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## From the Dean

Dear colleagues,

As we transition from the hustle of finals week and the buzz of convocation to the embrace of summer, I want to thank you for your support of our students over the past academic year. It was a full house at our Convocation ceremony and I hope the celebratory energy of that day stays with you all summer long.

I also want to take time to recognize the month of May as an opportunity to celebrate [Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander \(AA and NHPI\) Heritage Month](#). Our state's history is rich with the presence of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders. Salt Lake City is home to one of the oldest and largest Pacific Islander populations per capita in the Continental US; Native Hawaiians founded the Iosepa settlement in Skull Valley; and May was originally chosen as AA and NHPI Heritage Month in part to mark the anniversary of the final spike driven for the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, where many who laid the tracks had immigrated to Utah from China -- just to name a few pieces of local AA and NHPI history.

As we take part in this month-long celebration, let us continue to cultivate a culture of appreciation for all backgrounds.

Warmly,

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Dean

Additional learning resources:

[Marriott Library AA and NHPI media recommendations](#)[Center for Pasifika Indigenous Knowledges at the University of Utah](#)[Library of Congress and National Archives learning resources](#)[Proclamation on Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month](#)

## The Short of It



Associate Professor [Keith Radley](#) has been awarded IDEA funding in the amount of **\$155,600** through the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). Professor Radley's award will address the statewide shortage of school psychologists by supporting six School Psychology students over a **two-year period**—preparing them to become experts in school-based assessment, intervention, and systems change, as well as impact outcomes in Utah school districts.



Assistant Professor [Aaron Fischer](#) was named [2023-2024 Utah Afterschool Network \(UAN\) Community Champion of the Year](#). Professor Fischer and his team have worked with UAN for the past eight years to provide behavior management, well-being and inclusivity trainings. During the pandemic, this involved a quick pivot to virtual webinars and online offerings from the Well-Being Institute as Fischer's team reached afterschool programs around the state.



Provost Montoya joined us for the Teacher Recruitment Scholars Banquet on May 9. Both Provost Montoya and [Dean Laanan](#) told personal stories about how scholarship support has enriched their academic journeys. [Associate Dean Burbank](#) and outgoing TRS scholars helped emcee the program as well as distribute awards to incoming scholars across Canyons, Davis, Granite, Jordan, and Salt Lake City school districts. TRS scholars studying at SLCC also attended.



The last UITE-Connect meeting of the academic year was a success! 26 new elementary and secondary teachers enrolled in this year's program and met to collaborate and converse about navigating the last few weeks of school and brainstorm teaching ideas related to incorporating elections in their curriculums for the next academic year. Associate Professor [Udita Gupta](#) runs UITE-Connect, which has received extraordinarily positive feedback in the 2023-24 school year.

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Dean Laanan had the honor of hooding honorary doctorate recipient Catherine Roper Meldrum at this year's 2024 general commencement ceremony. Meldrum, a recipient of the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, received her elementary education degree from the University of Utah and is a former elementary and preschool teacher. Meldrum and her late husband established the Meldrum Foundation, which benefits education, the arts, and humanitarian organizations. [Read more about Meldrum and the other honorary recipients.](#)



At this recent U GETS it event, students from general education, special education, occupational and physical therapy, speech language pathology, and dance joined together to celebrate a year of transdisciplinary learning in support of inclusion. Dean Laanan and Professor Mary Ann Lee, Tanner Dance, commended the work of U students in their efforts to support all learners as part of efforts at Elizabeth Academy. This project was funded through the Sorenson Legacy Foundation led by Professor Mary D. Burbank.



CoE Marketing and Communications Specialist Jane Stringham won a "One U Hero" award at the 2024 Giving Day Swoopy Awards. The university-wide Swoopys celebrate accomplishments made by Development and Marketing teams during Giving Day on April 2 and 3. This award specifically celebrates combined email marketing and solicitation efforts made by Jane for both the CoE and the University of Utah Reading Clinic (UURC).

Please submit your feature ideas for the e-newsletter.

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## The Long of It

### [William A. Smith Appointed Distinguished Professor](#)



[William A. Smith](#) has received the designation of Distinguished Professor, a prestigious honor recognizing his outstanding contributions to academia and his dedication to teaching. Smith was recognized at the University of Utah's general commencement ceremony and the College of Education convocation ceremony. [Read more.](#)

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## William A. Smith Appears on Morning Joe



Earlier this month, as part of the “[Love, Your Mind](#)” campaign, Huntsman Mental Health Institute and the Ad Council launched [a new PSA](#) starring sports media personality Stephen A. Smith aimed at destigmatizing mental health conversations. [Distinguished Professor William Smith joined Smith on MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) to discuss. Said Dr. Smith, Chief Executive Administrator of the Huntsman Mental Health Institute:

"We launched 'Love, Your Mind' last fall to help address the mental health crisis in our country that has been laid bare by challenges of the past few years. College students are no exception to this crisis; national research suggests that their mental health is getting worse, and the majority of college students ([more than 60% percent](#)) *meet* the criteria for at least one mental health problem. Given the extent of mental health concerns amongst college students, access to free and affordable services is crucial. The University is proud to provide an array of [student mental health resources](#), many of which are free for fee-paying students.

Additionally, [LoveYourMindToday.org](#) offers free tools to explore specific emotions and self-care strategies for navigating challenges. Our hope is that this campaign reaches students and reassures them that they are not alone in the struggles they may be facing. We want to provide helpful and accessible tools that can help everyone prioritize mental health – because when we take care of our minds, we can better handle life’s challenges, better show up those we care about, and be the very best version of ourselves."

