chair of the board of directors for HawkWatch International, a nonprofit group dedicated to birds of prey, and co-founding Antelope Island State Park’s annual spider festival. He was named an Honors Eccles Fellow in 2004 and the Nye-Cortez Honors Professor in the 2004-05 academic year.

Recently, WSU honored Mull as a 2016 Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor. “It was a very gratifying and humbling experience,” Mull said. “There are a lot of very worthy people on campus, so to be selected for that was very nice.”

STEM: In Water and On Land

Junior high students from across Utah dove into marine technology engineering and science with the SeaPerch competition at WSU’s Swenson Gym Pool. It was sink or swim for their remotely operated underwater vehicles. However it turned out, though, kids got the chance to develop skills such as submarine design, propulsion, waterproofing and buoyancy.

On land, the FIRST Tech Challenge gave students opportunities to use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to design, build and program robots to complete specific tasks. WSU has hosted the competition for four years.

“STEM competitions promote problem solving and creative thinking,” said Dana Dellinger, outreach director for WSU’s College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST). “The goal is to inspire students to become innovators, engineers, scientists and creators.”



During the Dream 125 campaign, EAST was given a significant gift from the Ray and Tye Noorda Foundation that provides the seed money for a new, spacious, high-tech, sustainable building. The facility will give students, faculty and staff a much-needed new home to explore projects in areas like renewable energy and bolster outreach activities to encourage young people to pursue engineering careers.



Mentoring Success

Matthew Nicholaou, assistant professor and chair of the medical laboratory sciences (MLS) department, received an award from the Office of Undergraduate Research for mentoring undergraduate research students.

Nicholaou mentored MLS students **Candace Adamson**, **Katie Wilkinson** and **Tyler Wilkinson**, whose research on how to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria took first prize during a poster contest at the 71st Ogden Surgical-Medical Society conference. Nicholaou also mentored Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering & Science student **Karissa Wang**, who qualified for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair with her research on a new gene-editing tool.

“The best way for students to learn critical thinking and troubleshooting skills is to work on getting a failed experiment to succeed,” Nicholaou said. “It is an absolute pleasure to watch students struggle and succeed as they progress through their projects.”



Matthew Nicholaou assists student Karissa Wang in her research.



Discussing the Teacher Shortage

In October 2015, 78 education leaders from across Utah convened at Weber State for the Utah Council of Education Deans’ annual conference, where they examined the state and nation’s teacher shortage.

Attendees discussed a number of challenges facing the teaching profession, including heavy workloads, politicized environments, high-stakes testing and challenging student behaviors. They also brainstormed ways to combat misperceptions about the profession and considered different methods of recruiting and retaining teachers, such as introducing high school students to the profession earlier in their education.

“The issues discussed at the conference weigh on the minds of deans of education across our state,” said **Jack Rasmussen**, dean of WSU’s Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education. “We want prospective educators in Utah to know that education is a rewarding professional career.”

Helping Ghana Patients Breathe Easier

Eight weeks: That’s how long **Lisa Trujillo**, Weber State associate respiratory therapy professor, spent in Ghana during the summer of 2016. Working alongside colleagues at the University of Ghana, Trujillo helped get the West African nation’s first respiratory therapy bachelor’s degree program ready for its initial cohort of students.

Five years: That’s how long Trujillo has been involved in this monumental project.

A decade: That’s how long she has been serving the people of Ghana during medical missions, and how long she has been bringing students on study abroad trips to provide medical and community health education.

One second: That’s how long it takes Trujillo to smile when she talks about the eight Ghanaian students who, in the fall of 2016, began courses to become licensed respiratory therapists.

“They are so excited,” said Trujillo, who could barely contain her own excitement. “I have a video of each of them saying their name and that they’ll be studying respiratory therapy.” (Visit weber.edu/annualreport to watch the short video.)

The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy is the first of its kind in Ghana and throughout Africa, Trujillo said. In a country where asthma, emphysema and pulmonary disease are widespread, respiratory therapy training is badly needed.

Trujillo and **Paul Eberle**, respiratory therapy department chair, worked with hospital and university staff in Ghana to develop the curriculum, which is patterned after Weber State’s. Trujillo and her colleagues will continue to assist the program through mentoring and training. The partnership also will lead to additional opportunities for WSU students to learn and do research with their fellow students in Ghana.

For her work, Trujillo received the International Council for Respiratory Care’s 2016 Toshihiko Koga, MD International Medal. The honor recognizes individuals for promoting the globalization of quality respiratory care.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the top two causes of death for Ghanaians are **RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES** and **MALARIA**, each accounting for 9 percent of deaths.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY Master’s Degree Starts Up

In the fall of 2016, an inaugural group of 13 students began the new Master of Science in Respiratory Therapy program at WSU. The degree will help respiratory therapists secure advanced roles in clinical practice as consultants, researchers, educators and/or team leaders and department administrators.



Lisa Trujillo, top photo, right, works with health professionals in Ghana.

