

An aerial photograph of the Utah State University campus during the "golden hour" of sunset. The image features several prominent buildings with red brick facades and dark blue-grey roofs. A tall, ornate clock tower with a pointed roof and illuminated windows stands on the left. In the foreground, a large, circular building with a prominent dome and multiple dormer windows is visible. The campus is surrounded by lush green trees, and a paved walkway leads through them. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are silhouetted against the warm, orange and yellow sky.

UTAH

STATE

**PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**



UtahStateUniversity



Utah State University Logan Campus

Utah State University (USU) invites applications and nominations for the position of Provost and Executive Vice President (EVP). **Utah State is not seeking a traditional Provost, but a leader who will partner with the new President to reimagine the institution's impact with a model that serves as a blueprint for the future of higher education.**

The Provost & EVP provides strategic vision and operational leadership for all academic and research programs and advances the land-grant mission by supporting excellence in teaching, research, and service, strengthening community engagement and Extension, and promoting economic vitality throughout the state. As the chief academic officer, the Provost and EVP provides intellectual leadership for all academic departments and multi-disciplinary programs, their faculty and staff, and budgets. The Provost and EVP works collaboratively across all parts of the institution, including the statewide system, to promote academic excellence and achieve the goals of the next university strategic plan. The provost reports to the President and serves on the university's senior leadership team.

Utah State seeks a proven, successful leader who is passionate about higher education to promote the prosperity of humanity through student learning and success, research, discovery, and service. We seek a partner to not only navigate through but to elevate USU above the challenges facing higher education as we strive to become the model land-grant, R1 university of the twenty-first century.

Nominations and Applications

Review of applications for the Provost and Executive Vice President will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. To assure full consideration, applications should be received by **April 3, 2026**, and must include:

- A letter of interest addressing the priorities and expectations for leadership identified in the profile;
- A current curriculum vitae; and
- The contact information (email and phone) for five professional references, including their relationship to the candidate.

Utah State University is being assisted by AGB Search. Application materials should be submitted through the AGB Search portal system here: [Utah State - Provost](#)

Please direct nominations and expressions of interest or any questions regarding the application process to: USUProvost@agbsearch.com

Laura Woodworth-Ney, Ph.D., Principal: laura.woodworth-ney@agbsearch.com

Andrew Bowen, M.A., Executive Search Consultant: andrew.bowen@agbsearch.com

Dalene White, Executive Search Associate: dalene.white@agbsearch.com

AGB
SEARCH



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Lead Academic Enterprise During a New Era

The new Provost will arrive at a time of transition and excitement at Utah State, as the institution welcomed its eighteenth president, Brad L. Mortensen, in November 2025. The new President has set a bold and forward-looking vision grounded in innovation, measurable student impact, and institutional accountability. The provost will serve as a strong partner for President Mortensen to advance this transformative and ambitious agenda, move the university in directions that align with the university's new strategic plan (which is being developed), and integrate the work of the academic units across the state. Utah State's strong trajectory reflects its ability to deliver a high-quality education for students of any background. The Provost will be instrumental in shifting the institution to one of hands-on student mentoring and education, modernizing faculty reward systems, integrating work into learning, and ensuring that every degree delivers both intellectual depth and economic mobility.

Provide Unifying, Strategic and Innovative Leadership

Utah State University seeks a Provost who will cultivate trust, transparency, and collaboration across the academic community. Working closely with faculty governance bodies, academic leaders, and campus stakeholders, the Provost will inspire connections and effective decision-making processes. The Provost will promote innovative academic pathways and programs, ensuring that Utah State University continues to offer solutions to state, regional, and global problems. In addition, the Provost will align academic planning with the institution's evolving strategic priorities and future direction. Success in this role will require political acumen, strong communication skills, and the ability to unite perspectives around common academic goals and strategies while supporting and developing academic leadership across the institution, including the statewide campuses. They will bring an understanding and appreciation of shared governance, coupled with experience working with faculty leadership on a wide range of issues.