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## Student Success

### **Ed.D. Student Melody Apezteguia Named Utah Assistant Principal of the Year by Utah Association of Secondary School Principals**

Apezteguia is Assistant Principal at American Fork High School. She has 31 years' experience in education and researches models of leadership coaching and support in Utah school districts. Read more




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## CoE Alumna Alyssa Lee (Honors B.A., Elementary Education) Won Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to serve in Taiwan

Lee completed her 2023 honors thesis with Assistant Professor Tracy Dobie of Educational Psychology.



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## Faculty Voices



Dean Laanan will give the opening keynote address at the [2024 Transfer Pathways Summit](#), hosted by the University of Pittsburgh. His talk is titled "Supporting Transfer Student Success: Critical Framework for Transfer Student Research Revisited."



Conner Warner's co-authored book, Rethinking Teacher Preparation Program Design, was selected to be the inaugural book for the [Association of Teacher Educators'](#) (ATE) Reads Together book group. ATE Reads Together is an online book discussion sponsored by the ATE Council of Past Presidents. You can participate in the discussion [here](#). Warner is pictured with co-author Etta Hollins.

Please share your publications, news coverage, presentations, or speaking engagements.

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## CoE in the News

### [Utah Prison Education Project partners with BYU](#)

The [Utah Prison Education Project \(UPEP\)](#), co-founded by [Associate Professor Erin Castro](#) and currently run by director [Dr. Andy Eisen](#), has partnered with Brigham Young University (BYU) to be able to reach more students and build capacity in fulfillment their mission: "advancing educational equity through on-site higher education, empirical research, advocacy, and a commitment to social transformation."

### [Utah Prison Education Project launches U of U bachelor's degree program](#)

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UPEP continues to receive widespread local news coverage for their new partnership with

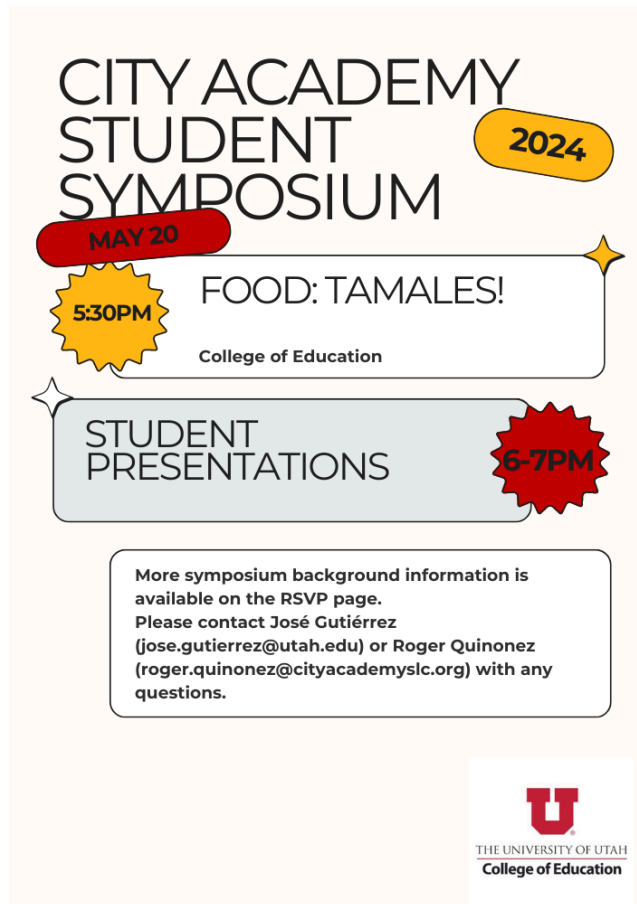
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radio story highlights UPEP's plans to raise money for a computer lab, in part supported through funds raised on U of U Giving Day.

Please share your publications, news coverage, presentations, or speaking engagements.

## Upcoming Events

### City Academy Student Research Symposium- May 17, 5:30pm




**CITY ACADEMY STUDENT SYMPOSIUM** 2024

MAY 20

5:30PM FOOD: TAMALES! College of Education

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS 6-7PM

More symposium background information is available on the RSVP page. Please contact José Gutiérrez (jose.gutierrez@utah.edu) or Roger Quinonez (roger.quinonez@cityacademyslc.org) with any questions.



City Academy is hosting its third annual student research symposium in the College of Education on the evening of Friday, May 17th. Food will be served at 5:30 pm, with student presentations from 6-7 pm. Middle and high school students will showcase their latest research projects with elements of mathematical analysis or modeling. The students’ families will be in attendance, as well.

Free event parking will be available in the central parking garage across from the Eccles School of Business. Please **RSVP here** to ensure we have enough food. TAMALES will be served.

**RSVP:**  
<https://forms.gle/LoM9Q111LVK5M7qS7>

### Education Scholarship Retreat - May 20

The School of Medicine Education Scholarship Retreat takes place on Monday, May 20, 2024.

To support and showcase the educational scholarship efforts of Core Educators and faculty, residents, fellows, and students in the School of Medicine, the focus of the May 2024 Core Educator retreat will be on medical education scholarship.

It is a wonderful opportunity for CoE faculty and graduate students to learn more about

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For more information, please contact:

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