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A Vision for the Future

During his inauguration on Founders Day, Jan. 7, President **Brad Mortensen** shared his vision for the future of Weber State. He expressed his desire to align the university's strategic plan and emerging opportunities with the strength and accomplishments of its historic values.

"I hope it can be said I have been a listening, learning president, and that Weber State has been a learning university — not just a university that imparts knowledge, but a university that itself is learning," Mortensen said.

Under his leadership, Mortensen said the university will continue its hallmark of personalized attention; redouble its efforts to promote student enrollment, retention, completion and success; and prepare a next-generation workforce that balances technical skills with aptitude in problem-solving, critical thinking, communication and teamwork.

Mortensen will maintain a focus on the core themes of access, learning and community. He wants to expand the university's leadership role as a dual-mission institution, where students can earn certificates and easily advance from associate's to bachelor's to graduate degrees.

'CATAPULT scholarship launched

President Mortensen used inauguration to introduce 'CATapult, a scholarship fundraising initiative to raise \$10 million by July 1, 2021. Mortensen illustrated the need for such funding by sharing the story of **Yandriel Sobrino-Rodriguez**, BS '16.

Rodriguez and his family fled their native Cuba to escape political persecution. He arrived in Utah at age 11, unable to speak English. After high school, Rodriguez enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and spent the next four years serving his adopted country.

Following an honorable discharge, he enrolled at Weber State because of its reputation as a "military-friendly" campus. In his senior year, the computer science major was close to graduating when he discovered his GI Bill benefits were exhausted,

and he had too many credits to apply for alternative financial aid. A Veterans Upward Bound mentor suggested Rodriguez apply for a privately funded scholarship available to current students who are demonstrating progress toward a degree or certificate.

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Student Success - continued from page 1

Today, thanks to that scholarship, Yandriel is enrolled in a master's degree program and working as a software engineer. He calls his Weber State experience "life-changing."

"Without coming to the U.S. and attending college, I would either be working on a Cuban sugarcane plantation or in jail," Rodriguez said. "Everywhere I go, I let people know that I'm a veteran and that I went to Weber State."

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments #LouderandProuder

Earth and environmental sciences faculty **Elizabeth Balgord** and **Adolph Yonkee**, with WSU alumna **Amanda Gentry**, co-authored "Resolving the history of early fault slip and foreland basin evolution along the Wyoming salient of the Sevier fold-and-thrust belt: Integrating detrital zircon geochronology, provenance modeling, and subsidence analysis" in the Geological Society of America Special Paper 540: "Tectonics, Sedimentary Basins, and Provenance: A Celebration of William R. Dickinson's Career."

In December 2019, **Daniel Turner** completed the AIARE Course Leader Training allowing him to offer AIARE Level 1 and 2 Avalanche education courses without the assistance of outside contractors.

Campus recreation director **Teri Bladen** published "Exercise for the (Mental) Health of It!" in the *American College of Sports Medicine's Health & Fitness Journal* and served as chair of the 2019 NIRSA Directors Institute.

Five faculty from the Department of Foreign Languages presented at the 2019 Convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Spanish professors **Isabel Asensio** and **Craig Bergeson**, along with associate professor of Spanish **Electra Fielding**, co-presented "Building Proficiency in Language-for-the-Professions Courses"; Spanish

instructor **Chantal Esquivias** presented "A PBL Premise: Why do Students Care? The Product Square Template"; and **Kacy Peckenpaugh**, associate professor of German, co-presented "GOAL! Bring Culture and Communication to Life with German Soccer."

Earth and environmental sciences professor **Carie Frantz** co-authored "Physical and optical characteristics of 'rotten' heavily melted Arctic sea ice" in *The Cryosphere*.

Botany professor **Sue Harley** presented "A series of case studies to address misconceptions about the process of science" at the Botanical Society of America's annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

Associate professor of theatre **Jennifer Kokai** co-edited an anthology and contributed a chapter to the book *Performance and the Disney Theme Park Experience: The Tourist as Actor* published by Palgrave.

Professor of economics **John Mukum Mbaku's** article, "International Law and the Anglophone Problem in Cameroon: Federalism, Secession or the Status Quo?" was the lead article in *Suffolk Transnational Law Review*, winter 2019.

Medical laboratory science assistant professor **Justin Rhees** and co-authors

received the Distinguished Author Award — Clinical Practice for the article "Current Practice of Mitigating Monoclonal Anti-CD38 Interference in Pretransfusion Compatibility Testing" in the journal *Clinical Laboratory Science*.

Zoology professor **Michele Skopec** presented "Dietary and habitat specialization in woodrats (genus *Neotoma*) is associated with differences in caching behavior" at the American Society of Mammalogists 2019 annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Exercise & nutrition sciences professors **Jennifer Turley** and **Joan Thompson** published the book *Nutrition: Your Life Science*, 3rd Edition. Turley also published the book *Food Values, Diet Design, & Health*, 2nd Edition.

Health, physical education and recreation professor **Yan Huang** published three articles: "Using Walking Survey as a Community-Engaged Learning Component of an Online Health Promotion Course" in *Education*; "Father's Role in Secondhand Smoke Exposure During Pregnancy: A Systematic Review" in the *Californian Journal of Health Promotion*; and "Addressing Grade Negotiations by Adding Detailed Submission Policies to the Syllabus" in *The National Teaching & Learning Forum*.



WSU kicked off its participation in the 2020 Census on Jan. 13 with the **Wildcats Count: Census 2020 Panel** hosted by the Weber Historical Society Lecture Series.