Enhance Statewide Coordination

As a multi-campus and statewide institution, the university presents significant opportunities to align academic programs and student services across locations, communities, and delivery modalities. The Provost will lead efforts to ensure consistent academic quality and student experience for residential, regional, rural, urban, and online learners. This includes strengthening transfer pathways, aligning programs with geographic and workforce needs, enhancing course availability and scheduling coordination, and working collaboratively with faculty to ensure programs remain responsive to industry and community needs.

Advance Social Mobility and Student Success

The Provost will champion initiatives that improve retention, completion, and overall student achievement across all campus entities. Working in partnership with faculty and university leaders, the Provost will promote evidence-based strategies that increase student success metrics while maintaining academic rigor and quality. The Provost will serve as a passionate advocate for USU's educational and social mission, advancing social mobility and impactful research that benefit the state and beyond.



Elevate Research and Graduate Education

Utah State's next Provost will value the university's strong research reputation and commitment to graduate education, recognizing that excellence in research can coexist within an institution committed to undergraduate success. In partnership with university leadership, the Provost will build upon the institution's successful research profile and expand opportunities for faculty scholarship and graduate education. Particular opportunity exists to build momentum in areas of institutional distinction such as water, energy, agriculture, critical minerals, and aerospace-related research while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, industry partnerships, and external collaborations. The Provost will provide strong advocacy for graduate education, ensuring alignment among academic priorities, research growth, and student success. The successful candidate will understand how to create an environment conducive to the acquisition of further external research funding to maintain and enhance R1 status.

Provide Strategic Academic and Financial Stewardship

The Provost will play a central role in advancing sustainable academic and financial planning during an evolving budget model environment. Partnering with university leadership, the Provost will align resource allocation with academic priorities, promote data-informed decision making, and strengthen institutional research and analytics capacity. The next Provost will help lead USU to new academic heights through a builder's mindset—securing resources, supporting colleges and programs, and ensuring operational effectiveness in service of academic excellence.



RESPONSIBILITIES AND LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Land-Grant Mission Leadership

- Translate the historic land-grant mission into 21st-century relevance, connecting land, air, water, and space research strengths to workforce readiness, sustainability, and national competitiveness
- Strengthen collaborations among statewide campuses, the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension offices, research centers, and academic colleges to expand statewide impact.
- Support efforts to serve rural, tribal, and underserved communities through research translation, community partnerships, and accessible education.

Academic Leadership & Faculty Affairs

- Inspire innovative academic planning, program development, delivery modalities and locations, teaching excellence, curriculum, and technological transitions.
- Redesign the undergraduate value proposition, shifting from seat time to skill development, from majors to dynamic pathways, and from degree completion metrics alone to measurable post-graduate mobility.
- Modernize faculty incentives and academic structures to align with teaching excellence, student impact, and instructional innovation.
- Integrate AI and emerging technologies into the academic core — modernizing assessment, pedagogy, and faculty workflows while protecting academic integrity and human-centered learning.
- Foster a culture that respects shared governance, transparency and freedom of expression.

Research, Innovation & Graduate Education

- Advance the University's R1 research mission while ensuring that research intensity becomes a competitive advantage for bachelor's students as well as for graduate students.
- Strengthen graduate education by enhancing program quality, student support, and mentoring.
- Support translational research, innovation ecosystems, and technology commercialization in partnership with state agencies, industry, and communities.

Statewide Engagement & Economic Impact

- Promote partnerships with agriculture, industry, all levels of government, K-12 systems, higher education partners, and community organizations to address statewide needs.
- Align USU's statewide footprint into one coordinated academic ecosystem while balancing regional differentiation with institutional coherence and fiscal sustainability.
- Represent the University to state legislators, federal partners, and community stakeholders in advancing the institution's mission.

Access & Student Success

- Promote access to higher education for all populations, including first-generations, rural, and underrepresented students.
- Move from strategic aspiration to disciplined execution, delivering measurable gains in retention, time-to-degree, and post-graduate outcomes.
- Build a Curriculum-to-Career architecture across all programs that will embed durable skills, applied experiences, and employer partnership directly into the curricular structure.

Operational & Administrative Leadership

- Supervise Deans, Vice Provosts, and all academic colleges and schools, including libraries.
- Lead academic budgeting and resource allocation, ensuring strategic and data-informed decision-making.
- Oversee academic facilities planning and technology systems that support instruction, research, and Extension.



QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Provost & Executive Vice President serves as the chief academic officer and second-ranking executive of the University, an R1 land-grant institution committed to accessible education, high-impact research, and statewide public service. The Provost & EVP provides strategic vision and operational leadership for all academic and research programs and advances the land-grant mission by supporting excellence in teaching, research, and service, strengthening community engagement and Extension, and promoting economic vitality throughout the state.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Terminal degree and academic record warranting appointment as a tenured full professor.
- Significant leadership experience in a research-intensive university.
- Demonstrated commitment to the land-grant mission.
- Experience with large-scale budgeting, academic planning, and organizational management.

Preferred Characteristics and Qualifications:

- Demonstrated passion for Utah State University's mission, its communities, and its region.
- Ability to inspire and galvanize around common goals.
- A clear and nuanced communicator who is comfortable with leading change.
- A collaborative and transparent approach to leadership.
- Experience leading institution-wide or college-wide reforms that measurably improved undergraduate retention, time-to-degree, equity outcomes, or post-graduate mobility.
- Relationship-building and communication skills necessary to connect with Utah State University's multivariate constituents.
- Experience with rural-serving institutions or multi-campus statewide systems.
- A track record of building cross-sector partnerships with industry, government, and community stakeholders.
- Experience with academic fundraising.
- Experience with legislative affairs.
- Demonstrated success translating degrees into measurable economic and societal mobility.



INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Since 1888, USU has successfully fulfilled its threefold land-grant by providing access to higher education for Utahns, conducting research on critical issues affecting the state and region, and advancing outreach and engagement with Utah communities and families.

With over 29,800 students across 30 locations throughout the state, including three residential campuses in Logan, Eastern in Price and Blanding, five regional campuses and 22 statewide education centers, USU proudly calls itself “Utah’s state university.” Students attend from all 50 states and more than 80 countries. For over 100 years, USU Extension has served and engaged Utahns in all 29 counties, connecting university expertise with community needs. USU is uniquely suited to meet students where they are in life, geographically, socially and economically, and help them become successful.

The university was ranked the top public institution in Utah in Washington Monthly’s 2025 Best Colleges for Your Tuition and Tax Dollars ranking, which evaluates institutions based on access, affordability, and student outcomes. In fall 2025, USU welcomed its largest first-year class of in-state Utah students and maintained strong enrollment across its statewide campuses, especially among first-time and transfer students. Notably, approximately 20 percent of undergraduate degrees and certificates were earned by first-generation college students.

As a top-tier R1 university, USU research makes significant positive impacts in Utah, the nation, and throughout the world. Researchers address complex challenges in areas such as space, transportation, climate, land, water and air, education, and health and well-being. USU students can participate in world-class research activities as early as their first year, and the university’s 50-year-old undergraduate research program is the second oldest in the nation and has been recognized as a national leader in providing high-quality research experiences to students.

USU plays a significant role in Utah’s economy. According to 2023 data from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, the university generates approximately \$2.2 billion in annual economic output. USU is the seventh-largest employer in the state of Utah, supporting both directly and indirectly over 17,000 jobs.

USU fosters a community where individuals feel respected, valued, and supported. USU is known for its thriving campus life, beloved traditions, and the “Aggie family,” which includes anyone who has had a relationship with the university. With a strongly connected network of more than 187,700 alumni around the globe, Aggies are everywhere, working to make a positive impact in the world.