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY



Charitable Chairs

During its 2016 Charitable Chair auction, Weber State University's interior design program raised more than \$12,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis. Every year, interior design students select chairs of historical design and refurbish them to create usable, well-crafted pieces of furniture that reflect the style of the chairs' original time periods.

26

The number of chairs auctioned at the 2016 Charitable Chair event



WSU students cast molds for products made by local companies.

Students' Big Ideas Boost Businesses

The Concept Center at Weber State is bringing students, faculty and local companies together with engineering research, product development and design.

Housed in the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology, the Concept Center evolved from the Utah Center for Aeronautical Innovation and Design. It now focuses on providing students hands-on learning experiences through a broad range of industry-sponsored projects, such as testing new concepts in bicycle brake levers for Ogden-based company TRP Brakes.

"The Concept Center is good for the community as it puts a small part of the university in a reciprocal position of involvement with others," said Nicholas Riddle, TRP director of product development. "It's not just an isolated, idealized environment on the hill."

100+

The number of companies that have collaborated with the Concept Center



A student holds a prototype made for a local business.



Chain of Caring

Outside Catholic Community Services' (CCS) Joyce Hansen Hall Food Bank, clients were lining up and waiting hours to be served. The food bank couldn't keep up with demand, especially during the busy holiday season.

WSU supply chain management (SCM) students, led by assistant professor **Sebastian Brockhaus**, came to the rescue. After two semesters of gathering data and interviewing clients, students recommended new hours that would help the food bank better serve people.

Since implementing the new hours in September 2015, clients have been served much more efficiently, said Marcie Valdez, former CCS Northern Utah director.

"I really enjoyed it," said **Jacky Torres**, an SCM senior who worked on the project. "I was able to do community service while applying what I was learning in class. It helped me get a better idea of how the business world actually works."



In 2016, Weber State's supply chain management program received a \$5 million gift from **Jerry Moyes**, the owner of Swift Transportation. The program will be named the **Jerry & Vickie Moyes Center for Supply Chain Excellence** within the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics.

The donation will give students even more opportunities to solve real-life business problems.

A Voice for Those Suffering From Addiction

After losing a friend to a drug overdose, **Madelaine Tesori** became a voice for those facing addiction. "One of the last things my friend said to me was that she felt like the devil had a hold of her, and that she thought she was never going to be able to break free from it," Tesori recalled.

A senior double majoring in political science and communication with an emphasis in civic advocacy, Tesori is a board member for **Shannon J. Scholarship (SJS)**, a nonprofit organization offering financial assistance to those seeking treatment for drug or alcohol addiction. Tesori began volunteering with SJS in 2012. The organization is named for **Shannon J. Wolverton**, who died in a car accident just four days after texting his sister that he wanted help for his alcohol addiction.

Tesori was honored with a 2016 Newman Civic Fellows Award, which is given to college students throughout the United States who invest in finding solutions for challenges facing communities.

After graduation, Tesori hopes to help change the ways society treats addiction and the people who suffer from it. "It's a public health issue," she said. "Addiction is a disease, and it can be treated."



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY {2015-16}



6,762
Number of students
engaged in the community



139,830
Service hours contributed
by WSU students

\$3,300,000
Value of service hours

*Calculated by Independent Sector



Learning to Give, Learning to Lead

Philanthropy exercises in two of Michael Vaughan’s courses taught students lessons in giving, as well as lessons in leadership, research, collaboration and conflict resolution. As director of Weber State’s Center for the Study of Poverty and Economic Inequality and an economics professor, Vaughan immersed students in his MBA leadership class and freshman Honors class in real-life experiences requiring the allocation of funds to nonprofit organizations.

In Vaughan’s MBA course, three teams of four students were challenged with identifying, selecting and contributing \$2,000 — donated by Vaughan — to a nonprofit organization in Weber or Davis County.

“Leadership exercises are very common in courses such as this one, but most are artificial. For example, participants are taken to a 10-foot-wall, where they must work together to scale the wall,” Vaughan explained. “I wanted to put students in a situation where they had to collaborate and make decisions, but in a realistic environment, where they had to decide how to allocate actual money to real organizations.”

Vaughan didn’t intend to incorporate the exercise in his freshman Honors course, which included students majoring in everything from criminal justice and social work to math education and health professions. But he was so impressed by his students that he decided to try it.

“Earlier in the semester, the (Honors) students created artwork to convey the message of poverty. The pieces were put on display in the Kimball Visual Arts Center. I felt like they were ready to handle the philanthropy exercise,” Vaughan said.

It was a success.

Student evaluations from Vaughan’s courses were positive. One called the project “thought-provoking.” Another said, “I enjoyed the philanthropy project. It gave me a new outlook (on poverty and economic inequality).”

Between the MBA and Honors classes, students donated **\$9,000** to charities such as Youth Impact, Your Community Connection, the Christmas Box House and the Homeless Veterans Fellowship.



Nursing student Austin Francis (left) presents a check to Robb Hall of Youth Impact.



