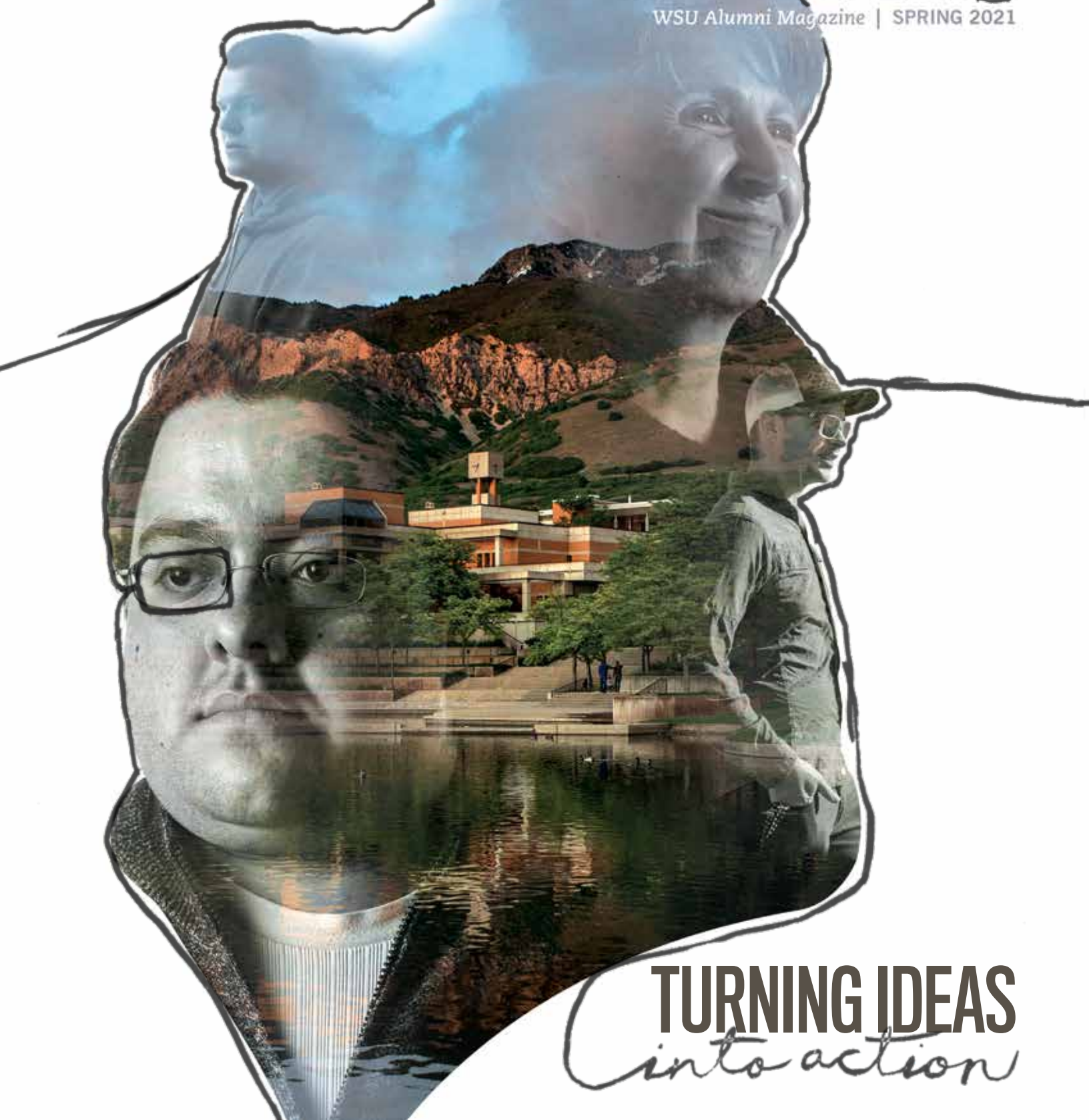


WILDCAT

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TURNING IDEAS
into action

A Legacy of Learning

School of Radiologic Sciences professor Diane Kawamura, recently retired from teaching full-time, has gone by many titles over her 41+ years at Weber State University.

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A WSU graduate four times over, Kawamura helped make WSU a radiologic sciences powerhouse. She has taught undergraduate- and graduate-level classes on campus and traveled to remote areas of Utah and neighboring states to teach and evaluate students. Even in retirement, she still teaches WSU courses.

She frequently runs into former students at educational conferences and in clinics where they hold administrative, supervisor or clinical instructor positions. These former students become role models to other professionals, provide excellent patient care, and leave a legacy of appreciation for their education.

*Ranked by AuntMinnie.com in 2016

I believe every day should be a day of learning.



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WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

News for Alumni & Friends

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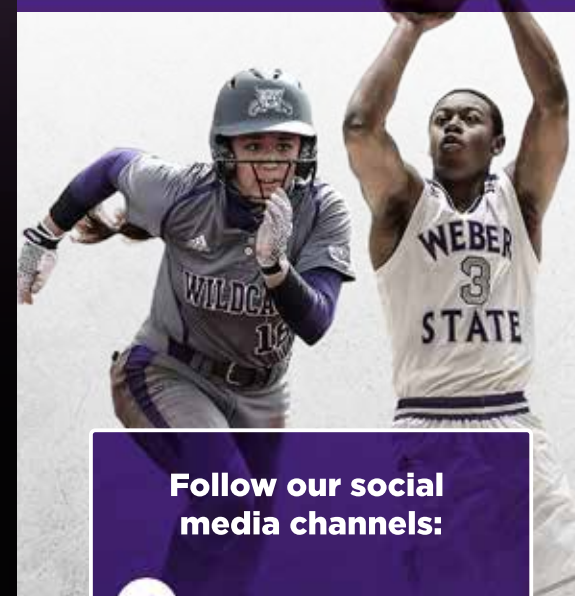
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Climb On, Wildcats!

Just over a year after breaking ground, Weber State's Outdoor Adventure & Welcome Center held its grand opening on Feb. 3, 2021. The 16,000-square-foot building allows WSU's Campus Recreation Outdoor Program to expand its equipment rental center and supports recreational rock climbing, with bouldering and a 55-foot climbing wall.

The facility includes a three-story, state-of-the-art rope access training center, where first responders and rescue workers can prepare for emergencies on high structures.

"This new center will be a beacon, helping to recruit students to Weber State University while leveraging our incredible outdoor resources and helping students create healthy, active lifestyles and lasting memories, all while getting the best higher education has to offer," said **Daniel Turner**, associate director of the Outdoor Program.

The Office of Admissions will also use the building to host visitor experiences that showcase Weber State's connection between education and the environment.

The facility was designed by ajc architects and constructed by the Wadman Corporation.

Going the *Distance*

Shiyenne Yazzie found her path in the School of Radiologic Sciences Outreach Program.

Distance doesn't intimidate Shiyenne Yazzie. In fact, she thrives despite it.

Living in Red Valley, Arizona, a community in the heart of the Navajo Nation known for its striking red-rock terrain, it's a long drive for essential items or even doctor visits.

She estimates the nearest doctor to be "an hour, maybe 45 minutes" away.

So when she decided to join the radiography program at Weber State University, an institution 450 miles away, distance wasn't the issue.

Gaining skills to provide for her growing family was.

About six years ago, Yazzie attended another university to pursue an electrical engineering degree. Being the first of her siblings in college, she found higher education difficult to navigate. After being poorly advised, she realized she had taken the wrong prerequisites.

Soon after that, she learned she was pregnant.

"My whole mindset changed," she said. "I was like, 'Oh my God, I'm going to bring a kid into this world. I have to provide somehow. I have to know that he's going to have a stable future.'"

Yazzie took a year off school to work a retail position to help pay tuition she still owed. After her son was born, she discovered WSU's School of Radiologic Sciences Outreach Program.

"I looked at the prerequisites that were needed, and I had most of them," she said.

With her next tax return, Yazzie finished paying her tuition balance and returned to school to complete the remaining prerequisites for WSU. To increase her chances of being accepted, she volunteered in the radiology department at Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility in Chinle, Arizona. While volunteering, she helped clinicians learn short Navajo phrases and used her language skills to aid older Navajo patients who did not speak English.

Yazzie started WSU classes this past fall. "I am so grateful that I am where I am today," she said.

She takes classes online and meets with instructors in Phoenix once per month. The School of Radiologic Sciences offers a similar program in Montana as well.

Yazzie looks to her mother, who raised her and her three siblings as a single parent, and her boyfriend, Mitchell, who encouraged her to pursue education, for inspiration.