Academics

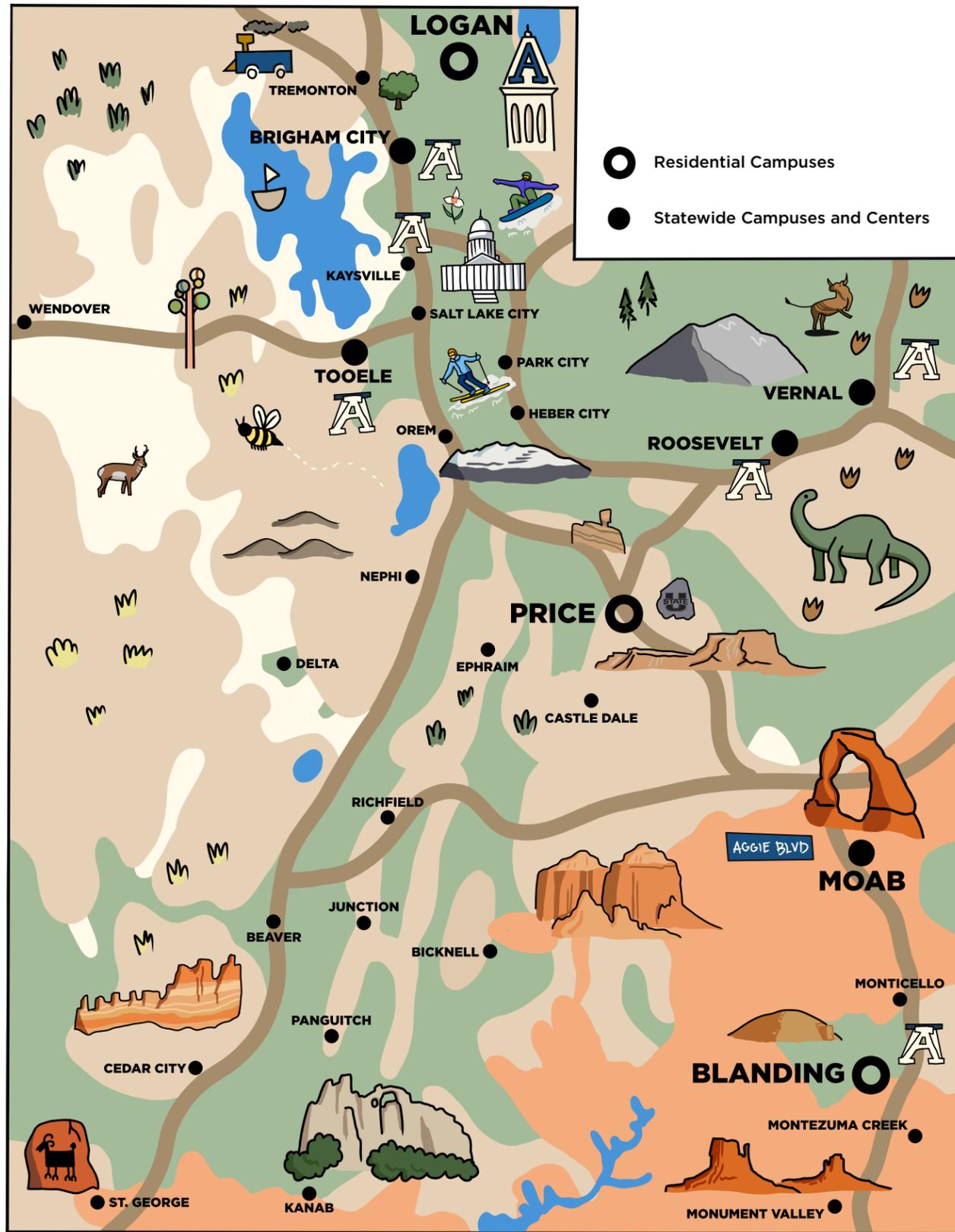
USU offers more than 140 undergraduate degrees, 95 master’s degrees, and 35 doctoral degrees. In 2021, USU tied for the best undergraduate research program in the U.S., and in 2024, USU Online was ranked in the top 10% in the nation for online bachelor’s programs. Including 2024 award recipients, USU boasts 38 Goldwater Scholars and 15 honorable-mention recipients since 1998.

Schools and Colleges

Effective July 1, 2025, Utah State restructured its nine academic colleges into a total of six:

- College of Arts and Sciences
- S.J. and Jesse E. Quinney College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
- Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
- College of Engineering
- College of Veterinary Medicine

The colleges of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Science have merged to form a new College of Arts and Sciences. Embedded within the new college is the Caine School of the Arts. USU’s new Center for Civic Excellence, housed in the Provost’s Office and supported by ongoing dollars from the Utah Legislature, will work with the College of Arts and Sciences in advancing a revision to the university’s general education program.



