

Connections **STRENGTHEN US**



WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT
2021–2022

DEAR WEBER STATE FAMILY:

As we begin year two of our strategic plan, *Weber State Amplified*, a 5-year plan for growth, we are committed to continuing WSU's legacy of being a leader in transforming lives.

No recognition from the past year sums this up more aptly than a study from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, showing that a degree from WSU ranks in the top 10 percent of 4,500 U.S. higher education institutions for return on investment, whether that is 10 years or 40 years after graduation.

Your continued support of Weber State ensures that the educational opportunities we provide remain incomparable in the region, state and nation.

This year's annual report, *Connections Strengthen Us*, walks you through the lives of students and the faculty and staff who are challenging and guiding them to achieve their goals academically and in life. These inspiring stories and successes demonstrate the power and impact happening at our university.

Students such as senior **MARÍA RIOS CABRERA**, who switched from a larger university to WSU and found a supportive environment, will continue to succeed and share their newfound success with peers. Rios Cabrera, a double major in mechanical engineering and economics and a minor in math, dreams of building a school in her home country of Honduras. She has a passion for working with students who have learning disabilities, and she channels her passion through mentoring these students. Because of her extraordinary service, Rios Cabrera earned WSU's distinguished Ivory Prize for Excellence in Student Leadership and Community Engagement. (Read her full story on page 17.)

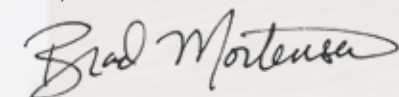
Along with sharing inspirational stories like Rios Cabrera's, we hope this report demonstrates the commitment to our goals in *Amplified*. The plan outlines efforts to take the next step in providing even more personalized and academically excellent opportunities to more students in an equitable and inclusive way so they realize higher retention and completion rates and generate an even larger impact in our community.

We are excited to enter our first year dedicating partner-supported resources to becoming an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution to reflect the demographic changes in our state and achieve a federal designation that unlocks additional resources for all WSU students.

This report gives us the opportunity to tell our story more loudly and proudly, so even more people learn about Weber State's success. At every opportunity, we seek to enhance the educational experience at Weber State and unleash the creative potential of every individual.

We invite you to read this annual report from cover to cover as each article and photo captures why Weber State continues to be the premier destination for access, learning and community.

Best,



Brad L. Mortensen, President



Contents



EQUITY, DIVERSITY
& INCLUSION

4



RETENTION
& COMPLETION

12



FACTS
& FIGURES

20



PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
& ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE...

24



COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS

38



ACHIEVEMENTS
IN ATHLETICS

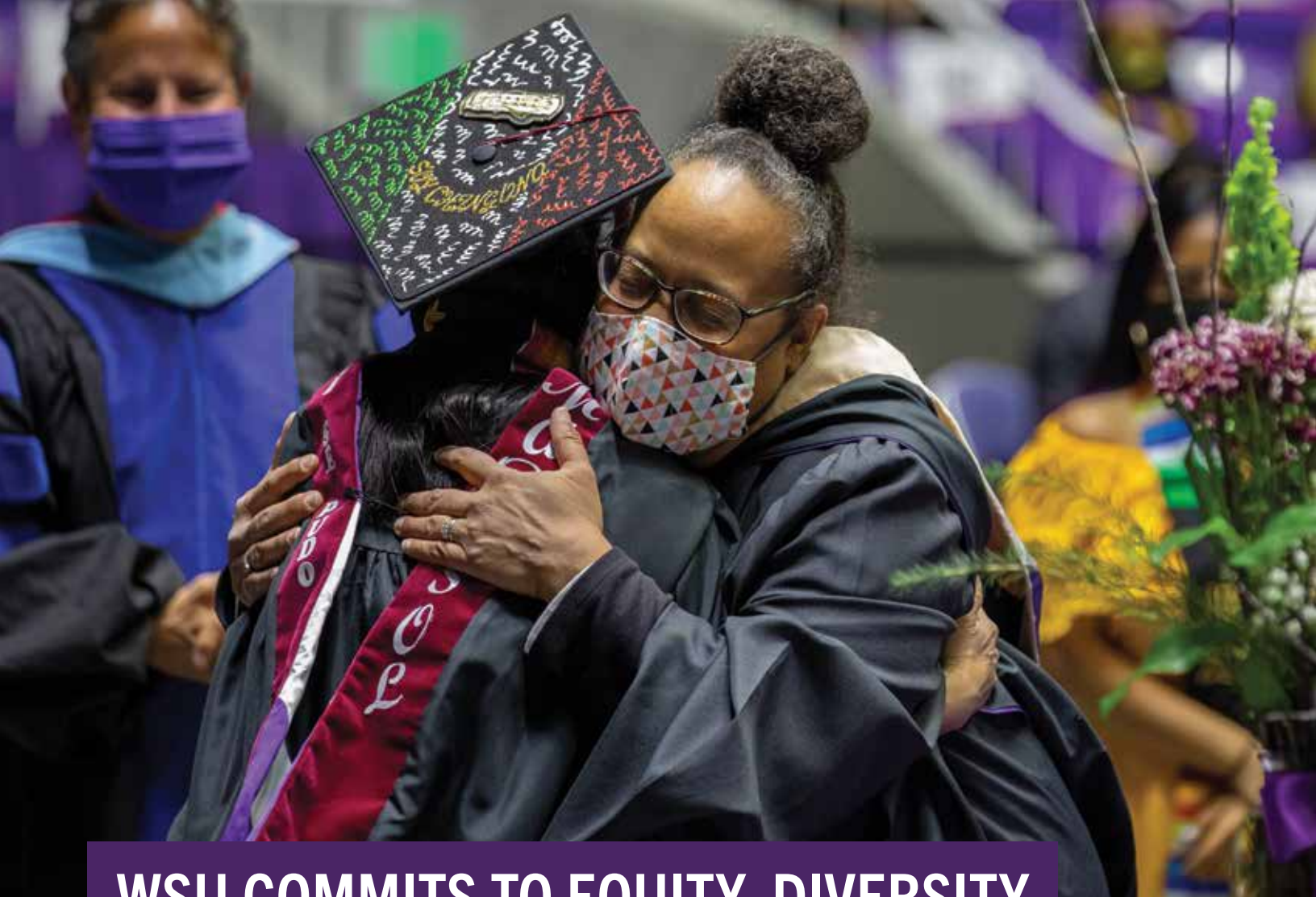
44



Learn more about our strategic plan goals:
weber.edu/strategic-plan

EQUITY, DIVERSITY *and* INCLUSION





WSU COMMITS TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WITH NEW DIVISION

In January 2022, WSU President **BRAD MORTENSEN** announced the creation of the Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with **ADRIENNE ANDREWS**, former university assistant vice president for diversity and chief diversity officer, serving as vice president.

The division advances the goal of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion outlined in the university's latest strategic plan, *Weber State Amplified*, a 5-year plan for growth, which affirms the university's commitment to become an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution by increasing the percentage of students who identify as Hispanic or Latino to 15% by fall 2025.

"Embracing the diversity of our campus community is pivotal to Weber State's mission,"

Andrews said. "With this new division, it is an opportunity to build upon previous progress and continue cultivating an environment of inclusion, understanding and respect."

Programs, centers and offices formerly housed in Student Affairs and the President's Office help make up the new division. Along with aligning programs that support students, the division provides a central point of leadership for equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives related to faculty, staff, curriculum, human resources and community.

"The leadership and support of and for students, faculty and staff at all levels is manifest in the work of equity, diversity and inclusion as we strive together for the success of all," said Andrews.

▲▲▲▲ NEW DIVISION LEADER

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion vice president **ADRIENNE ANDREWS** congratulates a graduate at Weber State's LatinX Grad Ceremony in spring 2021.

Weber State Moves TOWARD EHSI GOAL

Weber State University is on its way to becoming an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution.

After receiving a \$500,000 commitment from Ally Financial Inc. in the fall of 2021, divisions across the university have been working toward the goal, which is part of the university's strategic plan, *Weber State Amplified*, a 5-year plan for growth.

In the plan, Weber State committed to increasing the percentage of students who identify as Hispanic or Latino to 15% by fall 2025. Achieving this goal will position Weber State to work toward increasing its Hispanic or Latino population by 25% and achieving the Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) federal designation. Eventually becoming an HSI will benefit all Weber State students by increasing access, retention, student support services and faculty development.

To help reach this goal, the university has hired an executive director of HSI Initiatives using the resources provided by Ally.

YUDI LEWIS, who came to Weber State in September after 25 years of experience at Utah Valley University, works to develop effective strategies, relationships and communications with faculty, staff, students, community groups, educational entities and funding agencies.