She hopes to inspire her son and younger siblings by taking her education the distance.

"After I graduate with my Associate of Applied Science and become a registered RT [radiologic technologist], I want to keep going to school at Weber State for the CT/MRI program," she said. "After I'm done, I want to go into a specialty for my master's degree."

Shiyenne Yazzie, School of Radiologic Sciences student, with her boyfriend, Mitchell, and son.

Photo by Donovan Quintero

Stewart Library and Health Sciences Team Up to Cut Costs for Students

Toward the end of 2019, Weber State's Department of Health Sciences began evaluating the online course materials made available to their students. They particularly focused on materials used for HTHS 1110 and HTHS 1111, two prerequisite classes all WSU students studying health-related programs must take focusing on human anatomy and physiology.

Upwards of 1,500 students sign up for the courses each year, with the number steadily increasing.

The department's conclusion: The content of the online course materials was not of the highest learning quality for its students. Faculty began exploring the idea of creating better-designed materials on their own.

In December 2019, they got to work. Seven health sciences faculty members began writing new online text and course modules. Twenty individual learning modules were selected and created. For each module, new images were adopted, PowerPoint presentations were redesigned and recorded lectures were updated. In addition, over 3,500 exam questions

were revised. Students in HTHS 1110 began using the new materials during the summer 2020 semester, while the HTHS 1111 materials were being prepared for rollout in the fall.

The project was funded by the Stewart Library, the Stewart Education Foundation and Weber State's Provost's Office. The updated materials cost \$24 per student, saving each student more than \$275.

The department's top priority in this project was creating quality content for its students, followed by keeping the cost inexpensive. The estimated savings over a 10-year period is more than \$4 million.

Faculty members, such as **James Cohen**, assistant professor of botany, have also partnered with the library by switching to ebooks, another strategy to save students' textbook costs. "I want to make sure that students are able to participate in class starting on day one by having access to a licensed ebook and make sure that access to the text is not a barrier for students being able to fully engage in class," Cohen said.

New Dean for Arts & Humanities

The new year brings a new dean to the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities.

Deborah Uman believes the study and practice of arts and humanities helps people and societies survive and thrive, particularly during periods of tumult. She plans to help the Lindquist College support students and enrich the community with cultural excellence.

"I am excited to join WSU with its deep commitment to access and equity," Uman said. "Lindquist College offers extraordinary opportunities to students dedicated to creativity and analysis. I look forward to working with the outstanding faculty, staff and students to find new ways to communicate our shared understanding of the importance of arts and humanities in our rapidly changing world."

Uman specializes in English Renaissance literature, including writers such as William Shakespeare and John Milton with an additional focus on female writers from the period including Mary Sidney and Aphra Behn.

At St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, Uman chaired the Department of English. She also served as interim director for the film and television studies program and previously directed the women and gender studies program.

Uman holds a bachelor's in English literature from Yale and her master's and doctoral degrees in English literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She's also an active musician who plays trumpet in several community orchestras and chamber groups.



Professor Yu-Jane Yang Recognized for Excellence in Teaching with Prestigious National Award

WSU Director of Keyboard Studies and a Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor, **Yu-Jane Yang**, was recognized recently for her passion and dedication to teaching.

After evaluating the state finalists from all 50 states in the U.S., the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) selected Yang as the organization's Teacher of the Year for 2020.

MTNA plans to honor Yang at its award ceremony in March 2021. The organization's affiliated state chapter, the Utah Music Teachers Association (UMTA) held a virtual reception recognizing Yang's accomplishment on Nov. 7, 2020, at its virtual state conference.

Now in its 20th year, the MTNA Teacher of the Year award recognizes an individual teacher who has made a difference in students' lives, has contributed to the advancement of music in their community and is an example of a professional music educator each year. This is the first time this MTNA national teaching award has been granted to a teacher from Utah.

"I am extremely humbled by this totally unexpected national honor," Yang said. "I would like to attribute this prestigious award to all of my inspirational former teachers and mentors, to my remarkable and diligent WSU students and to President Mortensen and the administration, as well as many generous music donors of WSU, from whom I have continuously received incredible support."

Yang's students at WSU have also received high honors from the Utah Music Teachers Association. Yang's WSU piano students won four of the top six prizes in the state at the UMTA 2020 State Collegiate Piano Concerto Competition, recognized as one of the most competitive events for collegiate piano students in Utah. **Min-Shan "Susan" Tsai** earned first-place state honors, **Ting-Yu "Cindy" Lu** received third place, and **Shu-Han Shen** and **Miranda Hoggan** were each awarded honorable mention.

"Yu-Jane is the most dedicated, unselfish teacher, mentor and friend I know," said Laurisa Cope, UMTA president. "Thank you for all you have shared with the teachers and students of Utah."

Walker Institute Leaders Look to Keep Political Energy High

The new leadership team at Weber State’s Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service hit the ground running with plans to get WSU and the surrounding community more engaged in and excited about the political process.



Leah Murray and **Devin Wisner**, who both took on newly created positions with the institute in 2020, hope to increase civic engagement by combining two of former Utah Governor **Olene Walker’s** passions: education and politics.

Wisner began serving as executive director of the Walker Institute and government relations in November, as political participation hit a peak during the recent presidential election.

“Right now is the time to strike, while people are interested,” Wisner said. “It’s our goal to get them to maintain that interest always, and not just in the month or two leading up to a presidential election.”

Murray, who began her role as Walker Institute academic director in July, is equally excited about getting the WSU community involved in politics — and not just when they’re voting for the president.

“Citizenship is a 365-days-a-year, all-levels-of-government kind of commitment,” Murray said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Murray and Wisner are planning virtual events and initiatives to help educate people about political processes and practical ways to be engaged. That includes efforts related to WSU’s Voter Friendly Campus designation, given to institutions that work to increase student voters, as well as a citizen’s academy course to teach people about government.

In addition, monthly forums will be held on timely political topics. Though virtual for now, the events will eventually bring people to campus, keeping Weber State a hub for political discussions in the region.

For information on upcoming events and initiatives or to donate to the Walker Institute, visit weber.edu/walkerinstitute.



Signing to Support Utah’s Climate

President **Brad Mortensen** joined more than 120 other Utah leaders to sign Utah’s Climate & Clean Air Compact last fall, committing to address air quality and climate change issues in Utah. Signatories included leaders of business, government, faith and civic institutions in Utah.

The compact calls upon state and community leaders, members of Congress, businesses and all Utahns to adopt the milestones of *Utah Roadmap: Positive Solutions to Climate and Air Quality*, which includes guidance to reduce greenhouse emissions, address air quality issues and make advancements in energy production.

In 2007, Weber State committed to become carbon neutral by 2050. The university is on track to be carbon neutral by 2040, 10 years ahead of the initial goal.

Find more information at climateandcleanaircompact.org.

Fulbright Honors Weber State Scholar Sarah Steimel

After an extensive application and review process, the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board selected Weber State communication professor **Sarah Steimel** as a Fulbright Specialist to conduct scholarly work during the late spring and early summer of 2020.

Her project with Polotsk State University in Belarus was designed to expand higher-education opportunities to more of the country’s citizens through quality online programs. Steimel spent three months coordinating plane tickets, visas and other details with the State Department. Then the trip was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Of course, I was incredibly disappointed,” Steimel said. “I would have loved the opportunity to collaborate and share my passion for online and international education with Belarusian colleagues. I also wanted to study their teaching practices to bring ideas back to WSU.”

Steimel is hopeful the Fulbright board will be able to reschedule once it is safe to do so. Until then, she will continue to share her passion for online and international education with Weber State students as the director of the Master of Professional Communication program.

She is the 12th Weber State Fulbright recipient since 1999.





Responding to Community Need. WSU Launches New Master of Social Work

When Nick Call BA '13, a Weber County native, sought a master's degree in social work to become a mental health care provider, he had to move to Salt Lake City to attend the University of Utah. Now owner and executive clinical director of Tree of Life Counseling Center in North Ogden and Tree of Life Children's Center in Farr West, Call says he would have stayed closer to home while pursuing his master's degree if he had that option.

"It would have been a game changer for me," Call said. "The first four or five years of my career were spent in Salt Lake because that's where I got my education. If I could have gone to school here in Ogden, the first years of my career would have most definitely been spent here, serving the community in the best way I know: helping reduce the stigma of accessing mental health care."