Statewide Campuses

In addition to the Logan campus, USU has eight Statewide Campuses: Blanding, Brigham City, Eastern, Moab, Salt Lake City, Tooele, and Uintah Basin (Roosevelt and Vernal), as well as 22 statewide education centers. These statewide locations use an innovative technology delivery model to provide access to academic degrees and programs across the system, serving more than 8,000 USU students, fueling local economies, and empowering communities and residents with programs that range from career and technical certificates to doctoral degrees.

Statewide Extension

Founded in 1914 as part of the Smith-Lever Act, USU Extension provides research-based programs and resources with the goal of improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities throughout Utah. It plays a primary role in helping Utah State University fulfill its mission as a land-grant institution that serves Utahns and impacts communities across the state. USU Extension supports all 29 counties and hosts five Small Business Development Centers. It offers expertise to support Utah families in areas including home, finance, and relationships; food, health, and wellness; agriculture and natural resources; business and community; gardening; and 4-H and youth programming.

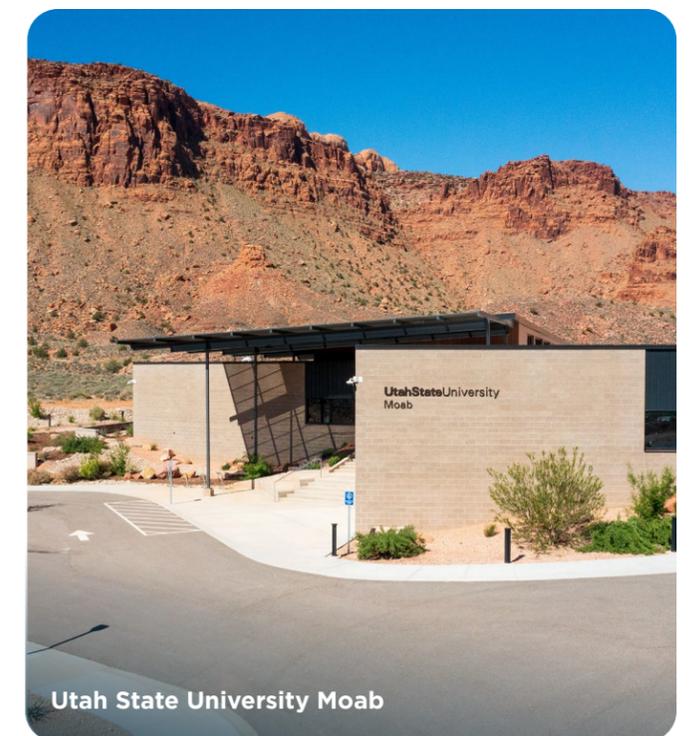
Enrollment

USU's enrollment strategy reflects its land-grant mission, with a strong focus on access, innovation, and student success. Building on its last five-year Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, USU continues to expand pathways for a broad range of students, including first-generation students. Recent efforts include the Aggie Advantage Grant, statewide Next Step Nights to support admitted students and their families, and the rollout of OneUSU, an AI-enabled customer relationship management (CRM) system that strengthens engagement from recruitment through graduation. These initiatives have contributed to an increase in total enrollment and are designed to support sustainable enrollment growth through both recruitment and retention.

Research

USU is a national leader among research universities. In 2021, USU both became a Carnegie R1 university and was named one of the best undergraduate research programs in the nation by the Council for Undergraduate Research. The university generates a substantial return on investment, securing approximately \$8 in research funding for every \$1 of state support. In 2025, USU surpassed a record \$500 million in research expenditures and has the fastest growing research portfolio among its national peers (grown over \$300 million since 2010). USU is home to over 50 world-class research centers, institutes, and facilities that support the mission of the university.

One such institute is the Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air, established in 2021. The institute guides Utah land, water, and air policy by connecting decision-makers with high-quality research. The institute convenes USU researchers and other experts from around the state and nation to focus on a number of critical issues, including the shrinking of the Great Salt Lake, water supply in the Colorado River, and agriculture optimization.