“Becoming an eHSI institution is about strategically positioning students to transition from high school to a certificate or degree enabling them to work in the field they’re passionate about, and, in turn, benefiting our communities and Utah’s economy.”

— YUDI LEWIS

ADRIENNE ANDREWS, vice president of WSU's newly created Equity, Diversity and Inclusion division, said Weber State needs to be more intentional to meet northern Utah's workforce needs, and becoming an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution is a big part of that.

Data from the 2020 Census show that 26.5% of Utah's population growth between 2010 and 2020 was driven by the Hispanic and Latino population. By becoming an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution, WSU's Hispanic and Latino enrollment can keep pace with this growing population.

In fall 2021, about 12% of WSU's enrolled full-time equivalent students (those taking 15 credit hours) identified as Hispanic or Latino, and enrollments have hovered in that range for the last five years with a slight upward trend.

"We know it's meaningful for students, faculty, staff and the future of Weber State University," Andrews said. "This will help us be ready and available to all students who seek to come here."



YUDI LEWIS, executive director of
Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives

INCREASE IN CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT DIVERSITY

Weber State's third-week fall enrollment for 2021 increased slightly to 29,774 students compared to the 2020 enrollment of 29,596. In addition, the total number of students in Concurrent Enrollment (CE) courses, which award college credit in high school, increased 6.4% and the number of students who self-identify as Black, Asian, American Indian or Pacific Islander in CE courses increased 9.8%.



IMPROVED HIRING OF UNDERREPRESENTED FACULTY AND STAFF

Weber State continues to make strides toward its goal of improving hiring and retention of faculty and staff from underrepresented populations from 11% to 20%.

During the 2021–22 academic year, 22.39% of faculty and staff hires were from underrepresented groups, an increase of 6% from 2019–20.

SCHOLARSHIP HELPS STUDENT SHOOT FOR SUCCESS

“What do you want to do when you grow up?”

JAI'AUNA JEFFERSON recalled being asked that question in elementary school and realizing even then she would need a college degree, whether she pursued her childhood love of animals and became a veterinarian or worked in psychology.

Now a sophomore at Weber State, Jefferson is on her way toward earning that degree, and one thing she doesn't have to worry about is how to pay for college.

She is one of four Weber State students, and 30 statewide, who were part of an inaugural cohort that received a full-ride scholarship, courtesy of the Utah Jazz. Salt Lake City's NBA franchise established the scholarship in 2020 as a way to help students from traditionally underrepresented groups pursue their educational goals.

At Weber State, Jefferson is exploring her interest in social relationships and institutions as a sociology major, and plans to eventually become a professor. Based on her love of animals, she's also interested in becoming a dog breeder. Her two favorite breeds are poodles and havanese.

Ironically, Jefferson has never been a Jazz fan. By her own admission, she's more of a “football girl.” Beginning in eighth grade, she served as the team manager for her high school football team. “I'm not much of a sports girl, but I do like attending games in person.”

Ultimately, Jefferson hopes her education will allow her to help people.

“The idea of helping others makes me happy. Plus, if there are dogs along the way, that never hurts.”

— JAI'AUNA JEFFERSON

UTAH JAZZ SCHOLARS BY THE NUMBERS

4 STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE 2021–22 ACADEMIC YEAR

Jordyn Beddow
Jai'Auna Jefferson
Gabriela Rosas Calderon
Angel Solis

7 SCHOLARS COMING TO WEBER STATE IN FALL 2022

Estrella Chavez Fernandez
Jennifer Duenaz
Emma Fernandez
Abdifatah Hassan
Princess Peralta
Jasmin Rangel
Elias West

Examining INTERSECTIONAL TOPICS

ALEX COLLOPY, assistant professor of early childhood education, is one of only 14 faculty members in Utah to be named a Transformative Intersectional Collective Fellow for the 2022–23 academic year.

As a fellow, Collopy will attend workshops to strengthen classroom integration of materials related to disability, transgender studies, anti-racism and other intersectional topics.

The fellowship is funded by a grant the University of Utah received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Collopy's interest in disability studies dates back to her undergraduate studies at Penn State University, when she was “forced to grapple with disability as a social and cultural construct,” she said. “I started to consider the ways that disability emerges in schools and classrooms, and how the ways we experience and relate to disability and difference affect how we define and approach inclusive education.”

Collopy expects the fellowship to enhance her teaching.

“I have this valuable opportunity to learn more about the ways that race, gender, sexuality and disability affect children and classrooms, which will inform how we prepare inclusive early childhood educators,” she said.

“I think every group should be represented in the senate and that every student deserves a voice. LGBT students didn’t have a voice before now.”

— GARRETT POTOKAR

WSUSA CREATES LGBTQ+ Student Senator Position

In spring 2022, **GARRETT POTOKAR**, a professional sales student, made history as Weber State’s first LGBTQ+ student senator, filling the inaugural role as an advocate for previously unrepresented students.

“A lot of other groups have senators, which is amazing,” Potokar said. “I think every group should be represented in the senate and that every student deserves a voice. LGBT students didn’t have a voice before now.”

While working as a graphic designer for the Weber State University Student Association (WSUSA), Potokar realized there was little LGBTQ+ representation in the group.

“I saw there were changes that needed to be made, and I’ve had past leadership positions,” Potokar said. “As part of the student senate, I wanted to help pass legislation, get things going and make campus a safer space for everyone.”

In order to move forward quickly for spring 2022, Potokar was selected through an interview process. During his semester in the role,

Potokar passed several pieces of legislation, making it easier for students to change their names and identifying pronouns, providing easier access to LGBTQ+ resources and supporting transgender athletes.

“It’s been amazing being in close collaboration with constituents and senators alike. It’s truly been a labor of love from not just me, but also from everyone I’ve worked with,” Potokar said. “I really hit the ground running, and it was exhilarating to pass such large legislation in such a short time.”

In fall 2022, Potokar will serve as the executive VP for WSUSA. He plans to focus on increasing awareness of the student senate and continuing his mission to ensure all students have a voice on campus. He will also serve as the acting parliamentarian, a role that oversees the student senate and ensures that proper parliamentary procedure is followed.

JAZMYNE OLSON, a public relations and advertising major, will serve as LGBTQ+ senator for the 2022–23 academic year.

▲▲▲ WSU’S FIRST LGBTQ+ STUDENT SENATOR

GARRETT POTOKAR will serve as executive VP for WSUSA during the 2022–23 academic year.

▶▶▶ TRAINING FACULTY

BRENDA MARSTELLER KOWALEWSKI (left) and **NICOLA CORBIN** are helping WSU faculty improve their inclusive teaching skills.

WEBER STATE RAMPS UP INCLUSIVE TEACHING

BRENDA MARSTELLER KOWALEWSKI, associate provost, and **NICOLA CORBIN**, Teaching & Learning Forum director, are spearheading a new endeavor to help improve inclusive teaching practices at Weber State University.

Through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), WSU is providing two training opportunities, Inclusive Teaching for Equitable Learning (ITEL) and Effective Teaching Practices (ETP), for faculty to learn more about inclusive teaching techniques. The programs were first suggested by Provost **RAVI KROVI**, who then tasked Marsteller Kowalewski and Corbin with implementing the courses.

“I think our faculty are interested in becoming inclusive teachers, but they need more confidence to do that,” Corbin said. “It’s a fraught world, so doing this work can be scary. But I think we have great teachers, so hopefully this provides them with more confidence to bring this important work into the classroom.”

The ITEL course was offered to two cohorts of faculty in summer 2022, with a third cohort made up of new faculty starting in fall 2022. Faculty who teach influential lower-division courses will participate in the 25-week ETP course during the fall 2022 semester.



RETENTION *and* COMPLETION





MAKING COURSE MATERIALS MORE AFFORDABLE

With the price of a single publication averaging \$134, textbooks are among the most chronically unpopular expenses borne by American college students. A recent survey conducted by the university's Affordable Course Materials Task Force found an alarming number of WSU students on limited budgets aren't purchasing new textbooks. Instead, they're sharing books or buying old, discounted editions.

Meeting in fall 2021 to explore ways to reduce financial barriers to student success, the task force discovered that enterprising WSU instructors had already succeeded in providing students with more affordable textbook options. With generous donor support, the task force created the Course Materials Affordability Award to recognize these instructors and highlight the positive impact their efforts have had on students.

Two faculty members and two departments were honored at the "Finding Joy in the Journey" Faculty Symposium in March 2022.