Call stayed in the Salt Lake area because his program maintained close relationships with local organizations, funneling graduates into open positions nearby, he said. This is exactly how Weber State plans to collaborate with

community partners when the university graduates the first class of its newly launched Master of Social Work program, said **Mark Bigler**, Department of Social Work & Gerontology chair. The program accepted applications in December for its inaugural class, which will enter the program in fall 2021.

Public and private providers of mental health care and substance abuse treatment in northern Utah are struggling to fill positions that require a Master of Social Work degree due to national and local shortages of professionals in the field, said **Kevin Eastman**, executive director of Weber Human Services. In 2016, the Utah Medical Education Council published a report projecting that the state would need to more than double its mental health care workforce by 2030, prompting urgent community discussion of the need for a local program, Bigler said.

Weber State's new graduate program will help surrounding counties meet this need, Bigler said, since the program will likely attract people like Call, who want to stay in the area after graduating.

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Storytelling Festival turns 25 and takes a new approach to spinning yarns

Jaime Winston

Years before she first became a Weber State Storytelling Festival teller, **Lynn Wing** saw the power her stories held as an elementary school celebrity.

Now a well-known regional storyteller with more than 25 years of experience, she earned her chops by spinning yarns as a volunteer at Salem Elementary in Utah County. And she had plenty to tell, inspired by places she lived and family who passed their stories down through the generations. Wing, who has lived in California, Hawaii, Wisconsin and Utah, still recalls the story her grandfather liked to tell about her grandmother feeding the family's pig "a huge bottle of salt tablets."

"Every week, I would go in and I would tell a story," said Wing, who performed in the school library. "Every 20 minutes, they'd bring in a new class, and I'd be telling stories for about an hour and a half to two hours." It didn't take long for kids in just

reese draper

about every grade to remember her. “I would walk down the halls and hear ‘Hey, Mrs. Wing!’ ‘Hi, Mrs. Wing!’”

Wing’s love for storytelling runs deeper than the recognition it brings though. “We’re actually storytelling creatures. That’s how we communicate, really, all the time,” she said. “It just seemed a natural fit to be able to share all these stories.”

Celebrating its 25th year, Weber State’s Storytelling Festival features adult and youth storytellers, ranging from kindergartners to high school seniors. Typically held at Peery’s Egyptian Theater in Ogden, school districts send children by bus to attend, and special storytelling programs are held at area schools. “It’s so fun to tell stories to these busloads of children who are very excited about the whole prospect of being there and taking part in the storytelling,” Wing said.

Wing performed in it for the first time in 2015, and returned each year since. She will also be part of the 2021 festival.

WSU’s festival is the first festival in the nation to put national and youth storytellers on the same stage, said **Karen Lofgren**, former professor and founding festival chair.

Chloe Merrill, professor of child and family studies, former Boyd K. and Donna S. Packer Center for Family & Community Education director and longtime Storytelling Festival supporter, says local schools, foundations and donors help support the festival financially so it can stay free to the public. In addition, a fundraising dinner is typically held during the festival.

The 2021 festival, running Feb. 22 to March 18, will be held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the theme Tales to Remember: 25 Stories in 25 Days. Throughout the festival, new links will go live on the festival website that will take users to recorded stories. **David Byrd**, Storytelling Festival chair and teacher education professor, says the fundraiser will go online as well, and guests will have access to exclusive online stories. While storytellers won’t visit schools this year, the program is still expanding its reach.

“This has turned into an outreach program across the country, across the world,” Byrd said. “It will be

accessible to everybody.” Last year’s festival reached 5,000 people. While organizers don’t know how many will attend virtually this year, Byrd says the link to the festival is being shared to as many areas as possible.

Telling Stories Online

Along with reaching more people, Byrd says another advantage to going online is the ease of archiving the recorded stories and providing them on social media and to teachers to show in their classrooms. “The big drawback is we can’t have quite as many tellers, and we won’t have quite as many sessions,” Byrd said. “Storytelling is a reactive event, so, recording the story, you also don’t see how the audience is reacting, and that will be a bit of a challenge for some of the tellers.”

Wing said storytellers need to take a different approach to their telling online. “You don’t have the energy of a live audience,” she said. “Rather than trying to present as if you’re presenting to an audience, it’s kind of scaled back on the performance, a little more personal. I am telling a story, and I’m telling it to you.”

Wing adds that one thing, however, definitely hasn’t changed. As she tells her stories, those who hear them can still picture them in their minds. “If we’re doing it correctly, they’re experiencing the story with us,” Wing said. “It’s a very dynamic artform.”

Motoko, a national storyteller at the 2021 festival who last attended in 2012, says she’s relieved that the festival wasn’t completely



David Byrd

canceled due to COVID-19, and she has had to become comfortable with virtual storytelling over the course of the pandemic.

Luckily, her partner, storyteller Eshu Bumpus, is a “technical wizard,” she said.

“I’m beginning to find out that each story requires different types of visual enhancements,” she said. “My task now is to effectively digitally enhance my stories so they will be interesting — things you wouldn’t have to think about in an in-person performance.”

As she records her stories, she tries to imagine how her virtual audience will react. “If they are laughing, I must give them time to laugh,” she said.

Motoko graduated from International Christian University in Tokyo and attended University of Massachusetts as an exchange student. While in college, she learned to mime. “Because I’m a mime and very physical, I naturally try to move and engage my whole body,” she said. “But recorded stories or going live online confines you into this little rectangle, and it’s a little bit frustrating.” A solution, she discovered, is finding parts of her stories that call for the camera to move instead, offering different angles and zooming in and out.

At the festival, guests will see how Motoko and Bumpus have taken the reins in virtual storytelling, as she tells stories that include folktales from Japan and other areas in Asia.

She will be joined by fellow national storytellers **Ed Stivender** and **Simon Brooks**.

Stivender performed at WSU’s first Storytelling Festival and returned multiple times. Since 1980, he has performed all

The Award goes to

The WSU Storytelling Festival honors a community member who perpetuates the art of storytelling with the Karen J. Ashton Award, named for a storyteller and longtime festival supporter, annually. This year’s award will be given to **Claudia Eliason**.



Lynn Wing



motoko

over the country and world and can say that Ogden's Egyptian Theater is one of the most beautiful theaters he's come across.

This year, however, like Motoko, he will go on screens instead of on stage.

Giving people a break from their troubles and concerns and helping them become immersed in stories is Stivender's top goal, especially following a year like 2020.



ed stivender

"Performing for a webcam, which I'll be doing in my studio, is very different than performing for an audience in front of me, especially the lovely, warm audiences in Ogden," said Stivender, who also sees the bright side. "The fact it will perhaps reach a greater number is a positive thing, and I will do my best to give whoever is watching the break that I intend in my storytelling."

He says it's an honor to return again for the 25th anniversary.

"Most storytelling festivals don't make it to five years, but the fact that this is the silver anniversary of a wonderful festival is a great thing to celebrate," he said.

From Soggy Shoes to Success Story

Karen Lofgren uses one word to describe the inaugural Weber State University Storytelling Festival, held Sept. 13 and 14, 1996: "Disaster."

The idea to hold the event outside at the Ogden campus, so festivalgoers could enjoy autumn as they listened to storytellers' captivating tales, didn't go quite as planned. "The night before, a water main broke on the lower campus, and that's where all the tents were," said Lofgren, chair of the first festival. "We went over the next morning, and everything was flooded."

Most of the water was able to be removed, but the grass stayed soggy.



karen lofgren

In addition, not many attended since they didn't know what to expect, Lofgren said. She says it seems like about 150 guests came, a small crowd compared to thousands today.

Wet shoes and low attendance aside, Lofgren says WSU President Paul H. Thompson saw a future in the festival and didn't want it to die after one year. The next year, the festival's steering committee moved it indoors to Peery's Egyptian Theater. The festival now holds events in Davis County and conducts outreach to local schools as well.

The festival has received the Oracle Award from the National Storytelling Network in 2001, a community service award from Utah Association for Gifted Children in 2003 and the Distinguished Project Award from the Utah Association of Teacher Educators in 2010.

Lofgren says the festival's steering committee, a diverse group of volunteers who help plan and run the festival, has been its key to success. "The success you see today is because of that original storytelling committee that had the vision," she said.

Ann Ellis, retired WSU teacher education professor, former festival chair for eight years and steering committee member since the beginning, says another reason the festival has lasted 25 years is its focus on children. "From the very beginning, we worked out a way for children to be active storytellers on stage during the festival," Ellis said. "It's turned our festival into an internationally recognized event, particularly because of the children who tell the stories."