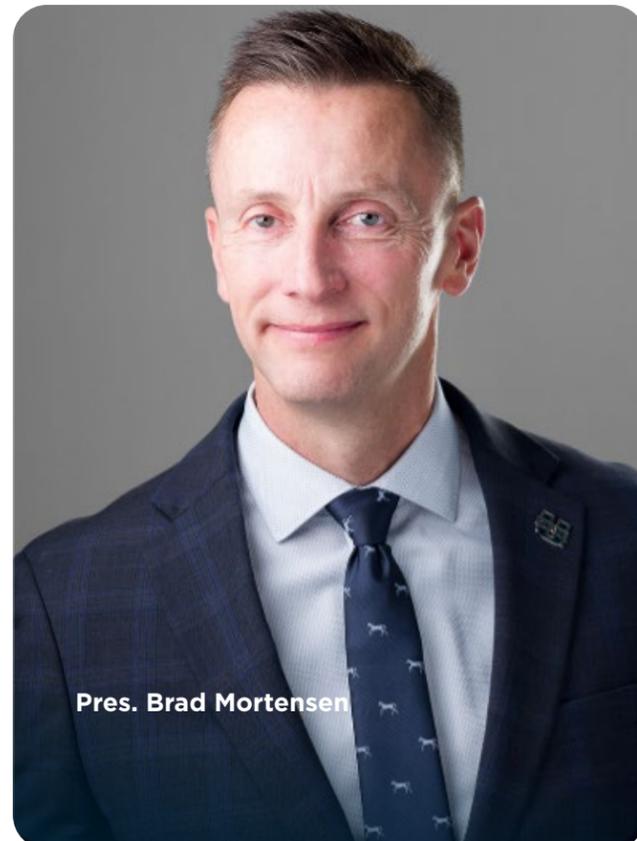




Aggie Bull Statue in USU Uintah Basin

University Leadership

Brad Mortensen '95 serves as the 18th president of Utah State University, returning to his alma mater with deep gratitude and a lifelong belief in the transformative power of higher education.



Pres. Brad Mortensen

President Mortensen brings more than two decades of higher education leadership, most recently as president of Weber State University. Over twenty-one years at Weber State, including nearly seven as president, he advanced initiatives that expanded access, strengthened student success, and removed unnecessary barriers that often stand between students and their goals. His leadership championed innovative enrollment pathways, strengthened partnerships with industry and communities, and elevated affordable, workforce-aligned opportunities for students across Utah.

At Utah State, President Mortensen believes universities must continually challenge institution-first practices to better serve students, families, and communities. Guided by values of integrity, transparency, and shared governance, he works along faculty, staff, students, and statewide partners to ensure Utah State continues to thrive as a premier Research 1 institution.

President Mortensen's background includes service in the Utah System of Higher Education and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. President Mortensen also holds a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy from the University of Utah, a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and a bachelor's in political science from Utah State.

Space Dynamics Lab

Headquartered on Utah State University's Innovation Campus in North Logan, Space Dynamics Lab (SDL) is an independent nonprofit corporation owned by USU. It employs 1,400 engineers, scientists, technicians, and business professionals who solve technical challenges faced by the military, science community, and industry and support NASA's vision to explore the secrets of the universe for the benefit of all. SDL has field offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Chantilly, Virginia; Huntsville, Alabama; Ogden, Utah; and Stafford, Virginia. As one of 15 Department of Defense University Affiliated Research Centers, SDL is both a trusted advisor to the U.S. Government and a specialist in its area of expertise, rapidly developing government-owned solutions to nationally significant challenges.

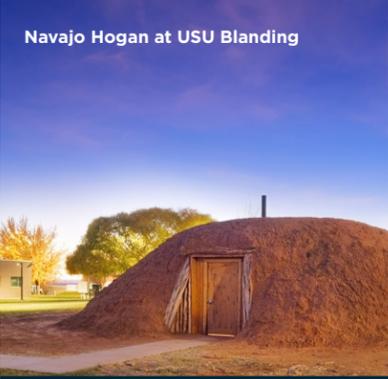
Athletics

The Utah State University Aggies compete at the NCAA Division I level in 16 sports. The Aggies are currently members of the Mountain West Conference and will join the Pac12 Conference July 1, 2026. They have won ten conference championships over the past five years in football, men's basketball, men's cross country, women's volleyball, and men's tennis, as well as winning the Mountain Rim Gymnastics Conference title in women's gymnastics. In 2024-2025, Utah State student-athletes combined to earn a school-record 481 total academic awards, ranking as the second-most in the Mountain West.