Since 2021, students enrolled in history professor **VIKKI DEAKIN's** courses have enjoyed free access to the EBSCO Information Services e-book database. (EBSCO e-books are online versions of printed textbooks and other materials from top publishers that Stewart Library has purchased with a perpetual license or annual subscription.) Deakin is deeply committed to ensuring student success, especially in introductory courses.

"The battle for student retention is most often won or lost in 'gateway' courses," she said. "Students who do well in these courses tend to re-enroll; students who do not, tend to drop out." Most of the textbooks used in Deakin's upper-division courses are also free.

STEPHANIE WOLFE, associate professor of political science, was among the first WSU faculty members to adopt no-cost Open Educational Resources (OER) for her general education courses. (OERs are either in the public domain or have been released under a license that allows them to be freely used, modified or shared.) Currently, 75% of Wolfe's teaching load consists of OERs. She also spearheaded an initiative to make the women and gender studies minor an exclusively OER program and has received funding to create an OER textbook chapter.

With 100% of its faculty participating, the Department of Communication has switched to low-cost or free materials in five entry-level courses. This transition represents an estimated savings of \$891,480 since 2017. This academic year alone, six communication faculty completed OER training, paid for with Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund money, and have eagerly shared their insights with colleagues.

Starting in 2019, the Department of Health Sciences began collaborating with Stewart Library, various campus committees and outside vendors to find alternative educational materials to replace textbooks and lab software that were costing each integrated anatomy and physiology student \$270. This initial effort has since expanded to include six more courses in the program. To date, an estimated 6,962 students have saved about \$1,089,063.

As more Weber State University faculty work to lower the cost of required course materials, the Affordable Course Materials Task Force hopes to present the Course Materials Affordability Award every year.

Wildcat Advantage Connects STUDENTS TO HIGH-IMPACT EXPERIENCES

ADDIE HARMON's two large paintings, reflecting her "inner world," were in the main exhibit, while her immersive forest display, complete with audio, video, and tree branches casting shadows from the ceiling, had its own room in the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery. The artwork was part of the spring 2022 BFA Thesis Exhibition, where Bachelor of Fine Arts students displayed their work as a capstone project for their major.

"People related to the poetic voice-over, as well as the imagery in my paintings and video," Harmon said. "Many people loved the immersive experience that the branches created."

High-impact educational experiences (HIEE), such as the BFA exhibition, provide students with experience they can take into their careers and future studies. Outlined in WSU's strategic plan, *Amplified*, a 5-year plan for growth, the university seeks to have more students graduating with bachelor's degrees complete two or more HIEE by the 2025–26 academic year. During the 2021–22 academic year, 67% of graduates with a bachelor's degree completed two or more experiences, while 77% of associate-level graduates completed one or more.

Since fall 2021, WSU's Wildcat Advantage program has worked toward that goal by connecting students to seven types of experiences:

- Leadership
- Community engaged learning
- Mentoring and tutoring
- Career development and internships
- Undergraduate research
- Capstones/senior projects
- Global experiences

Over 500 students participated during the 2021–22 academic year.

"Wildcat Advantage opens doors for students to see what's available, and choose what they would like to do to cater to their educational and career goals," said **JENNY FRAME**, Wildcat Advantage coordinator.

Students may receive grant funding for their HIEE, and build eportfolios, which they can use to market their skills and experiences after graduation. Wildcat Advantage offers incentives to participate, including graduation cords and priority guidance from Career Services for two completed experiences; a pin to let employers at career fairs know about a student's experience for completing four experiences; and a transcript notation, personalized letter from the Provost's Office, and reception for students who complete five or more experiences.

In addition to the exhibition, Harmon recently participated in another high-impact experience, studying art and art history in Venice, Italy, for three weeks.

"I thought I would never be able to travel until I was old, somewhat financially stable and retired," she said. "But going to Italy has made the world feel so much more accessible to me. It was scary, but amazing, and I regret nothing."



Shifting Career Fields and MAKING AN INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACT

During a game of Barbie with her 8-year-old niece, **CELINA PATINO** saw the intergenerational impact of education. Patino's niece said her doll was a scientist, just like her Aunt Celina.

"It brought me to tears," Patino said. "I do see a shift for the future generations in our family because they're already starting to think of possibilities that my sisters and I didn't."

Patino majors in environmental science, a field she felt called to after a decade-long career in health administration.

Though she likes the healthcare industry, Patino wanted to have a stronger impact on others' well-being. So, at 30 years old, she became the first in her immediate family to pursue a college degree.

Since enrolling at WSU, she has served on the university's student senate, researched how the Great Salt Lake's receding water levels affect microbial communities, tutored botany students and worked in the community garden.

Patino says scholarships allowed her to become such an involved student.

"I want a thorough education," Patino said. "And if you don't have time to study or involve yourself, you're only grasping so much."

Most recently, Patino was awarded the Abrelia Hinckley Scholarship, which covers full tuition and fees. Without that, she said she would need to work about 50 hours per week, leaving "barely any time for anything else."

CRYSTAL GIORDANO, WSU's director of scholarships, says students who are engaged in high-impact experiences — like Patino's combined curricular and co-curricular activities — persist and graduate at a higher rate than students who aren't engaged.

"To be able to pair generous scholarship donors with well-deserving, hardworking students like Celina creates a powerful synergy," Giordano said.

Patino hopes the example she sets for her niece — and everyone — not only expands their view of future possibilities but also inspires them to make choices that lead to the life they want.

"I think we owe it to ourselves to pursue something that helps us feel like we're adding to this world," Patino said. "I say get after whatever it is that helps you feel like you have a purpose."

“I think we owe it to ourselves to pursue something that helps us feel like we’re adding to this world.”

— CELINA PATINO

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORSHIP

Moving from Honduras to Clearfield, Utah, as a child, **MARÍA RIOS CABRERA** couldn't help but notice the contrast.

While the move gave her family a more secure future, and she marveled over Utah's changing fall colors, she missed Honduran culture — the friendly chats with strangers; the lively, joyous music; and the juicy, fresh pineapples and guavas that are hard to find in the states.

Rios Cabrera dreams of returning to Honduras to build a school one day, but she knows she will need to focus on her own education first. She came to Weber State, pursuing quantitative economics and mechanical engineering majors, after being frustrated at a larger university.

"I couldn't connect with my professors. They were never available," she said about her former school. "In the middle of one semester, my academic advisor told me that she was no longer my advisor and wished me 'good luck,' and I didn't know what to do."

At WSU, she became a mentor in the Peer Mentor program, and ended up receiving guidance she previously lacked. "**OLGA ANTONIO** and the other mentors I worked with helped me through a lot of things," she said. "But, also, the students I mentor actually taught me a lot."

She now serves as student coordinator for CATT (Creating Achievement Through Transition), offering mentorship to students with learning disabilities who are transitioning from high school.

"Having a disability doesn't make you dumb or less valuable as a human being," said Rios Cabrera, who also has a learning disability. "In fact, it makes you a more well-rounded person, because you view the world differently, you can adapt really quickly, and you can connect with people in a way that other people can't."

While she fell in love with mechanical engineering at her prior school and hopes to become an engineer in the aerospace industry, quantitative economics took more time to grow on her. She realized its value after speaking with professor **GAVIN ROBERTS**, who suggested majoring in the field to help her achieve her dream in Honduras.

"María is wonderful to work with. She always asks relevant and penetrating questions that make it clear she is dedicated to understanding economics on a deep level," Roberts said. "I think economics will help María think critically about the economic and institutional underpinnings of some of the problems she sees in Honduras, problems that underlie her dream of building the school."

She plans to write her thesis on what it will take to build the school.

For her leadership and dedication to other students, the Clark and Christine Ivory Foundation selected Rios Cabrera as a 2022 Ivory Prize award recipient. With the prize, she received a \$2,000 cash prize and a \$5,000 donation she selected the CATT program to receive.



NOT SO RISKY BUSINESS: MBA GRAD LEARNS TOOLS OF THE TRADE

If you ask **STÉPHANE GLYNN MBA '22** what he does, he'll tell you it's a little bit of everything.

The senior vice president of operations and post-production at Vavani Productions in Salt Lake City has produced documentaries, edited marketing content and worked in project management, research and analysis, just to name a few.

"I love doing different things all the time," he said.

Glynn started working as an in-house editor for the socially ethical production company in 2017. Their projects include the documentary *Quiet Heroes* — about the AIDS crisis in Salt Lake City — which screened at the Sundance Film Festival and won a daytime Emmy, as well as the documentary *No Crime in Sin* about child sex abuse.

"It's this idea of eating your vegetables with the sweets," Glynn said, "entertaining people while also informing and educating."

Glynn had already earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in 2013 and Master of Fine Arts in Film & Media Arts from the University of Utah in 2016, but decided to pursue a Master of Business Administration at Weber State to gain more experience as he took on more responsibilities at Vavani Productions and became senior vice president in 2019.