Ellis says the festival also has a unifying power for all ages.



ann ellis

"We wanted it to be a broad community event, and we wanted to reflect the culture of the community," she said. To help accomplish that goal, storytellers representing a broad range of backgrounds, including bilingual storytellers, are brought in every year.

"That's one way we've been able to help people feel more unified," she said. "Right now, in our country, I think we need a little more of that."

Meet a Youth Storyteller: reese draper

Big crowds used to make **Reese Draper** a little nervous, but now that he's a storyteller, his confidence has shot up like the giraffe's neck in one of his favorite stories.

"I'm not as shy to speak in front of an entire crowd," said Reese, a Riverdale Elementary fifth grader who was chosen as one of the youth storytellers at the 2021 WSU Storytelling Festival.

Festivalgoers might hear his story about how the giraffe got its long neck, tongue and legs, but they should also expect the unexpected. His favorite part of storytelling: "You can tell random things that pop into your mind, and they don't have to make sense too much."

His family also appreciates stories. Reese says that he enjoys listening to stories in the car with his grandmother, and his father likes to share memories from junior high and high school. Reese's favorite school subject is language arts. At home, he enjoys playing with LEGOs and his dog, Tucker. While he just might become a nationally recognized storyteller someday, right now, mail carrier is one of the careers that intrigues him the most.

Get Involved in storytelling

Storytellers **Motoko** and **Lynn Wing** shared amazing stories with us that have been transcribed for you! Find them at weber.edu/wsumagazine.

Have a fond memory from a past Storytelling Festival? Tell us about it at magazine@weber.edu.

This year's festival runs **Feb. 22 to March 18, 2021**. Find out more at weber.edu/storytelling.

Festival organizers hope to host the 2022 event in person, and they already need volunteers. To sign up, contact David Byrd at davidbyrd@weber.edu.



out of the darkness

A global pandemic
means mental health care
is more important
than ever
Katie England

corbin standley

Coping During Covid

Corbin Standley BS '15 lost his older brother, David, to suicide in June 2010, setting his life on a different course as he headed into his senior year of high school.

To help Standley process his loss, he sought a better understanding of mental health by taking an AP psychology course, and later enrolled in the psychology program at Weber State.

As he wandered the booths at a suicide prevention walk in Salt Lake City in 2012, one table in particular caught his attention. A volunteer with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) was handing out flyers about campus Out of the Darkness Walks — the first he had

heard of such an event. Standley soon reached out to **Taryn Hiatt**, the area director for AFSP, about starting campus suicide prevention walks on Weber State's campus.

If anyone else was dealing with depression or losing a loved one to suicide, as he had during one

of the most formative years of his life, he wanted to connect them with support and resources by bringing the community and campus together.

"I wanted to build awareness and support, while letting people know they're not alone," said Standley, who is now a doctoral student at Michigan State University whose work focuses on social and community issues related to suicide.

Standley began the first Out of the Darkness Walk in 2015, and student-led suicide prevention events have been held on campus each year since. Since 2015, the walks have raised more than \$10,000 for suicide prevention efforts.

In 2020, a suicide prevention walk in November was virtual due to the pandemic. The walk was led by WSU Student Association mental health advocates, **Carly Ferrin** and

Samuel Strong, who went live on Instagram to encourage other students to walk with loved ones to promote positive mental health by exercising outside with other people.

Those events have attracted others who have lost loved ones or dealt with depression themselves, including **Bret Alexander BS '19**, former student body president and current grad student and new student orientation program advisor for the Student Success Center.

Like Standley, Alexander lost someone to suicide as a teenager.

A boy he was in a relationship with died by suicide when Alexander was 19, prompting him to realize a couple of things. First, knowing that LGBTQ youth often face unique stressors that lead to higher rates of suicide, he committed to fully stepping into his identity as a gay man. Second, he was going to spread hope to others who might find themselves in a situation where they felt they had no hope. Alexander has spoken at suicide prevention events on campus, and still carries around a small rock he painted at one event that says "High hopes."

"If you pull it out of your pocket, hopefully it pushes you a little bit, or at least one more day," he said.

Effects of Pandemic

Mental health is a struggle for many even in the best of times, and 2020 has featured a global pandemic, economic downturn and a contentious presidential election, exacerbating depression and anxiety for many people. At Weber State's Counseling & Psychological Services Center, many people are seeking services directly related to effects from the pandemic, said **Dr. Aaron Jeffrey**, associate director of clinical services. Financial stress, family stress or difficulty coping with changes brought about by COVID-19 are all reasons people are seeking help, Jeffrey said.

"I think we all have a coping buffer, and that's just kind of been whittled away with earthquakes and racial tension and all of this stuff," Jeffrey said. "And now with Covid, people just don't have this buffer anymore. What they used to be able to roll with, now just pushes them over the edge. A lot of people who previously may not have sought services come in and reach out to us now."

Despite the extra stressors people have experienced this year, Jeffrey said that the actual number of people seeking help at the counseling center has diminished somewhat — which worries him.

"In the early stages of the pandemic, as we transitioned to teletherapy, we had about half our usual demand," Jeffrey said. "At the end of fall 2020 semester, we had about two-thirds the usual number of clients, but are almost on par with the typical number of sessions provided."

While he knows the mental health struggles are out there, he says some people may not have been comfortable with the virtual and tele-mental-health services offered during the fall 2020 semester, or they're so burned out from dealing with everything else that even making an attempt to connect with services is too much.

Many mental health issues first manifest between the ages of 18 and 25, Jeffrey said, right when many people are in college. Add that to the transition from high school to college and the stress of keeping up with classes, jobs and other responsibilities, and biological and environmental factors create the perfect storm.

Isolation is another factor that the pandemic has increased that can affect mental health, said **Amy Blunck**, the coordinator of mental health initiatives for Counseling & Psychological Services Center. With many people working or taking classes from home, it can make it easier not to check in with family and friends about how they're doing.

Utah has had higher suicide rates than the nation as a whole consistently for the last decade, and suicide is the leading cause of preventable death in Utah. It accounts for more than 600 deaths a year — and thousands

bret alexander

“Covid leveled the playing field.
everybody's struggling”

more attempts, according to the Utah Department of Health.

Though Utah's suicide rates have mostly held stable during the pandemic, rates of seeking help have gone up, Hiatt said.

“Covid leveled the playing field,” Hiatt said. “Everybody's struggling.”

Seeking Help

Treatment and support is available for anyone in the WSU community struggling with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues.

Support can range from calling the National Suicide Prevention lifeline to visiting your primary care physician for an assessment.

The important thing, Hiatt said, is that you find someone who takes you seriously.

Seeking support from peers on campus is another option. Blunck oversees health initiatives on campus, including a program of peer-based mental health support groups. Students have to take a class before leading a support group, such as the virtual anxiety toolbox. Since there is still a stigma around seeking mental health services, Blunck said some students who would be averse to seeking help from a therapist or counselor are more open to sharing with fellow students. Options including group, individual, couple and family therapy are also available through the Counseling & Psychological Services Center.

For those who aren't current students, the counseling center's website has a variety of useful mental health information, videos, apps, screening tools and crisis resources.

If there's a silver lining to the pandemic it's that people are talking about mental health more than ever.

“It emphasizes our need to connect with others. It emphasizes the need to know we aren't alone, we're not alone in those struggles,” Standley said.

Suicide Prevention resources

On Campus

Counseling & Psychological Services Center
Students can schedule a free appointment at 801-626-6406 or weber.edu/counselingcenter. Caring staff will help direct you to the best treatment option for you.

Wellness Center
Find resources to maintain health and wellness of your body and mind. Learn more at weber.edu/studentwellness, or contact them at 801-626-7524 or studentwellness@weber.edu.

In the Community

NUHOPE
This coalition works to prevent suicide and increase suicide awareness in northern Utah. Visit nuhopeutah.org for information on resources, support groups and more.

Weber Human Services
Call the 24-hour crisis line at 1-800-273-8255. Learn more about their services at weberhs.net.

Live On Utah
Whether you've lost someone to suicide or are in crisis and considering it yourself, you'll find a plethora of resources at liveonutah.org.

National

Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Call 1-800-273-8255 24/7 to speak with a counselor.

'CATapult Funds Distributed So Far

Summer 2020
\$233,185

Spring 2020
\$22,852

Total awarded:
\$446,322 to
527 students
as of October 2020

Average award:
\$1,080

Make your gift today at weber.edu/catapult.

'CATAPULT to Completion

Tammy McCray had one goal: to graduate with her degree before she turned 60.