The Constitution mandates the U.S. Census Bureau conduct a survey every 10 years. By April 1, the census will send an invitation to all homes in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories. For the first time, participants can complete the 10 questions online or on the phone. If not online, census takers will reach out by phone, mail or in person.

WSU's Political Engagement Coalition is taking a leadership role promoting the census on campus. They are asking faculty to help students understand their civic responsibility and the important consequences census results determine.

WSU's census efforts will culminate with Census Night on April 1 in the Stewart Library on the Ogden campus, and April 2 at WSU Davis. Attendees can ask questions and receive assistance completing the questions. Reference librarians will be available to help campus community members complete the questions anytime the library is open.

Reasons to participate

- Census determines how billions of federal dollars are allocated to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other community resources.
- Lawmakers, government agencies, business owners and others use data to provide daily services, products and support for the community.
- Determines the number of congressional seats from each state, as well as how legislative and school districts are drawn.



For more information about the 2020 Census, visit 2020census.gov.

Fighting Food Insecurity on Campus

The Weber Cares Program, which provides free food and resources to students in need, received a \$3,225 donation from Weber Dining (Sodexo) to aid in its efforts to combat food insecurity.

Supported by the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL), Weber Cares includes the Food & Resource Pantry, an emergency food voucher program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Since 2014, the pantry has served 1,190 visitors and distributed 23,562 pounds of food, a number that has increased significantly each year. During the 2018-19 school year, the pantry helped more than 600 students.

Recent pantry efforts include adding a refrigerator, offering cooking courses and creating a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA position to focus on reducing food insecurity.

"In the future, we hope to use produce from the campus community garden, recover food from campus events for grab-and-go meals and provide recipes and kits for students to learn how to cook," said **Teresa Martinez**, CCEL program coordinator.

Weber Dining holds an annual fundraiser for the pantry, where it asks diners to contribute extra money when they purchase a meal. This year, participants contributed \$2,225. Weber Dining donated an additional \$1,000 it received in grant money from the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation On-Campus Pantry Program.

Weber Dining also contributes to the pantry by collecting extra food from its kitchens each day. The food is packaged and taken to the pantry with help from student volunteers. After stocking the pantry, volunteers take any remaining food to Lantern House, a local community shelter.



School of Business Dean Appointed

The new dean of the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics, **Matthew Mouritsen**, is no stranger to WSU, having served as interim dean since June 2019, as director of the MBA program from 2008 to 2019 and as a faculty member since 2001.

In his various roles, Mouritsen has established strong relationships with community partners, led strategic initiatives to discover innovative ways to meet student needs and expanded Weber State's MBA program

"I am a firm believer in the strong and unique competitive advantage Goddard School graduates achieve at Weber State," Mouritsen said. "A large percentage of our students work in their fields, which connects

our relevant curriculum with contemporary business practices."

Mouritsen believes educating business professionals to prioritize ethical behavior and to emphasize long-term profitability over short-term gains is the way to restore consumer trust.

"The Goddard School's faculty and staff have a key role in moving the Utah economy forward," Mouritsen said. "Our role is accomplished as we help students transform themselves through the acquisition of knowledge, skills, abilities and ethics."

As dean, Mouritsen is excited to continue this legacy of forward-thinking, hands-on learning.



WELCOME to WSU

Heather Burnham, College of Engineering,
Applied Science & Technology

Mitchell Hansen, Accounting Services

Zachery Harris, Facilities Management

Karla Hughes, Academic Support Centers
& Programs

Dustin Huntsman, Advancement Services

Michael Leue, Veterans Upward Bound

Alan Miller, Facilities Management

Panhia Moua, John B. Goddard School
of Business & Economics

Kyra Neeley, Nursing

Jaed Norberg, Student Affairs Office

Megan Olsen, Telitha E. Lindquist College
of Arts & Humanities

McKell Painter, Stewart Library

Angela Parkinson, University Housing

Chelsea Pike, Nursing

Kelly Roberts, Facilities Management

Tania Romo-Ayala, Continuing Education

Christopher Steelman, Radiologic Sciences

Sandra Stennett, Dumke College of Health
Professions

Alexis Stokes, Stewart Library

Joann Tolman, Nursing

Kelley Trump, Nursing

On the Move/Promoted

Wendi Birch, Professional Sales

Cody Brenchley, University Police

Samantha Burroughs, Student Success Center

Catherine Burrup, Human Resources

Seth Cawley, University Police

Elizabeth Crawford-Bizzell, Dr. Ezekiel R.
Dumke College of Health Professions

Michael Davies, University Police

Verla Dearden, School of Computing

Joseph Dunn, Facilities Management

Erich Goeckeritz, Admissions Office

Lewis Grant, Application Development

Matthew Hendricks, Facilities Management

Ashley Hilton, Bursar and Collection Services

Taylor Knuth, Development

Dane LeBlanc, Public Safety

Jennifer Lueckler, Continuing Education

Teresa Martinez, Center for Community
Engaged Learning

Stephanie McKee, Financial Aid Office

Sherri Melton, Continuing Education

MaryElla Mitchell, Center for Community
Engaged Learning

Marvin Murry, Academic Technology Services

Jeffrey Page, Physics

Marcella Palmer, Financial Aid Office

Scott PoVey, Facilities Management

Nicole Schweppe, Continuing Education

Sadie Wayment, Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College
of Health Professions

Cathy Wells, Radiologic Sciences

Tessie Zaragoza-Davies, University Police



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