He graduated in only about a year and a half in December 2021. The program usually takes twice as long.

"The professors do a great job of bringing you where you need to be," he said. "If you can't remember, say, math you did years ago, they give you the resources to kind of refresh your memory and bring you back up to speed."

Glynn said what he learned at Weber State aligned perfectly with his job as he went from film editing to an essential operations production role and VP.

"I was already doing my fair share of expenses and tracking receipts but certainly having that accounting class experience really elevated my work," he said.

SHAUN HANSEN, former WSU professor and MBA program director, said he doesn't believe there's a program in the Intermountain West that has faculty more dedicated to student success and learning than at Weber State.

"The most rewarding thing for us is to see our students succeed in their careers after graduation," he said. "Nothing else matters quite as much."

'CATapult to the Finish Line

One life skill **SERGE TWAGIRAYEZU BS '22** learned after moving from Kigali, Rwanda, to Layton, Utah, as a high school international exchange student was to always have a handy backup plan. The young man's hometown is nestled among East Africa's verdant ridges and lush valleys, where daily temperatures rarely drop below 54 degrees Fahrenheit. Arriving in Utah in early January, he quickly traded his sandals and T-shirts for snow boots and a winter coat.

Later, when Twagirayezu realized he couldn't afford the program he had been accepted to at Utah State University to become a professional pilot, he immediately initiated his backup dream of becoming a mechanical engineer.

"I've always been interested in how things worked," he said. "As a kid, I'd break my toys on purpose to see what was inside." At Weber State, Twagirayezu found an engaging, reasonably priced college education with plenty of faculty and peer support. "Weber's mechanical engineering program honestly met and exceeded my expectations," he recalled.

However, shortly before Twagirayezu's scheduled graduation, the COVID-19 pandemic halted his paid internship and, simultaneously, he lost access to a crucial source of private funding.

"At that point, I wasn't sure I would ever earn a degree," he recalled. "I had worked so hard, but I didn't have any way to pay for the rest of my education."

Luckily, Twagirayezu's classmate, who worked in WSU's financial aid office, suggested he apply for a 'CATapult Scholarship, which is designed to help students who suffer financial setbacks in the last stretch of their educational journey. It proved to be the perfect backup plan.

"The scholarship really catapulted me to the finish line, and I was able to graduate," said a grateful Twagirayezu, who recently joined the engineering team at Cirque in Sandy, Utah. "I'd like to thank everyone at Weber who made that scholarship happen — donors, professors, staff — because they're the people who really changed the world for me."

'CATAPULT SCHOLARSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

since it was established in 2020

\$1,075,852.79
in scholarships, awarded to
693 STUDENTS

338 STUDENTS
who received the scholarship have
graduated with bachelor's degrees.

\$1,476
Average award recieved



FACTS & FIGURES

WE ARE COMMITTED to Student Success

In 2022, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) renewed Weber State University's accreditation with commendations in the following areas:

- Culture of caring and meaningful connection with students
- Commitment to student success
- Approach to general education assessment
- Diligence in engaging pre-college students and helping them transition successfully and through the university to achieve their educational goals



NATIONWIDE RANKINGS

Forbes' AMERICA'S TOP COLLEGES LIST

The Princeton Review's BEST WESTERN COLLEGES

Abound's BEST COLLEGES FOR ADULTS

U.S. News & World Report's BEST ACCREDITED ONLINE COLLEGES

Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce's COLLEGES WHERE LOW-INCOME STUDENTS GET THE HIGHEST ROI

STUDENT TO
Faculty
— RATIO —
20:1



20

GRADUATE
DEGREE PROGRAMS

including the Doctor
of Nursing Practice

MORE THAN
225
DEGREE
PROGRAMS

80%
FACULTY with
TERMINAL DEGREES

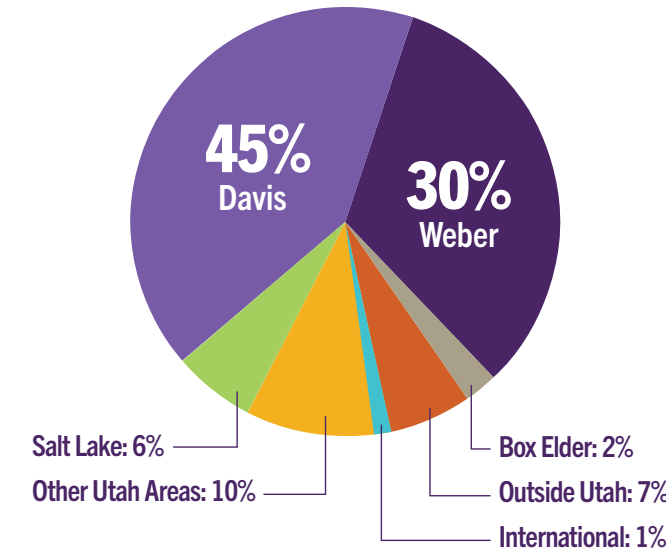
GIFTS TO WSU
in fiscal year 2022 totaled
\$22,557,151.



WE REPRESENT *Utah*

Fall 2021
ENROLLMENT
29,744

Fall 2021 enrollment by
COUNTY OF ORIGIN
(Rounded to the nearest whole percent)



...and the world

213 INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

represented 52 foreign
countries in fall 2021.

WE SUPPORT *Veterans*

MILITARY TIMES
RANKED WEBER STATE

NO. 2 IN THE NATION FOR
VETERAN STUDENTS
IN 2021.



640 VETERANS
ATTENDED WSU
in fall 2021.

WE ARE DEDICATED to Sustainability

WSU has **REDUCED** its

NATURAL GAS
CONSUMPTION
37%

GREENHOUSE
GAS EMISSIONS
FOOTPRINT
63%

ELECTRICITY
CONSUMPTION
48%

while the university has **GROWN** by
679,800+ SQUARE FEET
as of fiscal year 2021, when compared
to a 2007 baseline.



THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION
TREE CAMPUS HIGHER EDUCATION
Recognized for the 11th time in 2021

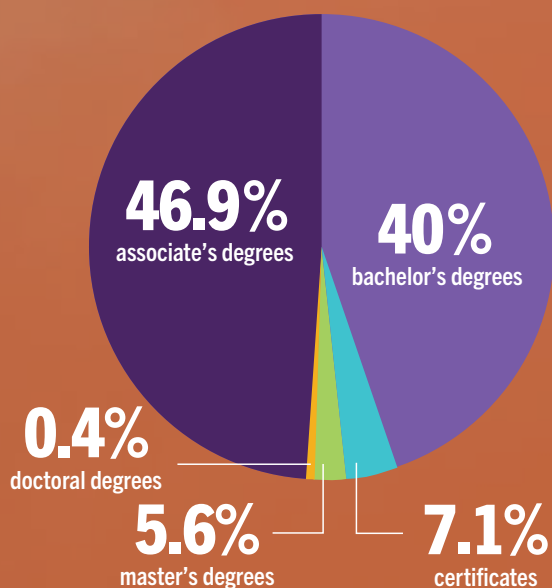


\$2,573,792

WSU has saved **\$18,558,603** since 2010.

The amount WSU **SAVED** in
electric, natural gas and
water bills in fiscal year 2021

Distribution of DEGREES & AWARDS for 2021–22



Median BS/BA graduate SALARY



\$59,652

Based on fifth-year median wages of
2016–17 bachelor's degree graduates

WSU PROVIDED MORE THAN

\$85.6 MILLION

in SCHOLARSHIPS and FEDERAL FUNDING
to **12,631** STUDENTS

AND MORE THAN

\$3.8 MILLION

in PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS to

1,933

RECIPIENTS

FOR THE 2021–22 ACADEMIC YEAR.

(Amounts as of June 30, 2022)

Top 10 Degree Areas

(Degrees awarded for academic year 2017–18
through 2021–22, excluding general studies)

- 1 Nursing.....3,984
- 2 School of Computing1,985
- 3 School of Radiologic Sciences.....1,306
- 4 Professional Sales.....1,155
- 5 Medical Laboratory Sciences927
- 6 Health Sciences877
- 7 Health Administrative Services854
- 8 Communication.....690
- 9 Teacher Education680
- 10 Criminal Justice.....658

WSU has been designated a
TOP-PRODUCING INSTITUTION of
Fulbright Scholars.