As a recipient of the 'CATapult Scholarship, the 59-year-old was able to do that in December 2020 with a degree in communication with an emphasis in public relations and advertising.

“After that I'm going to sit and rest,” McCray said, laughing, as she planned her graduation last fall. Eventually, she hopes to use her education to promote her own photography business.

Without the scholarship, McCray wouldn't have had the financial means to finish her degree during the fall semester. She knew it would have been twice as hard to return to school if she took time off to save, and she didn't see getting a loan as an option.

On top of that, her mother passed away the prior spring, followed shortly by her nephew, and then by another nephew. This made staying focused on classes, let alone paying for them, a challenge.

McCray's advisor, **Leslie Howerton**, suggested she look at scholarships to get through her final semester, which resulted in her applying for the 'CATapult scholarship.

President **Brad Mortensen** announced 'CATapult, a \$10 million scholarship fundraising initiative aimed at helping students complete their degree, in January 2020.

Since then, about \$446,322 has been awarded to 527 students. The average amount distributed to students has been about \$1,080.

Mortensen said the idea for the program came from students who shared personal examples about how hard it is to stay in school with financial challenges.

“Some students didn't say anything and quietly dropped their classes before the tuition deadline every semester,” he said. “We know that scholarships dedicated to students working to cross the finish line in their final semesters — like the Jack & Barbara Magdiel Scholarship Endowment — really make a difference to help students finish. So, we wanted to do something bold to eliminate the financial barriers for students who have already put so much effort into their degree.”

McCray tried once before to pursue higher education at Weber State, but stopped to take care of her daughter after she contracted a staph infection while giving birth.

Even though her road to a degree has been long, McCray has continued working full-time at Marketstar, a local sales and marketing company, while pursuing her dream.

McCray said students should believe in their dreams no matter what, and never give up.

“This has been on my bucket list,” she said.



from crisis to opportunity

WSU certificate programs help
1,200+ Utahns build high-demand
skills during the pandemic, with
support from state grants funded
by the CARES Act

Megan Olsen

timber crickson

“It was a perfect opportunity for me to get established in the geospatial field and gave me a really good skill set for my future position.”

With his newly minted bachelor’s degree in geography, **Timber Erickson** walked straight into a full-time position after graduating from Weber State University in December 2020. He’d been offered the job months before, despite the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affecting the economy.

Erickson’s success wasn’t just a lucky break during a difficult time. Throughout his undergraduate years, he made incremental progress toward full-time employment.

As part of his geography major, Erickson studied geospatial technology, a field that includes digital mapmaking, airborne and satellite imagery and global positioning and navigation systems (GPS), as well as the software used to analyze and

interpret geospatial data, called geographic information systems (GIS).

“It was a perfect opportunity for me to get established in the geospatial field and gave me a really good skill set for my future position,” Erickson said.

After only a few courses in geospatial technology during his first year of college, Erickson landed a summer job as a part-time GIS specialist with his hometown of Evanston, Wyoming. He kept the job throughout his undergraduate years, making more money than he would in most student jobs. He continued to build on his geospatial technology skills at Weber State, graduating with an advanced certificate in geospatial analysis in addition to his bachelor’s degree.

The certificate Erickson earned is one of two offered by Weber State’s Northern Utah Geospatial Technology Education Program (NUGeoTec), which also offers an entry-level certificate. Either credential makes students hireable in the field after only two semesters of coursework.

Given the employment success of Erickson and other students who’ve earned geospatial technology certificates, it’s no surprise that NUGeoTec faculty jumped at the opportunity to apply for a competitive state grant to expand the program’s enrollment.

Utah allocated a portion of the state’s allotted funding from the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act toward an initiative called “Learn & Work in Utah,” which gave colleges and universities the opportunity to compete for funding to train Utah residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NUGeoTec was one of 16 Weber State programs that were awarded grants from this funding after applying at the state level, bringing in almost \$2 million to the university.

Most of those funds went toward student tuition for courses during fall and spring semesters, supporting more than 1,200 Utah residents pursuing certificates ranging from instructional design to law enforcement.

The certificates offered through these programs can be stand-alone credentials, qualifying students to work immediately upon completion, said **James Taylor**, director of Weber State’s Office of Sponsored Projects and Technology Commercialization.

Erickson has seen job postings for geospatial technology positions in northern Utah that offer \$20 an hour or more, he said, requiring only a certificate and a high school diploma.

“As soon as students get a year’s worth of experience in school, they can find a decent job to provide for themselves or their families,” Taylor said.

Most of the certificates also provide foundational credit for associate’s and bachelor’s degrees, he said. This makes them “stackable” credentials that allow students to progress in their careers while continuing to pursue a degree, formalizing an approach like the one Erickson took.

“A lot of our programs are for academic credit,” Taylor said. “Weber State is really unique in that way.”

This is true of Weber State’s new CS Flex program in computer science, which was also awarded Learn & Work grant funding. CS Flex allows students to take computer science courses online at their own pace, completing an

associate’s degree in about 14 months, though the time frame is flexible. The courses don’t follow the schedule of a traditional semester, so students can start whenever they’re ready.

With the grant, CS Flex paid the tuition of select students taking any of the program’s first four courses, allowing them to earn a certificate in computer programming essentials on their way to an associate’s degree in computer science.

Because the program is online, CS Flex also opens opportunities for people across the state to earn a computer science credential.

Stacey King, a resident of Hurricane in southern Utah, is a CS Flex student who was selected to receive Learn & Work tuition support. Prior to this, King had been awarded a scholarship that was discontinued because of the pandemic. Losing the scholarship made her consider postponing her courses so she could save money for tuition.

“The CARES funding provided what I needed to keep going,” King said.

King teaches high school math for Utah Online School, a public school open to students across the state. CS Flex courses will allow her to earn an endorsement in computer science from the Utah State Board of Education. This will qualify her to teach high school computer science, expanding her school’s course offerings and equipping her students with marketable skills. The endorsement also comes with a pay raise.

Having flexibility in her coursework has been essential, King said, since her job teaching online has ballooned due to the

(Continued on page 32)

WSU LEARN & WORK CARES FUNDING

by the numbers

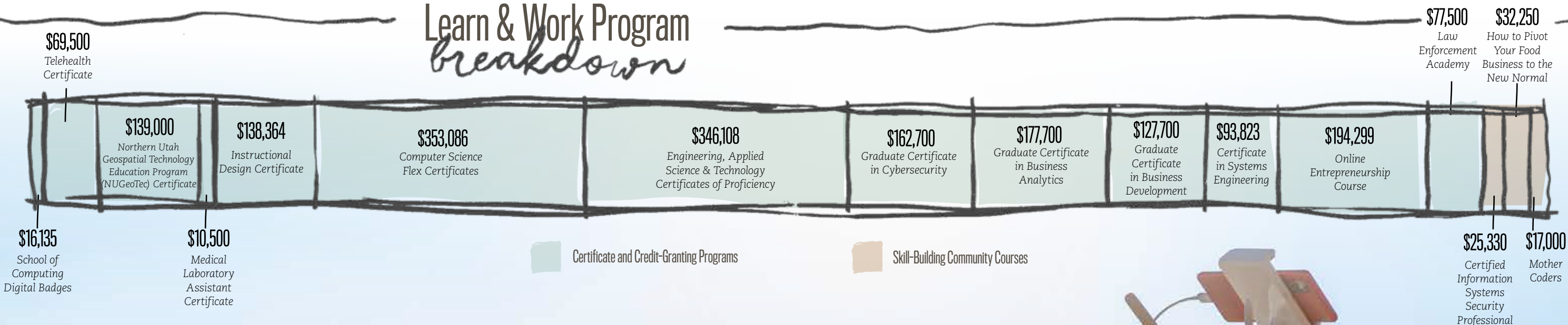
\$ 1,980,995

1,202
total number of students

16
learn & work programs

\$1,300
average tuition amount per student

Learn & Work Program *breakdown*



CARES for COVID-19 *relief*

Learn & Work programs are only one way Federal CARES Act funding is supporting Weber State. The university has received five other grants of CARES funding to address needs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three grants totaling \$12.3 million were awarded through the U.S. Department of Education. They funded direct financial aid for students, the costs of rapidly transitioning to online learning, refunds of housing and tuition expenses, and training for faculty and staff, among other needs. The first grant of \$5.86 million was dedicated to student financial assistance, as was a portion of the second grant.

