



Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

I participated in the release of two messages from university leadership regarding the Israel-Palestine crisis, which you can read [here](#). As the violence continues, I expect there will be many opportunities to work together and develop a deeper understanding of how best to support each other. No student, faculty or staff member on this campus should be made to feel unwelcome or unwanted. As leaders, I encourage each of us to continue to call for compassion and learning as we support our University of Utah community.

- Mitzi M. Montoya



Martell Teasley named as associate provost

Martell Teasley, who served as dean of the College of Social Work from 2017-2022 and interim senior vice president for academic affairs from 2022-2023, has been named associate provost for strategic academic initiatives. He will begin his position Jan. 1, 2024. As associate provost, Teasley will provide leadership and support across the U to explore innovative ways to better align academic units in the promotion and advancement of academic excellence.

[Read more](#)

U welcomes UIA members to campus

Members of [the University Innovation Alliance](#) gathered at the U to focus on conversations about academic recovery, transfer student success, and supporting student parents and caregivers. The U hosted more than a dozen peer institutions for the three-day convening to discuss best practices and research-based interventions, and to strategize how to implement new thinking that will lead to better college graduation rates.

[Read more](#)

Responsible AI Initiative updates

As [news](#) of the launch of our Responsible AI Initiative spreads farther and wider, we have more information to share about the development of our strategy to catalyze transdisciplinary excellence in responsible AI at the U. Through this initiative, we will bring together the applied AI research and technological expertise, advanced cyberinfrastructure, and translational workforce needed to position the U as a regional and national leader. Guiding principles of the initiative include bridging traditional research boundaries across the U, complementing existing research and educational structures and building on existing strengths in alignment with university, state, regional, national and global priorities. Key objectives for the initial, tentative timeline for the project are to develop an execution plan and establish advisory and governance structures this fall. Next spring, we anticipate establishing the RAI Program Office and launching inaugural meetings of the advisory and executive committees, while developing distinguished visitor and faculty fellowship programs. In fall of 2024, we anticipate planning for cluster hires, and launching distinguished visitor and faculty fellowship programs. By spring, 2025, and onward, we anticipate launching cluster hires, continuing engagements with advisory committees, and exploring new activities. There is much more to come as this initiative develops — and I expect the outcome to be impactful for our entire community. I am excited to see all that we can do as we work together and harness our expertise in the development and use of responsible AI.

Point of the Mountain scholarship is announced

Students in the Alpine, Nebo or Provo school districts may be eligible for the newly created Point of the Mountain scholarship. The scholarship offers \$15,000 per year toward tuition and mandatory fees and an additional \$13,700 for the students first year of on-campus housing. Students must have a 4.0 GPA and apply by Dec. 1.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative program supports SLC communities

This fall marked the launch of a new program to support mental health in Spanish-speaking communities. Through a collaboration between Keith Radley and Aaron Fischer, associate professors in the Department of Educational Psychology; and College of Social Work Dean Philip Osteen, the program has placed graduate students seeking school psychology or social work degrees directly in Salt Lake City Schools. The project is funded by a \$5 million U.S. Department of Education grant.

[Read more](#)

Task force examines advent of AI

Dan Reed, chair of the National Science Board and presidential professor in computational science, participated today in Washington, D.C. in the Task Force on American Innovation panel discussion about the foundations of Artificial Intelligence. The discussion will delve into the world behind AI and unravel the foundational research that has powered AI's evolution.

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