15

WSU FACULTY NAMED
FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS SINCE 1999

One of only 11 master's institutions
nationwide to receive this distinction

205

Student-athletes earned
**ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE
HONORS IN 2021–22**





Making a Difference **ON CAMPUS**

MEET ASHLEY POKAR, WSU'S SIXTH FEMALE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

ASHLEY POKAR BS '22 served as the Weber State Student Association (WSUSA) marketing director and vice president of leadership before making history as the sixth elected Weber State WSUSA female student body president.

"I decided to run for this position because I thought I could make a difference on campus," said Potokar, a Master of Education student. "I love Weber State and I've had a great experience here, and I want to help others have a great experience too."

In 1981, **LORI MEMMOTT BROWN** became the first female student body president at any public college or university in Utah when she was elected student body president of the Associated Students of Weber State College (ASWSC). The last female student body president was **AULOLA "LOLA" P. MOLI**, who served during the 2017–18 academic year.

Potokar says she hopes to create a deeper culture of inclusivity and ensure that all students feel like they have a place at Weber State. Potokar says she understands not feeling like you have a place on campus, and she wants to use her voice to better represent those students — and encourage them to run for leadership positions too.

"It's both very humbling and empowering to be elected into this position as a woman," Potokar said. "To know that my voice matters in representing students is a powerful feeling."

After she graduates with her master's, Potokar hopes to become a digital art high school teacher.

"I love working with youth, and I am so passionate about education," Potokar said. "It seems like the dream job."

New Opportunities ABOUND IN ARTS & HUMANITIES

The Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities continued meeting the changing needs of students during the 2021–22 academic year with a state-of-the-art recording studio and new writing center.

The Ray L. Kimber Sound and Recording Studio opened in the Browning Center in October 2021. Designer **PETER GRUENEISEN** converted a classroom into a space where students are learning advanced recording techniques.

“When we finally put this resource in their hands, they thought they’d died and gone to audio heaven,” said program director, **MARK MAXSON**.

The \$1 million studio, funded with support from donors such as **RAY KIMBER** of Kimber Kable, offers students experience in the field of sound production and recording so they can earn a minor, an associate’s degree or incorporate it into a Bachelor of Integrated Studies.

Maxson said students go on to be music producers, sound editors for film and live sound engineers, just to name a few.

The newly titled Wasatch Writers Center will host well-known writers at the university through the ongoing Visiting Writers Series.

Co-directors **RYAN RIDGE** and **ABRAHAM SMITH** said giving the center an official title will hopefully increase donor interest and result in one day obtaining a building to house the center, which currently operates out of Elizabeth Hall.

“It’s a tremendous professional opportunity for students,” Smith said. “They have the opportunity to rub shoulders with extraordinary writers who have been in the writing game a long time.”



CONTINUING EDUCATION SEES NEW LEADERSHIP

The Division of Online & Continuing Education’s new dean has student success in mind.

In July 2022, **JAMES HEDGES** came to WSU from Westminster College, where he was the director of professional and continuing education. His experience includes curriculum development of competency-based courses and programs, partnerships with other institutions, and chairing Westminster’s Innovative Learning Council, which recruits adult learners and oversees a transfer initiative with Salt Lake Community College.

“Weber’s commitment to equity for adult learners and non-traditional students is essential to meeting students where they are at today,” Hedges said. “I look forward to collaborating with internal and external stakeholders to help meet students’ needs and prepare them for personal and professional success.”

Hedges has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication from California State University, Sacramento, and a doctorate in communication from the University of Utah. He succeeds **BRIAN STECKLEIN**, who served as the interim dean since December 2019.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEED WITH MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

As Utah’s need for social workers grows, so does the demand for skilled and licensed employees to fill such roles. Weber State University’s new Master of Social Work (MSW) is helping to meet that demand.

MARK BIGLER, professor and chair of the Department of Social Work and Gerontology at WSU, said the MSW can help remedy the local shortage of licensed clinical social workers, as the program attracts locals who are likely to stay in the area after graduating.

“While our program takes a global perspective, we really are emphasizing local community needs in the Intermountain Region, paying particular attention to the growing Latino community,” Bigler said.

The MSW program started accepting applications in 2020, and 45 students will be part of its first graduating class during the 2022–23 academic year.

“This program is vital to the current need for licensed clinical social workers in the field,” said **KEVIN EASTMAN**, executive director of Weber Human Services, the public agency responsible for providing many behavioral health services for Weber County. “With the emphasis on cultural diversity and quality, the social work program will provide a large number of qualified, skilled clinicians into the workforce.”

45
STUDENTS WILL BE PART OF
THE FIRST GRADUATING
MASTER OF SOCIAL
WORK CLASS
DURING THE 2022–23
ACADEMIC YEAR.

WSU PROFESSORS’ RESEARCH FEATURED IN THE ECONOMIST

Weber State economics professors **DORIS GEIDE-STEVENSON** and **ALVARO LA PARRA-PEREZ** had their research, which found increased consensus on economic propositions, featured in an article in *The Economist* in January 2022.

“Economists now embrace the role of fiscal policy in a way not obvious in previous surveys, and are largely supportive of government policies that mitigate income inequality,” Geide-Stevenson said. “Another area of consensus is concern with climate change and the use of appropriate tools to address climate change.”





“I just came to the conclusion I can’t leave Weber... I’m destined to be here.”

— ENALLIA BROOKS

BUILDING A *Better Future*

ENALLIA BROOKS has come a long way. Now, in her last year of school at Weber State, she reflects on her journey with a smile.

“I just came to the conclusion I can’t leave Weber,” she chuckled. “I’m destined to be here.”

As young children, Brooks and her two siblings lived in Texas with their grandmother, who struggled to provide stable housing, and sometimes slept in hotels or shelters. Due to their grandmother’s declining health, when Brooks was 12, the children moved in with their mother and enrolled in school for the first time.

“I was in fifth grade, and I didn’t know anything,” she said. “I couldn’t spell C-A-T. I didn’t know my vowels... I understood English, but I couldn’t read English.”

The family moved often, and Brooks remembers some schools she attended lacking basic equipment, like chairs. She and her siblings persevered and by the time she was taking standardized tests during junior high school, she scored at the same level or higher than her peers.

“For my mom, that’s when the possibility of at least one of her kids going to college was starting to actually make her excited,” Brooks said.

Brooks, however, wasn’t convinced college was in her future, even as she neared graduation from Eldorado High School in Nevada. Having participated in Weber State’s TRiO and Upward Bound programs, she met **GREGORY NOEL**, who served as an admissions advisor. Now a licensed associate marriage and family therapist, Noel said he is honored to have played a small role in Brooks’ success at Weber State.

“Enallia has been someone I’ve seen a lot of perseverance, resilience and just this innate and inherent drive to pursue her goals and her dreams from,” Noel said.

She enrolled with plans to eventually pursue dentistry but didn’t enjoy her classes and began contemplating dropping out. She then discovered architecture and started taking classes in the Building Design & Construction program.

“I like how the program allows us to get experience in the real world,” she said.

Professor **JEREMY FARNER** encouraged Brooks to follow her dreams.

“As an educator, I feel like it’s my responsibility to encourage the next generation,” he said. “To me, that is what I enjoy most about my job. It’s the interactions I get to have with students.”

Brooks said after she graduates she wants to work with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild low-income communities, and design and build schools.

“I really want to give back to my community but in a way that’s going to inspire kids to continue their education,” she said.

WSU’S MASTER OF EDUCATION MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS

It’s hard to imagine a simple question launching a historic overhaul of Weber State’s oldest graduate program, but that’s what happened in the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education.

Four years ago, before **KRISTIN HADLEY** became dean of the college, she and Master of Education (MEd) program director **LOUISE MOULDING** were discussing ways to energize the program. One day, a colleague casually asked if they’d ever considered offering a master’s degree in higher education leadership.

That question opened a floodgate of possibilities. Less than a year later, the college was ready to implement three new emphases to help meet Utah’s educational needs. In addition to earning an MEd in Curriculum & Instruction, students could opt for an MEd in Educational Leadership, Family Life Education or Higher Education Leadership. While the educational leadership emphasis helps fulfill the community’s need for more well-trained school principals in the Weber, Ogden, Davis, Morgan and Box Elder school districts, the higher education leadership emphasis has attracted the most students.

“Part of that is because a lot of Weber State employees are taking advantage of their tuition benefit and enrolling,” Moulding explained. “Also with that program, we’ve developed a relationship with Tianhua College of Shanghai Normal University, where cohorts from China come here for their master’s degree.”

Pending approval, starting July 1, 2023, the Moyes College will offer MEd emphases in sports coaching leadership, inclusive early childhood and instructional technology. Furthermore, plans are underway to move the MEd program out of the teacher education department. It would become a stand-alone program known as the Graduate Studies in Education program.