Weber State also received two grants of CARES funding from local agencies, one for \$6.56 million through the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN), the other for \$750,000 through Weber County. The UETN grant covered education technology expenses, including a suite of new technology and collaboration spaces based in Lampros Hall and the Stewart Library, called the Digital Fluency District. The Weber County grant paid for personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, parts of the Digital Fluency District, and equipment for radiology and respiratory therapy students to use in simulations that replaced the clinical experiences they lost due to the pandemic.

Timber Erickson and professor Bryan Dorsey explore locations for a proposed wildlife crossing bridge over Interstate 84 in Summit County in November 2020. The research was part of a senior project by Erickson.

(Continued from page 29)

The CARES funding
provided what
I needed to
keep going”

pandemic, and she has four children of her own.

“CS Flex courses are built to be accelerated, so you can finish them quickly,” King said. “But they also have the flexibility to take more time if you have a rough week or if something just isn’t clicking.”

CS Flex was a new program in fall 2020, so it was a big surprise when it received more than \$350,000 through the Learn & Work initiative, said **Linda DuHadway**, associate professor of computer science and CS Flex coordinator. The grant was a major vote of confidence in the program, she said, which was reinforced by a surge of student interest.

The program’s goal was to enroll 90 students for fall semester, DuHadway said. It ultimately enrolled more than 200 students and provided tuition support for 119.

“There were students who only tried CS Flex because this funding was available,” DuHadway said.

By jumpstarting the growth of these certificate programs, many of them designed to address long-standing regional shortages in the technology workforce, Taylor thinks the Learn & Work funding will have far-reaching effects on the local economy.

“These programs will grow and prosper even after this funding ends because they’re fulfilling a need,” he said.

stacey
king

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI UPDATES

’60s

A Richard Watkins BA ’67 was born and raised in West Haven, Utah. Upon graduation from Weber State, he accepted a position and worked for the same logistics company in Utah for over 43 years. He retired from Kenco Logistics as director of Public Operations of the Western Region in 2008. Richard served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in France, and another at the Bishop’s Storehouse in Ogden, where he assisted those experiencing homelessness and transience in the area. While at Weber State, he met his wife, **A Edith Watkins IC ’65**. Together, they served a proselytizing mission in Ogden, and another in Yerevan, Armenia. While serving in Armenia, they were responsible for Employment Services for the church for

all of Eastern Europe. Richard and Edith have five children, 19 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Seven of their children and spouses are Weber State graduates. Richard is a member of the Wildcat Club and is proud to say he bleeds purple. They live in West Haven.

’70s

Vickie Whiting Merrill AS ’71, BS ’72 received her teaching certificate from Utah State University and taught special education in the Davis School District for 30 years. She worked with students with behavior and emotional disorders in the junior high setting. As a history major at WSU, she received the Utah State Historical Society Award as the outstanding history student as a graduating senior. At WSU, she was affiliated with Phi Kappa Phi, and was involved in getting students and elderly citizens

registered to vote and out to the polls on election day. Vickie and her husband, **Greg Merrill AS ’80**, have five sons and 14 grandchildren. Vickie currently serves on WSU’s Emeriti Alumni Council. They live in Syracuse, Utah.

Joyce Taggart Porter ’73 worked in the Weber School District at Bonneville High School for 27 years, serving as Business Department chair for the majority of those years. While at Bonneville, Joyce received the I Love Teaching Award, and was featured as a speaker at numerous teacher conferences. During those years, she also was an adjunct faculty member at Weber State in the BusEd/Technology Business Education department. While teaching at WSU, Joyce also received the Outstanding Business Educator Postsecondary award from Western Business

Education Association and the Distinguished Post-Secondary Business Educator award from Utah Business Educators Association. She retired from WSU in 2017, and from Weber School District in 2001. Joyce and her husband, **Dennis Porter BS ’73**, have four children and 17 grandchildren. Joyce currently serves on the WSU Emeriti Alumni Council.

Bill Van Dyke BA ’73 was a member of the Blue Key Honor Society and charter president of Chi Epsilon Phi Fraternity/Sigma Gamma Chi at WSU. Bill has been a professional banker for over 45 years in mortgage lending. His jobs have included loan officer, manager, regional manager (5-state region) and vice president. He has also had ownership interest in a mortgage company, which sold in 2015. Currently, he holds a branch lending manager license and is

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a senior loan officer for Academy Mortgage, and is semi-retired. While attending WSU, Bill met his wife, Mary Davenport Van Dyke. They were married in 1973 and have five children. They also have 12 grandchildren. As a volunteer, Bill is highly involved with his church and has held many leadership and teaching positions. He currently serves on WSU's Emeriti Alumni Council.

A Robert Alley BS '74 married **Suzanne Southwick Alley AS '73** of Ogden in 1972. Following Weber State, he attended the University of Utah School of Medicine and graduated in 1978. Robert completed a general surgery residency at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in 1983 and was assigned to Fort Stewart's Winn Army Hospital in Georgia, where he served as a general surgeon. Robert returned to Ogden in 1986 and continued to practice as a general surgeon. In 1994, he became a full-time ER physician at McKay-Dee Hospital. He has been active in the Ogden medical community, serving as chief of surgery and trauma director at McKay-Dee Hospital, secretary and president of the Ogden Surgical Medical Society, and president of the Weber County Medical Society. Robert retired from medicine in 2017. He and Sue have five children and 18 grandchildren. He currently serves on the WSU Emeriti Alumni Council.

A Dan Walker BS '75 recently retired after a 36-year career as a track and field coach. During his 33 years at Weber State, he coached 74 conference champions, 15 All-Americans and three NCAA champions. After retiring from WSU, Dan spent his last three years coaching at Idaho State, where he helped bring the men's and women's programs from last place finishes in the Big Sky to second and third place finishes. Prior to coaching, Dan worked as a lab specialist in St. Benedict's Hospital, now Ogden Regional Medical Center, from 1975-1984, during which time he volunteered with WSU's

track and field program. Dan and his wife, Elaine, have been married for 46 years and reside in South Ogden. They have three children and two grandchildren.

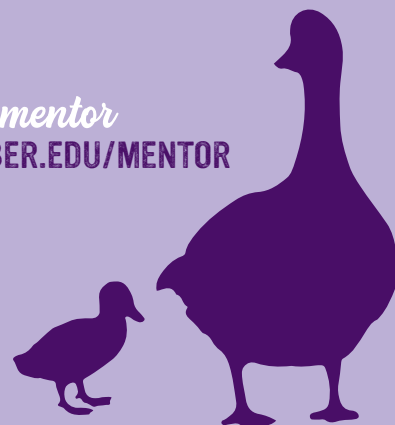
'80s

Jesse "Jess" Brown AA '85 BA '86 served as a deputy sheriff for Duchesne County with an assignment as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer. He was a police officer for Salem, Provo, and for the Utah State Hospital in Provo. Jess is currently serving as a driver's license examiner in the Springville DLD office. Jess is married to DeAnn Brown,

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who also attended WSU. They live in Spanish Fork. In past years, Jess has enjoyed supporting the WSU Alumni Band Reunion by playing the tuba at the homecoming games.

Cheryl Cloward Parkinson BS '85, M.Ed '91 has taught 35 years in the Weber School District, and holds an endorsement in gifted education. Cheryl worked on committees in the district for 25 years, and taught a 6th grade gifted and talented

class for 11 years. For two years, she worked with the state program Utah Center for the Advancement of Reading Excellence (UCARE), which identifies gifted learners in Title I schools who are ELL (English language learners). Cheryl has also worked in schools as a choir director and directed school musicals for 4th-6th graders. She is a member of the Weber Education Association (WEA), currently serving on the WEA board and previously as vice president.

She is also a member of the Utah Education Association (UEA), and has served on the council of local presidents for six years. Additionally, Cheryl is a member of the National Education Association (NEA), and has attended the NEA annual meeting and Representatives Assembly, representing Utah, for six years. She has four children, and two grandchildren on the way.

Rita Aguilar ASN '89, BSN '02 is the senior nursing director

of women's and children's services for University of Utah Health, where she has worked for 17 years. Rita received her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Organizational Leadership from the U of U in 2020, and an MBA in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix in 2005. Rita is board certified as a Nurse Executive (NEA-BC). Rita's doctoral project is on addressing Utah's nursing workforce diversity. She is married to Danny R. Aguilar.

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Matthew Mouritsen BA '88

is the dean of WSU's John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics. He has an MBA from Utah State University (1991), and a Ph.D from USU in Business Information Systems & Education (1997). Matthew has worked for 19 years as a professor in WSU's School of Accounting & Taxation, and as the MBA program director. His research is directed at practitioners and includes publications and presentations in technology management, pedagogy, ethics and stakeholder trust. He and his wife, Aimee Mouritsen, have five married children and five grandchildren.