Photo by Briana Scroggins, Standard-Examiner

Raul Martinez (middle) reacts as he wins the 2015 spelling bee.

Un Gran E-X-I-T-O A big s-u-c-c-e-s-s

Weber State’s student chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, hosted Utah’s first statewide Spanish spelling bee in 2015, and the turnout was estupendo, estupendo, estupendo — great, great, great! Isabel Asensio, associate Spanish professor and Sigma Delta Pi advisor, helped organize the event, which featured Spanish- and non-Spanish-speaking elementary and junior high school students from St. George, Utah, to Ogden. Fifth-grader Raul Martinez, from Dixie Sun Elementary in St. George, took first place.

The event was such a success that a second was held in 2016, with Lauren Cornell, a seventh-grader from North Davis Preparatory Academy, coming in first. The first-, second- and third-place winners each received copies of *Don Quijote de la Mancha* to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the book’s author, Miguel de Cervantes.

30 The number of students who participated in Utah’s first statewide **SPANISH SPELLING BEE** in 2015

Language Diversity Research

Isabel Asensio and colleagues Gina Shelley, assistant professor of teacher education, Pamela Payne, assistant professor of child and family studies, and Electra Gamón Fielding, assistant Spanish professor, received a 2016 Hemingway Faculty Excellence Award for their work on a research project titled “At Home: Parents’ Perspectives on Raising Bilingual Kids and Bilingual Education.” The findings will provide a better understanding of parents’ and children’s needs in terms of language diversity and resources in Ogden.

WILDCAT ATHLETICS



Weber State: An NBA Pipeline

For the second time in five years, Weber State men's basketball sent a player to the NBA when star forward **Joel Bolomboy** was selected No. 52 overall by the Utah Jazz in the 2016 NBA draft. Just three months removed from helping the Wildcats win the Big Sky Conference Championship, the Big Sky MVP heard his name called in the second round by a professional franchise that is just 45 minutes down the road from Weber State.

"It's going to be real cool," said Bolomboy, who the Jazz officially signed in August 2016. "I'm always going to be in the gym watching the (Weber State team) practice, and when I have time, I'm going to watch them play. I'll be just down the road, so we'll see each other a lot."

Bolomboy follows WSU alumnus **Damian Lillard**, who was drafted by the Portland Trailblazers in 2012.



Deeshyra Thomas

Wildcat Revival

Weber State women's basketball enjoyed a resurgent season in 2015-16, finishing as the winningest women's basketball team in school history. The Wildcats' 23-12 record marked the first time since 2002-03 that WSU had a 20-win season.

The Wildcats advanced to the Big Sky tournament, beating the University of Portland in the opening round to earn their first conference tournament win since 2007.

Although the team suffered a heartbreaking, buzzer-beater loss to Idaho in the quarterfinal round of the championship, Weber State was invited to the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI), a national postseason tournament. The Wildcats mowed through New Mexico, North Dakota and the University of South Carolina Upstate in the WBI before losing the championship game to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in double overtime.

Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year **Brittney Dunbar** and All-Conference players **Regina Okoye** and **Deeshyra Thomas** led the Wildcats.

We've Got *Spirit!*

The Weber State University Spirit Squad added more hardware to its trophy case in 2015-16. The team won the Large Coed Show Cheer category at the USA Collegiate Cheer Championship in Anaheim, California. The squad placed second at the NCA Collegiate Nationals in Daytona Beach, Florida, in the Coed Cheer Division 1 category.





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The number of
Big Sky Conference
CHAMPIONSHIPS
won in 2015-16



Women's
cross-country



Men's basketball



Softball



Men's tennis

Stadium House Finished

In 2015-16, 144 Wildcats earned Academic All-Conference honors, and the new Stadium House for Student-Athlete Success was built to help continue that trend. The 4,000-square-foot building, located just south of Stewart Stadium, features a computer lab, private rooms for small-group study, a multipurpose room and offices for academic advisors.



Teaming Up for the Community

It's no secret that Weber State is connected to its community, but WSU student-athletes once again took their service efforts to the next level. Working with more than 20 entities, Wildcats in 2015-16 contributed 7,174 volunteer service hours to cities, nonprofits and schools. Combined with the spirit squad, WSU student-athletes logged almost 3,000 more hours than the previous year.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee organized the collection of more than 7,000 Box Tops for Education, which were donated to the Ogden School District. Wildcats also worked with the Christmas Box House and Project Elf to provide gifts to 22 children from the Ogden area.



Weber State University claimed the 2016 Big Sky Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Cup, honoring student-athlete involvement in the community.

We are Weber.

We put teaching first. We forge strong connections.
We are dedicated and resourceful, down to earth and forward thinking.

**We know how to challenge you,
and we care enough to do it.**

We are proudly rooted in our community while we pioneer beyond boundaries.
We are unique in our ability to welcome everyone who has a dream
— to learn, to grow, to lead, to excel, to find your passion, to provide for your family
— and we offer the personalized opportunities, experiences and support to
transform that dream into reality.

Our doors, and minds, are open.



**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Make *your dream* happen.