“You can see with this expansion, it’s not just teacher education anymore,” Moulding said. “We started with new options for the same student audience, but now we have new options for an entirely new audience.”



WSU PROFESSOR RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR IN ELLIPSOMETRY RESEARCH

ALYSSA MOCK, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, received the 2022 International Conference on Spectroscopic Ellipsometry Paul Drude Award for her ellipsometric research and analysis of low-symmetry metal oxides.

Ellipsometry is the study of how the polarization of light changes after interaction with a material, which can be used to obtain information related to the material's structural and intrinsic properties. Mock's research focuses on metal oxides with low symmetry in their crystal structures, which are the ordered arrangement of atoms. The materials can be used in a variety of ways, including in electronic devices.

"I hope that my work can provide a foundation for other engineers to further the work of ellipsometry and improve understanding of materials used in devices," Mock said. "Receiving this award will help spread the word about this research, and the potential uses of ellipsometry."

Considered the highest honor in the field, the Paul Drude award is presented once every three years to outstanding young researchers who have helped progress the development and application of ellipsometry at the triennial conference.

In fall 2022, Mock joined other faculty to offer peer mentorship training for female and underrepresented engineering students by involving them in research. The program is offered through the use of a Hemingway Award, which provides funding for collaborative projects that strengthen the community or student education.

"I want to get more students on the path of studying materials," Mock said. "I really enjoy working with undergraduate students, so I'm planning to continue my work looking at nanostructures and other low-symmetry materials to help students get excited about it too."

Weber State is Center of ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN CYBER DEFENSE

ASHLEY LIGHT, a 2019 network management technology graduate, said her education prepared her for the challenges faced in the information security industry.

"The cybersecurity concepts I learned at Weber State have been invaluable," she said. "I will continue to use this knowledge for the rest of my life both in and out of the workplace."

Recognizing Weber State's commitment to cyber security, the National Security Agency has designated the university as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE).

The goal of the program is to reduce vulnerability in the national information infrastructure by promoting higher education and research in cyber defense, and to increase the number of industry professionals.

WSU joins Brigham Young University and Southern Utah University as the three institutions in Utah that hold the CAE-CDE distinction. The designation will remain active through the academic year 2026.

The designation has helped strengthen Weber State's partnerships with the local defense industrial base (DIB) community, including Hill Air Force Base, Boeing and BAE Systems, and opened up more opportunities for grants.

Weber State's rigorous cybersecurity curriculum, which is improved annually, has also garnered the interest of other community partners, including Strong Connexions, Northrop Grumman and Intermountain Healthcare. In addition to developing a talent pipeline for government and DIB jobs that benefit the local economy, these strengthened partnerships have also increased the opportunities for Weber State students to participate in meaningful internships with industry partners.

To support its robust cyber defense education, WSU's School of Computing launched the Weber State University Cybersecurity Initiative (WSUCI), which takes a university-wide, collaborative approach to promote cyber defense education to students outside computer science, including Utah's K-12 students.

The goal is to help students become excited about information security as a career from an early age, and to provide resources and opportunities to engage the public on the importance of protecting information and data.

"We continue to explore ways we can meaningfully connect with our K-12 education partners and the community in general," said **MATT PAULSON**, director of the Weber State University Cybersecurity Initiative.

NEW DATA SCIENCE MASTER'S/CERTIFICATE

The College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology launched two new programs in the fall 2022 semester:

1. Master of Science in Data Science
2. Computational Data Science and Machine Learning Graduate Certificate



"The cybersecurity concepts I learned at Weber State have been invaluable... I will continue to use this knowledge for the rest of my life both in and out of the workplace"

— ASHLEY LIGHT

New Mentorship Program MATCHES STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Weber State launched a new mentorship opportunity for students and alumni during the 2021–22 academic year.

The Mentoring Alumni Program Scholarship (MAPS), run by WSU Alumni Relations, matched six students, representing majors like English teaching, creative writing and electronics engineering technology, with six alumni mentors from a wide range of industries in its pilot year.

“MAPS mentors will provide students with the skills to further develop their professional and educational portfolio by guiding them through building their resumes, expanding networking opportunities, and refining interview skills,” said **REBECCA GIBSON AS '09**, MAPS program advisor.

Participating students received \$2,000 scholarships from WSU’s ‘CATapult fund, which provides students with a financial boost as they near graduation.

MAPS student and computer science major **DALLIN WELCH** was thankful for the opportunity to connect with his mentor, **LORI BELNAP PEHRSON BS '87**, a recently retired aerospace leader and WSU National Advisory Committee member.

“I have gained so much from Lori, and am so glad I am able to be a part of it,” he said.

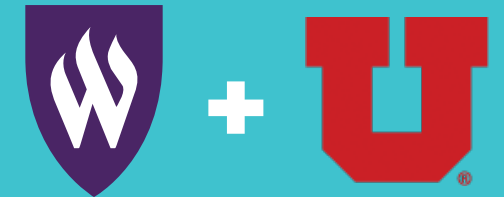
Belnap Pehrson said her experience was “hugely rewarding.”

“The most valuable aspect of mentoring is the opportunity to really get to know and help another person navigate new and unknown paths. The beauty is that in helping others, connecting with others, we grow and learn together,” she said. “While I’m sharing my experiences and advice, I’m also learning and growing — it’s beneficial for both of us. To me, it’s what it really means to be human.”

MAPS is open to sophomore, junior and senior students. Prospective mentors and student participants can learn more at alumni.weber.edu.



WSU AND U OF U JOIN FORCES ON INNOVATIVE CENTER



A collaboration between Weber State University and the University of Utah is helping meet employers’ needs for workforce safety professionals nationwide.

The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH), established by the U of U in 1977, is a multidisciplinary center that trains students in occupational safety and health and performs research to ensure ongoing improvements are made to prevent workplace injuries, diseases and disorders. WSU partnered with the U of U in 2021, helping expand program offerings and enrich the center’s unique mission.

“Involvement from Weber State provides a new opportunity to address the needs of the workforce in Utah and beyond,” said **KURT HEGMANN**, RMCOEH director. “RMCOEH was a strong center prior to this partnership, but it is now markedly improved.”

The center’s partnership with WSU aims to provide employers with occupational health nurses and qualified safety professionals, who will go on to careers in a wide range of fields. RMCOEH also provides graduate programs in ergonomics and safety, industrial hygiene, occupational injury prevention and occupational medicine, as well as continuing education and outreach programs.

With the help of WSU, the center plans to begin offering an occupational health nursing program and a bachelor’s degree in occupational safety and health in fall 2023, which will serve dual roles of providing safety professionals and serving as a pathway for the graduate programs.

“WSU is an ideal partner for this expansion,” Hegmann said. “They have forward-thinking, creative leadership, which is essential to meeting the needs of the community.”



TAPT PROGRAM PREPARES LASTING EDUCATORS

As a shy child whose family moved often, **LEA FLINDERS** found it easy to slip into the background at school. It took the efforts of a few caring teachers to show her she was a smart and capable student.

That kindness — along with a desire to pay it forward — inspired Flinders to follow the path of teaching.

When Flinders started working at Box Elder School District, she learned about Weber State University's Teacher Assistant Pathway to Teaching (TAPT). The program offers scholarships and mentorship to help teacher assistants become fully licensed teachers.

"TAPT was a great opportunity for our family because it was the financial means to help me go to school and graduate," said Flinders, who is raising six children with her husband. "But, also, the support system that it gave was awesome."

Now, as a graduate in elementary education, Flinders teaches fourth grade in Brigham City, Utah. Despite the challenges teachers face today, she looks forward to her career in "the best profession there is," she said.

KRISTIN HADLEY, dean of the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education, said Flinders is joining a cohort of TAPT graduates with remarkable staying power.

While the state average of new teachers remaining in education after five years is only 58%, Hadley said that 95% of TAPT graduates are still working in education.

For Flinders, graduating and signing her 2022 teaching contract was a goal she'd looked forward to for years.

"I couldn't be happier," she said. "It most definitely is my dream job."

WSU'S DIGITAL FLUENCY ATTRACTS GLOBAL ATTENTION

Weber State's success as an Adobe Creative Campus, a designation given to colleges and universities driving the future of digital literacy, has caught the attention of institutions worldwide.



WSU plans for all students to graduate with digital fluency, the ability to consume, create and collaborate in digital spaces, by 2025. To reach that goal, WSU is increasing digital resources, transforming curriculum and developing new ways of credentialing digital proficiency. The university opened its Digital District, a suite of cutting-edge technology for students, faculty and staff, at the Ogden campus in 2021.