'90s

Jennifer McGrew BS '92

holds an MFA from Utah State University and an MA from New York University. Jennifer taught English, theater and education courses at WSU from 2001 to 2010. During that time, she helped launch the WSU First Year Experience program as one of the first instructors. For 20 years, she has operated McGrew Studios, a production, costume and fabrication design company in Salt Lake City. Although her downtown shop location closed in November 2020, Jennifer continues to do production work from her home studio, plus script development for film, TV, commercials and the arts. She lives in Salt Lake City.

Quinn Jacobson BIS '93

received his MFA at Goddard College in Vermont. He worked as a photographer for the US Department of Defense for 20 years and retired in 2020. Quinn owns Studio Q, and still enjoys working as an artist and educator. He teaches historic photographic processes both privately and at the University of Colorado, Denver. Quinn has also given photography lectures at universities in China and Spain. He published *Chemical Pictures* (2020) and *Conferring Importance* (2007). He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Florissant, Colorado.

Sharon Arrington Bolos

BA '93 worked as a home-based accountant for several small businesses following her graduation. She was

elected to the city council in West Haven in 2010. After completing one term, she was elected as mayor and is currently serving in her second term. Sharon is pursuing a master's degree in public administration from Southern Utah University. Her husband, **Gus Bolos AS '93**, is a physical therapist for Ogden Regional Medical Center and also owns a home healthcare contracting company. Gus is pursuing his doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) at Arcadia University. Together, they raised six children. Of their children and their spouses, three are WSU graduates and six are currently attending.

Ryan J. Taylor BA '97 earned his doctorate in education from Grand Canyon University in 2018. He is

currently an administrator for American Leadership Academy in Arizona. Ryan also worked for the Arizona Diamondbacks for six years and has been a coach for 19 seasons. His coaching career includes winning the Boys Basketball Arizona State Championship last spring. Ryan and his wife, Tamarah, have five children and live in Queen Creek, Arizona.

Curtis Ray Benally BA '96

graduated with an MFA in painting from the University of Oklahoma in 1999. Afterward, he taught fine arts and art history at Diné College's Shiprock campus. He served as the dean of instruction and vice president of Institutional

Development, and helped raise over \$9 million for a new library at the Shiprock campus and archival building at the campus in Tsaille, Arizona. In 2011, Curtis left Diné College to focus on his fine arts career. He became a freelance photographer for *The Farmington Daily Times*, *The Navajo Times*, *The Albuquerque Journal* and *The Santa Fe New Mexican*. He also started his own business, Turkeyboy Photography. His photography focuses on social causes, such as the Dakota Access Pipeline protest at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in 2016 and missing and murdered indigenous women. Curtis is an actor for film and television and

starred in the film *Horse Song*, which debuted at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. He is also the WSU 1996 Crystal Crest Talent of the Year award winner. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two children and reside in Farmington, New Mexico.

Mindy Mortensen BA '98

is a botanist currently teaching in Community Education for WSU, as well as Home and Garden Plants on campus. She also does landscape consulting for homeowners. Her husband, **Matt Mortensen BS '98**, is the network security officer for Weber County. They have four children, two of whom are WSU students. They live in Pleasant View, Utah.

'00s

Thomas Hofmeyer BA '00

is a global head of logistics and trade compliance for Tecan, a medical technology corporation. He guest lectures yearly for MIT's supply chain MBA program. Thomas is involved in Swiss politics as a member of The Liberals. Thomas and his wife, Aliona, live in Zurich, Switzerland. They have one daughter.

A Jeremy Farner AA '01,

AAS '01, BS '03 returned to Weber State in 2008 as an instructor and is now a tenured associate professor, program coordinator of the Building Design & Construction (architecture) program, and director of

CAT2CAT SCHOLARSHIPS

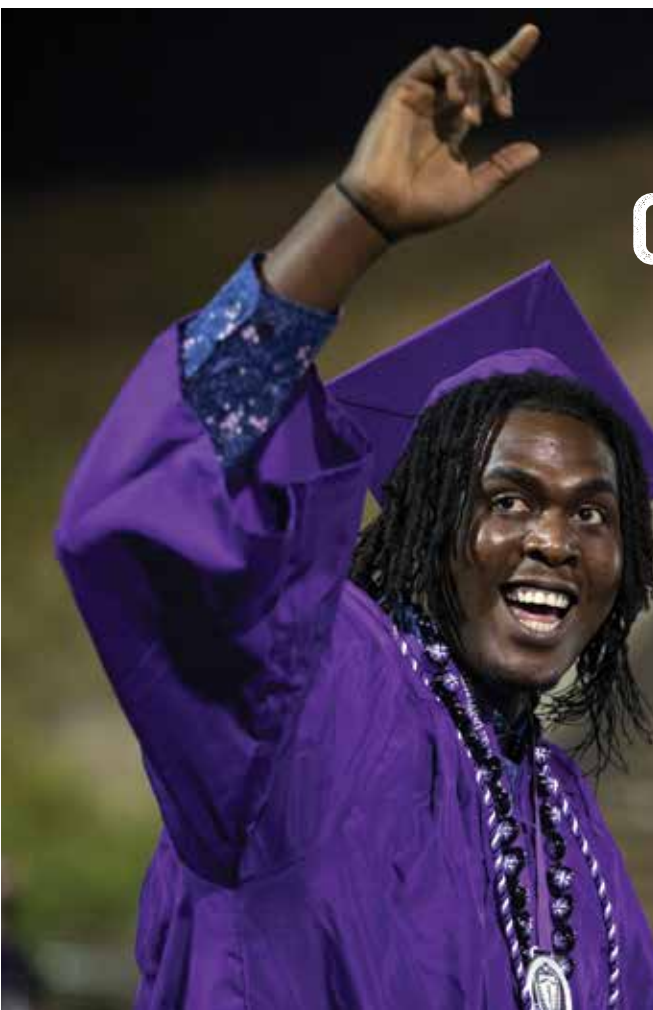
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#3

WOW

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the Wadman Center for Construction Excellence. He leads Global Agent of Change international service trips to developing countries to construct projects his students have designed. He is engaged in real-world projects that serve the local community. His wife, **Jami Farner BS '11** is a science teacher at Mountain High School in Kaysville, Utah. They have seven children between them and live in Clinton, Utah.

Derrick Glum BS '03 is the COO for Mountain Vista Medical Center and Florence Hospital for Steward Health Care in the Phoenix area. He received his MBA from Western Governors University in 2011. Derrick previously worked as CEO for LifeCare hospitals in the Reno area, and COO for Gila River Health Care in Phoenix. He served a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Mindy Venditti AS '08, BS '18 owns LifeSavers CPR, an organization providing certified American Heart Association instruction. The company offers Basic Life Support (BLS) training and HeartCode BLS with first aid classes weekly and monthly to businesses and individuals. She and her husband, Frank, live in Bountiful, Utah.

Chase K. Christiansen AS '08, BS '10 is the deputy chief of staff for US Congressman Blake Moore. With a focus

on strategic marketing and communications, Chase worked as an advisor for Moore's 2020 congressional campaign. Previously, Chase worked as a digital marketing manager for Cicero Group and at the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, where he designed and executed strategic marketing initiatives such as the Utah Economic Summit, Talent Ready Utah, Utah Aerospace Pathways, Diesel Tech Pathways and the Utah

Outdoor Recreation Summit. While serving on the Board of Trustees for the Bike Collective, Chase earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. He has also served as a community board member for the Emerging Leaders Initiative of Utah. He and his wife, Anna, live in Salt Lake City.

'10s

Melissa Aitken AS '11, BS '18 is receiving her MBA in Healthcare Administration Management from Western Governor's University in winter 2021, and recently completed a Design and Interpretation of Clinical Trials course through Johns Hopkins University through Coursera. She is a senior clinical research coordinator for the University of Utah School of Medicine. Previously, Melissa worked for over five years as a clinical research nurse for Pharmaceutical Research Organization, LLC.

Andrew Chris BS '11 owns The Life Empowerment, LLC. His company provides personal growth coaching, empowered couple coaching and empowered parent coaching, all delivered online. He also has books and online resources for personal growth, intimate relationship building and proactive and positive parenting. Andrew

is an adjunct instructor in WSU's Department of Child & Family Studies. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two children and live in North Ogden, Utah.