At Utah State Eastern in Price, 10 teams compete in the Scenic West Athletic Conference at the NJCAA level. The women's volleyball team placed 10th in the NJCAA National Tournament in 2022.



**3 RESIDENTIAL
CAMPUSES**
+
**30 STATEWIDE
CAMPUSES**



Navajo Hogan at USU Blanding

15,965
UNDERGRADUATES
IN LOGAN



First-year Student Luminary

29,831
TOTAL
ENROLLMENT



3,202
GRADUATE
STUDENTS



4,271
UNDERGRADUATES
STATEWIDE



6,203
CONCURRENT
STUDENTS



20%
OF UNDERGRADS ARE
FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENTS



Jayne Chee, First Generation Student, USU Blanding



\$2.2
BILLION IN
ECONOMIC
OUTPUT

(Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute)



12,437
WORKFORCE



\$517.1
MILLION IN
SPONSORED
AWARDS
(FY25)



TOP 10%
IN THE NATION FOR
ONLINE BACHELOR'S

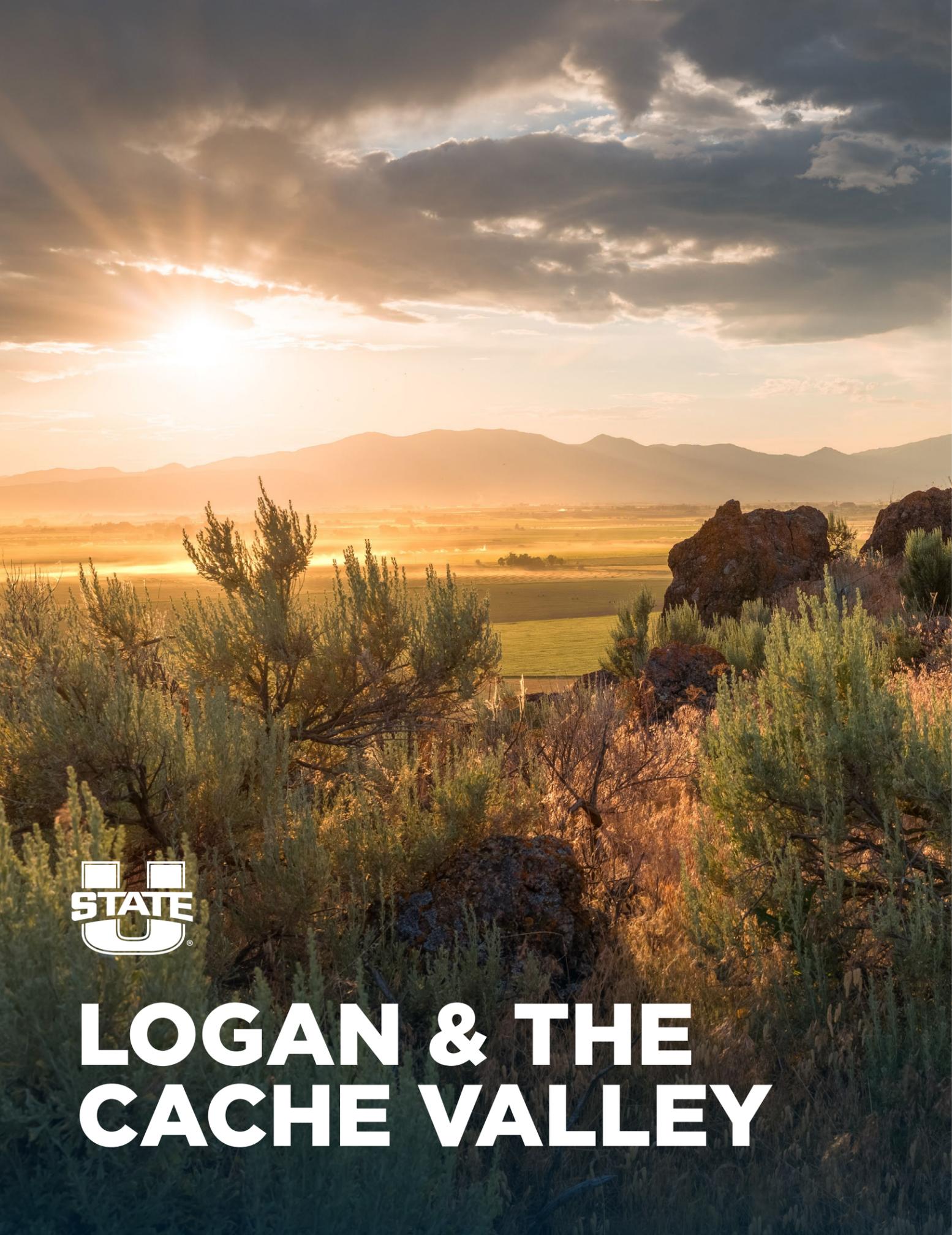
(U.S. News & World Report, 2024)



Undergraduate Biological Engineering Lab

2ND
OLDEST RESEARCH
UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAM
IN THE NATION

(Since 1975)



LOGAN & THE CACHE VALLEY



Downtown Logan, Utah

Cache Valley sits between the Wellsville Mountains and the Bear River Mountain Range 80 miles northeast of Salt Lake City. While the valley stretches from northeastern Utah into southeast Idaho, the term “Cache Valley” is often used to describe the Logan metropolitan area, a fast-growing region that has gained national attention in recent years for its economic vitality.

Logan and Cache Valley have long been known as ideal destinations for outdoor enthusiasts, with year-round natural beauty and an incredible variety of recreation opportunities. Northern Utah boasts the “greatest snow on Earth,” and there are two ski resorts less than an hour from campus, plus miles of trails for hiking and mountain biking.

The 40-mile drive on the Logan Canyon Scenic Byway winds along the Logan River through dramatic cliffs, thick forests, and open meadows before arriving at Bear Lake, known throughout the West for its Caribbean-blue waters. And the local scenery is just the beginning: Logan is within a day’s drive of six national parks, from the deserts of Arches and Zion to the mountains of Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

Utah State University is central to the community of Logan and plays an important role in shaping the region’s cultural and economic landscape. Logan’s downtown hosts art and music events, a seasonal farmers market and family-focused activities.

Historic downtown theatres produce plays, musicals and operas year-round, and galleries and concerts contribute to a strong arts presence.

The Logan metropolitan area has consistently maintained unemployment rates below national averages and continues to demonstrate steady employment growth. The region is home to a diverse economy that includes healthcare, educational services, high-tech manufacturing and research, food processing and business services. The metropolitan area of nearly 155,000 residents includes dozens of communities that contribute to a stable and expanding regional workforce.

The Logan metro area claimed the top spot in the Milken Institute’s 2022 ranking for best-performing small cities in the nation and remained in the top five small cities in their 2023 rankings.



NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In its programs and activities, including in admissions and employment, Utah State University does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, status as a protected veteran, or any other status protected by University policy, Title IX, or any other federal, state, or local law.

Utah State University is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination including harassment in employment including in hiring, promotion, transfer, or termination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, status as a protected veteran, or any other status protected by University policy or any other federal, state, or local law.

Utah State University does not discriminate in its housing offerings and will treat all persons fairly and equally without regard to race, color, religion, sex, familial status, disability, national origin, source of income, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Additionally, the University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations when necessary and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in all circumstances, Utah State University follows state and federal law related to sex-segregated facilities and spaces and legally permitted sex-based distinctions in programs and activities.

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations and/or USU's non-discrimination policies:

Executive Director

Civil Rights & Title IX Office

Matthew Pinner

matthew.pinner@usu.edu

1475 Old Main Hill, Rm. 401D

Logan, UT 84322-1475

435.797.1266

Title IX Coordinator

Cody Carmichael

cody.carmichael@usu.edu

1475 Old Main Hill, Rm. 402D

Logan, UT 84322-1475

435.797.1266

For further information regarding non-discrimination, please visit crtix.usu.edu or contact:

U.S. Department

of Education

Office of Assistant

Secretary for Civil Rights

800.421.3481

OCR@ed.gov

U.S. Department

of Education

Denver Regional Office

303.844.5695

OCR.Denver@ed.gov



UtahStateUniversity