In February 2022, associate provost **BRENDA MARSTELLER KOWALEWSKI**, assistant professor of teacher education **STEPHANIE SPEICHER**, information technology marketing and training manager **TY NAYLOR**, and associate professor of English **JASON BARRETT-FOX** presented WSU's digital fluency efforts to an international audience at the Adobe Creative Campus Collaboration.

Adobe invited Marsteller Kowalewski and Speicher to speak on the same topic to 16 institutions at the Adobe Creative Campus Roundtable on Future Facing Pedagogy in London, England, in May 2022.

"Our Weber State story resonates with these institutions because our story is a story of progress and transformation," Marsteller Kowalewski said.



Three Weber State Professors SELECTED AS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Three Weber State professors were selected to participate in the 2021 Fulbright program, the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world.

The program awards approximately 8,000 grants annually to scholars and students from the United States and other participating countries. Weber State faculty have received 15 Fulbright Teaching and Research appointments in the past 23 years.



RANDY BOYLE

RANDY BOYLE, professor of management information systems and Willard Eccles Fellow, received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Poland.

Boyle spent five months teaching cybersecurity and networking telecommunications classes at the University of Warsaw. He also worked on research projects related to cybersecurity and tech education, and organized a cybersecurity conference for tech companies.

Boyle's time in Warsaw ended just as the Russian invasion of Ukraine was beginning, and he witnessed an increase in cyber attacks on Poland and other surrounding European countries. While this didn't directly affect the work he was doing, it did drive home the importance of cybersecurity preparedness, particularly in technologically advanced countries.

"Cyber war is so scary for a lot of advanced countries because they are so dependent on information systems," Boyle said.

PAUL SCHVANEVELDT, Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor, received his second lifetime Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Latin America, this time at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia.

A second Fulbright appointment is significantly more competitive as the Fulbright Commission gives priority to first-time applicants.

Schvaneveldt spent two months in Colombia training university faculty and students and professionals in the Colombian military using PREP 8.0, a curriculum that teaches evidence-based relationship skills to help reduce behaviors like intimate partner violence.

He will spend another two months in Colombia in 2023 doing evaluation research. In collaboration with professionals in Colombia, he will teach PREP 8.0 in the community, then evaluate the impacts on the population.



PAUL SCHVANEVELDT

SHEREE JOSEPHSON, communication professor, received a Fulbright Scholarship to support and expand a public radio station serving the needs of listeners in underserved and disadvantaged communities in Tunisia.

Josephson spent several weeks at the station in May, working with station manager Sara Fourti, the second youngest person to be awarded a broadcast radio license in North Africa and the Arab world. Josephson has committed to writing several more grants, and hopes one of them will be to promote tourism in the country.

During her time in Tunisia, she learned that she'd be awarded a \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Embassy to create an English program to teach the language and promote U.S. values and culture.

Josephson was able to teach about many topics with the radio station staff during her time at the station, including journalism, media marketing and search engine optimization. She left them with a catalog of more than 20 trainings and five Zoom recordings with topic experts.



SHEREE JOSEPHSON





FROM HILL AIR FORCE BASE TO SILICON SLOPES, WSU SUPPORTS LOCAL INDUSTRIES

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS TIES WITH HILL AIR FORCE BASE

Weber State is proud to announce a new Education Partnership Agreement with Hill Air Force Base (HAFB), signed in April by Weber State President **BRAD MORTENSEN** and **ALPHONSO THOMAS**, director of engineering and technical management at the Air Force Sustainment Center.

The purpose of the agreement is to have the Air Force Sustainment Center provide educational outreach opportunities for the purpose of encouraging and enhancing science, mathematics and engineering education at all levels.

As the first agreement of its kind in Utah, students and faculty will be able to tackle real-world challenges while base engineers can use their talent and creativity to problem solve.



PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED

WSU President **BRAD MORTENSEN** and **ALPHONSO THOMAS**, director of engineering and technical management for the Air Force Sustainment Center, shake hands on an Education Partnership Agreement.

ACCELERATING INNOVATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANT

Weber State University is implementing the Northern Utah Accelerator for Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Products to help community members innovate, build and produce aerospace and outdoor products, thanks to the Build to Scale Venture Challenge grant from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA).

WSU received approximately \$750,000 from the grant, and is partnering with Grow Utah, a non-profit company supporting local entrepreneurs, and the Utah Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Initiative.

The goal is to increase research engineering and competitiveness in northern Utah by creating a location for entrepreneurs, private industry and Hill Air Force Base to create and evaluate prototypes, and machine and test equipment. The program connects stakeholders in private industry and entrepreneurs with mentoring and support services.

The grant has allowed Grow Utah, to start offering its RAMP course twice a year. The course helps entrepreneurs and small businesses develop new products using advanced materials and manufacturing processes.

WSU FINALIST IN SILICON SLOPES AWARD

WSU was a company finalist for the 2021 Silicon Slopes Hall of Fame awards program in the Aerospace & Defense category. WSU's StartUp Ogden (SUO) program established a partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD) to find solutions when the DOD needed enhanced technology infrastructure.

SUO, Weber State's business incubator, was originally created to provide entrepreneurs and small businesses with work and meeting space, and essential technology infrastructure. In 2018, DOD approached SUO about providing enterprise space with existing technology infrastructure. This allowed the DOD to access the cloud to enhance operational capability that was unavailable from base facilities.

SUO was able to provide this critical capability to the DOD that allowed the rapid adoption of needed technologies to enhance operational effectiveness.



INTRODUCING DUMKE ARTS PLAZA

Weber State and Ogden City celebrated the grand opening of the Dr. Ezekiel R. and Edna Wattis Dumke Arts Plaza on Dec. 3, 2021. The innovative space aims to connect the community through art exhibits and performances in Ogden's Nine Rails Creative District. The inaugural exhibit, curated by WSU's Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery, featured the work of renowned artist, **CHAKAIA BOOKER**.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FOR OGDENITES WITH HYPERTENSION

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is the main cause of strokes and heart disease in the United States, and, according to the Utah Department of Health, about one third of Ogden City adults live with it.

To combat hypertension, WSU Doctor of Nursing Practice students **THOMAS COX** and **CLAUDIA JARA** received a \$40,000 grant from the Weber-Morgan Public Health Department to partner with the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences and the health department for a community intervention study to help at-risk locals.

Twenty-seven Ogden City residents completed the program, which provided them with a diagnosis and any necessary medication, guidance for improving their lifestyle choices to prevent high blood pressure, and education regarding self-management techniques, like measuring their blood pressure and recognizing symptoms.

"I hope that the research will be used to show that there is a need for more programs like this and that people are willing to participate and adjust their lifestyles if we give them the tools to do so," Jara said.

Cox said he believes he made a difference, since nearly half of the participants didn't know they had high blood pressure to start.

"Over time, high blood pressure causes damage to the arteries, and when those arteries get damaged, that can lead to a stroke, heart attacks, kidney disease and all sorts of organ problems," Cox said. "If you can catch it and get it under control before it's too high for too long, you can prevent a lot of cardiovascular problems."

Many participants represented Ogden's Hispanic and Latino communities, along with low-income residents. Researchers recruited participants at local gatherings, like 5K races, and at a local grocery store chain.

▲▲▲ ACCREDITING WSU'S DNP

Weber State's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) received accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) in March 2022. ACEN pointed to WSU's student support services, particularly resources to help students with writing, and tech equipment for students and faculty from the university's Digital District as strengths.

A DRIVING FORCE IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE EDUCATION

Electric vehicles are hitting the road at increasing rates, and Weber State's Department of Automotive Technology is preparing students to work in the changing automotive workforce.

Thanks to a \$299,000 annual grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, Weber State has launched an initiative to help students from high schools, technical schools and colleges prepare to work on electric vehicles.

"More manufacturers are talking about commitments to produce only electric vehicles in the near future," said **SCOTT HADZIK**, WSU automotive technology chair. "We're putting together a partnership with the state and industry in order to make sure technicians are ready to safely work on these vehicles."

Hadzik said there is very little electric vehicle training currently available. Not only do technicians need to know how to diagnose and repair problems, they also need to know safety procedures when dealing with high-voltage components.

Through this partnership, called the Automotive Strategic Workforce Initiative, students ranging from high school to college level can get the training they need to work safely on electric vehicles.

WEBER STATE STUDENTS SPEND SPRING BREAK SERVING IN GHANA

After years of collaborating remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Weber State students, faculty, staff and community members spent spring break in Ghana, partnered with Ghana Make a Difference (GMAD), an organization dedicated to improving the lives of children who have been rescued from forced labor, trafficking and abandonment. The WSU group worked on initiatives such as preparing construction materials for two homes and a school, completing interior design projects for sound dampening, educational instruction and providing medical and hygiene assistance for the children.