Jamie Rigby BS '14, MBA '17 has worked for four years as a production control/manufacturing engineering manager for JBT AeroTech. He will receive his master's degree in manufacturing engineering from University of Wisconsin-Stout in spring 2021. Previously, Jamie worked for Autoliv as a global supply chain leader and project buyer for engineering and development. He also has a Six Sigma Black Belt from ASQ. He and his wife, Samantha, live in West Point, Utah.

Caleb Johnson MTax '19 is a tax associate for Andersen Tax in Houston, Texas. He works in the private client service department and performs tax compliance, preparing individual, partnership, estate and gift, and other federal and state tax returns. He received his CPA license in September 2020. Caleb received his bachelor's degree in accounting from BYU-Idaho. He served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the greater Atlanta area. He and his wife, Hannah Johnson, live in Houston.

TEACHER TWILIGHT

Spring 2021 Zoom Series

Cultivating the SEEds of Science



Save the date!

Integrating Art & Science

March 4, 2021, 5 p.m.

Co-sponsored with WSU Arts Learning Collaborative

Sorting the SEEds of Science

April 15, 2021, 5 p.m.

Check the website for Zoom information later this semester.

weber.edu/csme/training



—WILDCAT INBOX—

PLAYING BALL AT FOUR CORNERS

Our Spring 2020 article *Lasting Impressions* covered WSU students' environmental fieldwork in Utah around the globe, along with the trips former geology professor Walter Buss took with students to explore geologic sites.

Larry German wrote to us about one more Buss trip worth mentioning.

Weber State University News for Alumni & Friends,

Over the years and most recently, our Wildcat Alumni Magazine has offered interesting commentary, about “the legendary trips former geology professor Walter Buss took with students to ...”

Missing, to my recollection, has been any mention or photos of the field trips to the Four Corners, where they would play softball. Yes, the pitcher stood on the geographical center, with home plate, first base, second base and third base...in four different States.

In those days, Four Corners was just a barren piece of dirt, with a marginal marker denoting the geographical designations. Today and for the past several decades, a much larger monument occupies the space. Sadly, no reference to Professor Buss and the Weber Junior College Students, who... with a home run, could travel through four states in the matter of a couple of minutes.

I know there is a photo, but for the life of me, I can't find it.

In the spirit of Walter Buss and Weber Jr. College,

Lawrence G. “Larry” German, AS '60, BS '66



SEND YOUR BELL TOWER MEMORIES

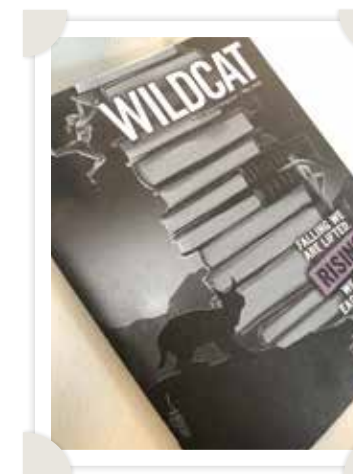
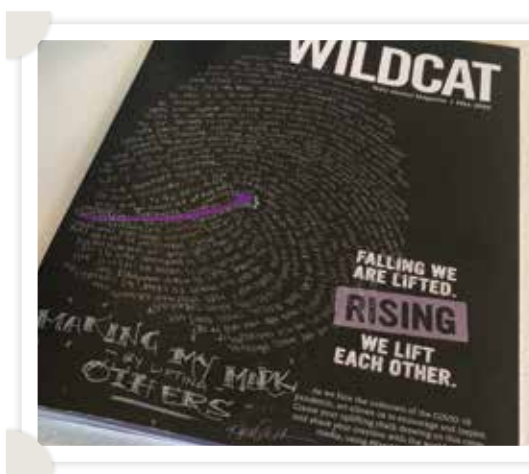
We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stewart Bell Tower in our fall 2021 issue. Send your favorite memories of the Bell Tower for this section to magazine@weber.edu.

TITLE CORRECTION

Our fall 2020 issue included *Throwing off Fear*, a story about Weber State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has impacted students and alumni. Reader Janae M. pointed out to us that we mistakenly included the wrong job title in the headline for our profile on alumna **Libby Parr BS '19**. Libby is a radiologic technologist.

RISING WE LIFT EACH OTHER

Our fall 2020 issue also included a call for cover artists to inspire hope for others during the pandemic. Here is some of the artwork shared using #EverUpwardatWeber.



Top row: Artwork by students at Weber State's Melba S. Lehner Children's School

Bottom row: Artwork from editor **Jaime Winston**, two pieces of stunning artwork by WSU gradaute **Ryan Snarr**



SURVEY SAYS...

To better serve you, our reader, give us your feedback on the magazine and what you'd like to see in it. Survey takers will be entered to win exclusive prizes.

Find our survey using the QR code or following the link at weber.edu/wsumagazine.



Want to share your thoughts on something you read?

Email Us At
magazine@weber.edu



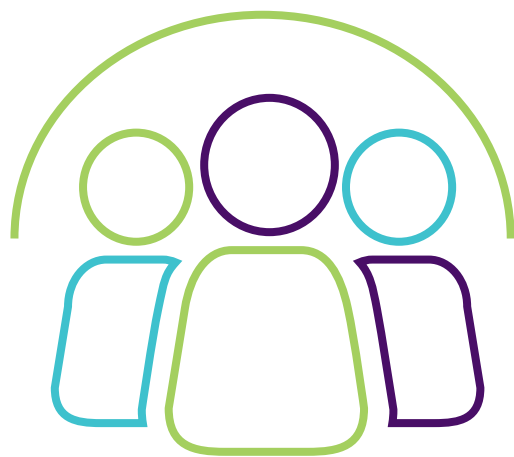


FACULTY FEATURE

SUCCESS STARTS WITH BELONGING

BY NICOLA CORBIN

Associate Communication Professor, 2019 WSU Crystal Crest Master Teacher Award recipient



Let's take a jaunt through your memories, back to your time at Weber State. From the friendships you made to the hours you spent in the classroom, you persisted to become a proud Weber State alum. But, you might also know others who began college the same time as you, but never graduated.

From financial concerns to unfamiliarity with navigating a complex system to poor classroom performance, there are many reasons students do not make it to graduation. In fact, student retention rates fall from 65% in the first year to about 45% by the third year of a cohort at Weber State. It is a problem that needs a holistic solution.

One part of this solution is to foster a sense of belonging in the classroom.

An inclusive pedagogical approach seeks to create exactly such a sense of belonging. While the term "inclusive pedagogy" seems like some new-fangled innovation, the ideas behind this concept certainly aren't new. Most of us teach with the goal of success for all of our students, especially at Weber State. However, when applied practically, the approaches we use in our teaching and curricula are sometimes counter-productive to learning for some students. Inclusive pedagogy strives to correct this issue as much as possible. It is a deliberate mindset and approach that challenges us to create courses and course environments in which more of our students will reliably succeed.

WE CAN START THE PROCESS BY ASKING OURSELVES:

Who are we and what social positions do we occupy?

Who are our students and what social positions do they occupy?

What are the different ways in which our students learn?

What accommodations are we making to eliminate barriers to learning?

What books and course materials do we choose to assign?

What scholars do we choose to study?

What experts do we choose to reference?

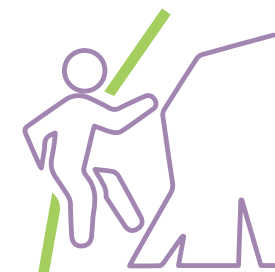
What visuals do we choose to use in our presentations?

What ways do we choose to conduct assessment of learning?

How do we choose to interact with our students?

With these answers in mind, we must go a step further and ask ourselves: Will all of our students, regardless of who they are, feel that they belong in our classrooms and are being primed for success? Inclusive pedagogy invites us to make the necessary adjustments to make our answers "Yes."

Education is hardly a passive endeavor, and students have their own responsibilities to ensure the best outcomes for themselves. However, students tend to do best when the environment has been built for success. Drawing from a vast body of research and fields, the techniques and skills championed in inclusive pedagogical approaches help us to create such environments.



EDUCATION IS HARDLY A PASSIVE ENDEAVOR.

The benefits of inclusive pedagogy reach beyond the success of any individual student. When we approach our teaching with an inclusive mindset and create environments that foster belonging, we also model ways of interaction with people who are different from us. When it reaches its ideal in implementation, inclusive pedagogy models empathy and an appreciation for nuance, in addition to the student success outcomes we strive to achieve.

And, in today's world, we need more of that.

WILL ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY ARE, FEEL THAT THEY BELONG?



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