JEREMY FARNER, associate professor of construction and building sciences led the trip, alongside **JULIE RICH**, dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.

On the 10-day project held in March 2022, participants worked alongside Ghanaian residents and GMAD on a rainwater-harvesting project and began construction on a school and fence located on the GMAD volunteer housing property.

"I gain so much by interfacing with individuals of another culture," Rich said. "It makes me appreciate where I'm from and what I have, but seeing what other people place value on is so profound. It's not material things, it's living each day trying to be the best you can and making sure your community is taken care of."

The Weber State University Global Community Engaged Learning program (GCEL) will continue to work with GMAD on future endeavors.

This trip was made possible through the generous contributions of the Stewart Education Foundation, Wadman Corporation and Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation.



GMAD PARTNERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

GMAD PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

40 STUDENTS

8 FACULTY ADVISORS

4 ACADEMIC COLLEGES

200 TEENS

attended school for the first time in the building they worked on.



Achievements IN ATHLETICS



HISTORY-MAKING *Softball Season*

Weber State University's women's softball team had a season for the history books.

After earning their sixth consecutive Big Sky Conference regular season title, the Wildcats scored yet another Big Sky Conference Championship without allowing a single run. The team was selected as the third seed in its bracket going into the NCAA tournament, the highest seed any Big Sky softball team has earned for the tournament. The Wildcats ultimately went 0-2 in the tournament, but set plenty of records along the way.

This year's championship marked the ninth overall for the program. In regular season play, Weber State finished with a 38-12 record, marking the first season since 2017 that the team has eclipsed the 30-win mark and tied for the most wins in the program's history. With the 13-1 conference record, the Wildcats had a .929 winning percentage — the highest in Big Sky Conference history.

Head coach **MARY KAY AMICONE** was named the Big Sky Coach of the Year for the third consecutive year. This season also brought her 100th career Big Sky Conference victory, the only coach in conference history to reach that mark.

ARISSA HENDERSON, a transfer from Brigham Young University, was named the Big Sky Conference's Newcomer of the Year. She led the conference with a 14-1 record and allowed the second least earned runs among qualified pitchers.

Weber State led the Big Sky in most selections to the First Team All-Conference, with **FAITH HOE**, **CHLOE CAMARERO**, **MIKA CHONG** and Henderson being named to the team. **LAUREN HOE**, **MCKELL MCCUISTION**, **KATELYN WHITING** and **MARIAH RAMIREZ** were named to the Second Team All-Conference.

The Wildcats will host the Big Sky tournament in 2023.

WSU SPIRIT SQUAD

WINS TWO NATIONAL TITLES

The Weber State Spirit Squad brought home two trophies from Daytona in 2022.

The Wildcat cheer team won its fifth-straight national championship in the Division I Large Coed Division at the 2022 NCA/NDA Collegiate Nationals held in April in Daytona Beach, Florida. The team earned a score of 98.55 to win the event, nearly four points ahead of other teams. In the preliminaries, the Wildcats earned a 99.037 score.

This year, Weber State fielded a team for the Division I Small Coed Division and earned its first national title in that division with a score of 96.88.

"This was the first year the cheer squad competed with two teams in separate divisions at the NCA National Championship and it was unreal to bring home the championship in both," coach **SUMMER WILLIS** said. "I am extremely proud of all the hard work and dedication the squad put in in order to bring home both titles."

In the partner stunt competition, the Wildcats swept the podium, with **ELSA HASSETT** and **MATTHEW TORRES** taking home first place with a score of 98.72. **BAILLEE SCHIFF** and **JALANI KEO** took second with a score of 92.94 and **GAUGE STRICKLIN** and **KAT ABELA** took third with 89.44.

Willis said the squad plans to maintain their tradition of excellence and represent WSU and Utah at the national level.

Several members of the team were also named to the 2022 Team USA Premiere Coed squad, including **ANUHEA KEENE**, **JADA MCFARLAND**, **MOLLY MCLEOD**, **LEXIS PETERSON**, **KOLLIN COCKRELL**, **HUNTER FANGMANN**, **BRETT KESSLER**, **KEYSHAWN LEFLORE**, **CJ WEINBERG**, **GAUGE STRICKLIN** and **MATTHEW TORRES**.

The Weber State dance team also competed in Daytona, earning third place with a 94.06 with their Division I Hip Hop performance and fifth place in the Jazz Dance competition with a score of 92.57.



A SEASON OF *Victories*

13-3

The Wildcats’ record in conference play during the 2021 season, enroute to a share of the Big Sky Regular Season Championship for the second consecutive season. Weber State earned the right to host its first ever Big Sky Conference Tournament and a birth in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship tournament.

27

Consecutive matches the women’s volleyball team won at home in Swenson Gymnasium, the longest streak in the nation.

THE 2021 WEBER STATE WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL TEAM NETTED A PLACE IN THE HISTORY BOOKS

22-10

Volleyball’s final overall record, after advancing to the quarterfinals in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship. The Wildcats’ season ended when they fell to the UTEP Miners in five sets in El Paso.

MVP

Sophomore outside hitter **DANI (NAY) RICHINS** was named Big Sky Conference MVP for the 2021 season and named to the all-conference first team. Teammates **RYLIN ADAMS**, **ASHLYN POWER** and **SAM SCHIESS** were also named to the all-conference first team.

MEN’S GOLF TEAM AND COACH WIN BIG

The Wildcats shot their way to victory at the 2022 Big Sky Conference Men’s Championship, held at Talking Stick Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, in April.

The team wrapped up the tournament with a final score of 864, just one shot ahead of Northern Colorado and two shots clear of Sacramento State.

REESE FISHER finished with a 4-under par total of 206, becoming the first Wildcat to win individual medalist honors at the Big Sky Championships since **BLAIR BINGHAM** in 2002, and the first Wildcat to win a conference individual title since **NICK DESPAIN** took medalist honors in leading Weber State to the 2011 America Sky Conference title.

HAYDEN BANZ joined Fisher in the tournament’s top-10, tying for eighth place.

To cap off the victorious season, the Big Sky Conference named coach **SCOTT ERLING** as the Men’s Golf Coach of the Year. Erling, who serves as Director of Golf for Weber State, has been working with the Wildcat golf team since 2012.

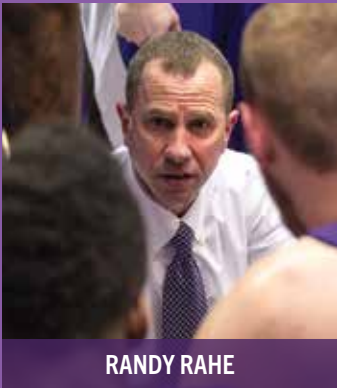
MEN’S BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL COACHES REACH MILESTONE WINS

During the 2021 season, WSU men’s basketball head coach **RANDY RAHE** won his 300th game by defeating Green Bay 68-58. Following the season, Rahe retired as the winningest coach in Weber State and Big Sky Conference history with a career record of 316-191 after 16 seasons with the team.

Former assistant coach **ERIC DUFT** has filled the position.

Also in 2021, football coach **JAY HILL** won his 54th game to become WSU’s winningest football coach in program history. The milestone came in a 38-7 win over Cal Poly, surpassing **DAVE ARSLANIAN**’s previous mark.

Hill finished the 2021 season with a lifetime record of 58-36.



RANDY RAHE



JAY HILL

THE BEST WOMEN’S TENNIS SEASON IN 20+ YEARS

Weber State women’s tennis team earned its first Big Sky Tennis regular season title in 22 years in spring 2022.

The team finished 7-1 in the league (14-9 overall) and earned a first seed ranking at the 2022 Big Sky Conference Women’s Tennis Championship before falling to Northern Arizona in the championship round.

Head Coach **RUTHANN ALLEN** was named the 2022 Big Sky Women’s Tennis Coach of the Year, making it the first honor for a Weber State tennis coach since 2000.

“I’m so proud of the team and our season this year,” Allen said. “They worked hard and put the team above themselves. Our focus was to compete in every match and support each other at all times. They did a great job meeting these two goals.”

Five Wildcats also earned honors, with **ANA MORETT** earning a spot on the All-Big Sky First Team Singles and Second Team Doubles; **MEGAN DAVIES** on the All-Big Sky Second Team Singles; **MEGAN LOMBARDI** as an Honorable Mention Singles and Honorable Mention Doubles; **PATTY KUO** on All-Big Sky Second Team Doubles; and **YUUNA UKITA** on Honorable Mention Doubles.

“I’m really looking forward to most of the team returning and two new freshmen coming in. We will continue to add to the culture we have been building,” Allen said of next season.



WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY