



WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Dear Weber State Family,

My first months serving as the 13th president of Weber State University have humbled me. I have witnessed many examples where students deploy their dedication and determination to reach the summit of their educational mountain.

In these pages, you'll meet many of these students, such as **Cristian Gutierrez**, a first-generation Wildcat who was instrumental in planning Weber State's first Latinx/Raza graduate ceremony; **Naheed Davis**, who left Weber State when her eyesight started to fail, only to return years later to find success in our accounting major; and **Alissa Van Tassell**, a non-traditional student who once thought college may not be for her before graduating with honors as a double major botany and archaeology.



Stories like these are not new for Weber State. On January 7, we celebrated our 130-year history of inspiring students of all backgrounds to pursue their dreams.

Our outstanding faculty, supportive staff and academic infrastructure support student success for our students as they make this climb. **Nicola Corbin**, a communication professor whose passion and commitment to student success earned her the 2019 Crystal Crest Master Teacher award, is just one of the amazing faculty you'll meet in these pages.

We are excited to share this report with each of you to not only share in our success, but also to express our thanks for your partnership. As alumni, donors, policymakers, supporters and friends, your impact for our students to learn, lead and achieve while scaling the mountain of opportunity makes dreams happen.

Weber State is the proud, pioneering example of a dual-mission university. We meet today's challenges in higher education with optimism. Whether we are addressing critical workforce needs, like instituting our new Doctor of Nursing Practice program, or building pathways for students who are the first in their family to attend college, including two new programs to help improve graduation rates for underrepresented and low-income students in physical sciences, we know the difference Weber State makes.

We hear stories over and over from employers and alumni about the value of our degrees. Aspiring to ascend even greater heights, we're looking forward to proving that value again and again for the next generations of students in the years ahead.

You are a critical part of that journey — helping us to create a student-centered environment where faculty and staff connect with, challenge and teach students to thrive and fully realize their potential. I appreciate your support and invite you to stay engaged with Weber State as we go *ever upward* toward becoming Utah's choice in higher education for access, learning and community.

Best,

Brad

Ever Leading

Connections strengthen us. Dedication drives us.

Ever Inspiring

Inspiration at Weber State comes in many forms, from diligent students and master teachers to reflective art and acts of kindness.

Ever Pioneering

We pioneer beyond boundaries by strengthening diversity, conducting innovative research and continually improving.

Ever Learning

We put teaching first, as we strengthen academic programs and foster student success.

Ever INSPIRING 4-15

Ever PIONEERING 15-19

Ever LEADING

Ever LEARNING

A MOUNTAIN OF OPPORTUNITY



Felicitaciones, GRADUADO

Cristian Gutierrez (BS '19) recalls his father's joy during a special graduation ceremony in April.

Weber State's Office of Access & Diversity and ME-ChA hosted the inaugural Latinx/Raza Graduation Ceremony, celebrating the achievements of Latinx members of the Class of 2019. Out of the 50 students who took part, most, including Gutierrez, were the first in their families to earn a college diploma.

Enrique Romo, WSU's assistant vice president for Student Affairs, was the event's keynote speaker, sharing his experiences of pursuing a Ph.D. despite feeling disenfranchised as a Latino growing up in Texas. Romo and other speakers intentionally switched between English and Spanish during the ceremony, according to Gutierrez, since many parents were listening in Spanish and many students were only fluent in English.

"My dad has never been able to fully appreciate graduation ceremonies," Gutierrez said. "He'll pick up a word or two, but only takes in 10 to 20% of the ceremony."

However, that wasn't the case at the spring ceremony.

"My father walked away from this event rejoicing. He felt like the ceremony was meant for him," said Gutierrez, who grew up in Ogden after his parents immigrated from El Salvador.

"There is only one commencement. Attempting to translate the commencement to one language is a daunting task, let alone translating to every language spoken on our campus," Gutierrez said, noting he's had classmates from Korea, China, and Saudi Arabia. "That's what makes this ceremony so important. It was a moment for people to come together and take part in an event with cultural roots."

The ceremony included traditional folk dancers from Mexico and Bolivia, student speakers from Mexico and Panama, as well as Brazilian influences. "When you are a first-generation Latinx student, these things are important. That's my blood, my people, my culture," said Gutierrez, who helped plan the event.

Each graduate was given 30 seconds to say a few words. Some thanked event organizers. Others used the opportunity to encourage their children to follow in their footsteps and earn a college diploma.

Based on the inaugural success, organizers hope the event becomes an annual tradition, with more students participating.

Gutierrez acknowledges that people grow as part of the college experience. He arrived at WSU with an academic scholarship, intending to become an engineer. Along the way, he worked for Boys and Girls Club of Weber-Davis and discovered his passion for helping youth.

Having earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Gutierrez is deciding whether he wants to work with incarcerated youth or as a high school counselor. He is considering getting a master's degree in counseling. In the meantime, he is assisting first-generation DACA and undocumented youth with how to pursue higher education.

"Everyone says they want to change the world," Gutierrez said. "I think people confuse that thought with having to do something globally, but you can change the world in your own backyard."





Fostering A Sense of Home

Growing up in Roy as part of a two-parent household, Lauren Navidomskis BS '15, the new executive director of Ogden's Lantern House homeless shelter, said she was "blind to what real life was like."

While she attended WSU on a full-ride track and field scholarship, her eyes opened to the many hardships others face, and she gained a passion for social work and community agencies that help people.

She first visited Lantern House after being assigned a 20-hour volunteer service project in a Weber State course. In a child and family studies course, she visited about 10 local agencies. Through these experiences, she recalls thinking, "I could see myself working here. I can see the need."

Thanks to a senior-year internship with the YCC Family Crisis Center, she landed a job as a caseworker with the organization after graduating. Now, at 26, she's a leader at a local agency.

"I know I'm young, but I am trained and equipped to handle this," Navidomskis said about her new duties. "I love my colleagues; I love our clients. This is their home. People pass away here. They grow here. They fall off the wagon here. We are giving guidance and hope. We are a beacon of light for those in need."

Navidomskis plans to pay forward what she gained at Weber State by interacting with the social work students professor Steven Vigil brings to the center three times a year and expanding internship opportunities.

"Weber State does a phenomenal job of capturing our community," Navidomskis said. "I was so proud to wear that name on my chest when I competed in high jump. I want to continue to support its activities and continue to bleed purple."



2,311

Number of clients served by Lantern House

Number of WSU interns employed by Lantern House each year

COMMUNITY ACTION

OgdenCan Recognized for Service

The United Way of Northern Utah recognized the Ogden Civic Action Network (OgdenCAN) with its 2019 Partner of the Year award.

OgdenCAN is a partnership of seven local institutions that have agreed to work together to address some of the greatest social problems affecting Ogden's east central neighborhood — one of the city's most economically disadvantaged areas.

Of the 15,037 residents living in that neighborhood, an estimated 30% live in poverty and face challenges involving education, housing and access to healthcare.

OgdenCAN Institutions:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ogden City | Ogden Regional Medical Center |
| Ogden School District | Ogden-Weber Technical College |
| Intermountain Healthcare | Weber Morgan Health Department |
| McKay-Dee Hospital | Weber State University |

Serving Our Community

132,626

Number of service hours contributed by WSU students

4,130

Number of students who logged community engagement hours

\$3,372,679

Value of service hours (as calculated by Independent Sector)

91

Number of CCEL's community partners



CCEL Selects a New Director

Becky Jo Gesteland has been selected as the new executive director for the Center for Community Engaged Learning. Gesteland brings more than a decade of community engaged learning experience to the role as a practitioner and a scholar.



Wildcats Supporting Wildcats

Mental health is one of the greatest concerns for college students across the U.S. To help students help each other, WSU's Counseling & Psychological Services Center created the Wildcat Support Network.

WSU received a \$300,000 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services grant to fund the program designed to create student-facilitated support groups. Students who participate will learn about mental health disorders, suicide prevention, substance abuse and available resources on campus and in the community in order to serve effectively as peer advocates.

Migration Captured in Mural

By creating three large-scale art installations in Ogden, 2018 Hurst Artist-in-Residence Jane Kim connected northern Utah to the Migrating Mural campaign, a nationwide art initiative highlighting endangered animals along migration corridors they share with humans. The Ogden Migrating Murals are part of a larger network of monarch butterfly-inspired murals across the country. Ogden is a pit stop along the monarch's epic 3,000-mile North American migration path.

The project began at the Ogden Nature Center with six banners depicting the monarch's life cycle. The next phase was a mural painted on the exterior walls of The Monarch, a new event space in downtown Ogden. For the third phase, Kim and her team selected three student interns from the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities to help produce a monochrome mural for the Kimball Visual Arts Center atrium.

Kim hopes the Ogden murals will create awareness about the monarch's endangered status and inspire widespread conservationism.

Art for Awareness and Advocacy

WSU art professor **Kathleen "K" Stevenson** is committed to using art to promote social awareness, advocacy and change. Her sculpture installation series "Embedded Memory" has been exhibited internationally and was reprised at The Monarch in June. In April, Stevenson was honored with WSU's John A. Lindquist Award during a Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) celebration. The previous fall, she received an Ogden City Mayor's Award for making a difference in the community through art education. Stevenson launched the WSU Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Integration Endowment, an instructional program for elementary school students.



Debate Team Wins Big

When WSU family communication student Bianca Morales joined the Weber State Debate team in 2013, speaking was her weakest skill. At the 2019 Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) National Tournament, she walked away as the second-place speaker in the nation and an All-American.

"I worked hard with my coach to improve," Morales said. "I was blown away and brought to tears by this accomplishment."

Morales' distinction was not all WSU brought home from the CEDA National Tournament. Weber State Debate also won first place in the western region sweepstakes. Interim debate coach Ryan Wash was awarded Critic of the Year for the western region. Students **Roey Sellouk**, **Zachary Baker** and **Jordan Stephens** received the National Debate Scholar recognition, awarded to those who, in addition to competitive accomplishments, maintain a strong academic record.



Acclaimed Jazz Quartet Sets the Stage

The inaugural season of Browning Presents! (formerly the Office of Cultural Affairs) began on a high note with a performance by the Sean Jones Quartet. Famed trumpeter, composer, educator and activist Sean Jones taught master classes on campus prior to the Sept. 14, 2018, concert. He told students that jazz music tells America's story and can help us all become better human beings.

Casting Invisible Mountains

Using two simple materials — plastic sheeting and hot glue — internationally acclaimed Japanese artist Yasuaki Onishi created what appeared to be a vast, floating mountainscape inside the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery. In a process he calls "casting the invisible," Onishi draped semi-translucent plastic over stacked cardboard boxes, suspended the mass with wispy strands of black glue, then removed the boxes. Reverse of Volume, described as a meditation on the nature of negative space, was on display from Feb. 8 to April 6, 2019.

To watch a timelapse video of Onishi's art installation, visit weber.edu/annualreport.



Changing the Stars

Blaine Richards' family history included five generations of miners, doing backbreaking work underground and in dangerous conditions. Born in a coal mining camp in Carbon County, Blaine was on track to join them, too, but, as his granddaughter, WSU Master of Education program director Louise Moulding, likes to say, "Blaine changed the stars."

Instead of mining, Blaine moved to Ogden and became a sign painter and owner of Richards Sign Co. The move helped usher in a new family legacy at Weber State.

"My father, James Richards, was the first in the family to attend college (at Weber Academy). His younger brother, Richard Richards, followed," Moulding said.

"Most of my iblings and their spouses have degrees from WSU. We are a proud Weber State family."

Moulding and her brother, David Richards, pay tribute to their grandfather by ensuring that students who want to change trajectories, like Blaine did, can, through the Blaine B. Richards Scholarship in Art & Design.

It's one of many scholarships the siblings have created, which also include the following:

The Mary N. Hill Scholarship in Music, in memory of their maternal grandmother

The Ralph F. Hill Scholarship in Teacher Education, in memory of their maternal grandfather, who, like Moulding, was a science teacher

The Violet G. Richards Scholarship in Interior Design, in memory of their paternal grandmother

The Jim and Maurine Richards Scholarship in the Master of Education Program, in honor of their parents

Scholarships associated with WSU's Richard Richards Institute for Ethics, named for their uncle, former Weber alumnus, political activist and Republic National Committee chairman.

"My grandfather, Ralph Hill, was sure I'd be a principal," Moulding said. "I'm happy to say that didn't happen, because I love being at Weber State."

Alumni Worldwide

Introduced in 1975, Weber State's emergency healthcare department is one of the oldest of its type in the country. Consequently, it's not uncommon for department chair **William "Bill" Robertson** to run into alumni. However, even he was surprised by a recent connection.

Robertson was hired to accredit a bachelor's program in emergency medical care in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). At the bottom of a lengthy resume, Eddie Callachan, the program director, listed Weber State for his first course as an emergency medical technician. Callachan, who is from South Africa, took an exploratory course at WSU while visiting family in Utah in 1993. "It kind of gives you goose bumps to think the things he's doing on the other side of the world started here in this department," Robertson said.

Callachan earned his Ph.D. in emergency care from the University of Cape Town, and served as chief flight paramedic for critical care transport in the UAE medical services corps.

"I've never forgotten my time at WSU," Callachan wrote. "I bet the program must be incredible now."

Respiratory Care Program Earns National Award

Out of approximately 430 CoARC-accredited programs, WSU is one of 30 that received a 2019 credentialing success award.

A letter from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), dated May 3, 2019, informed Paul Eberle that Weber State's Department of Respiratory Therapy had once again received the Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Credentialing Success Award. The department, which Eberle chairs, has earned the honor for eight consecutive years.

According to the letter, the RRT credential is "a measure of a program's success in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations." WSU is among the few universities in the U.S. to offer a bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy. Recent graduates of the program have an average starting salary of \$54,000 and a 100% job placement rate.



Night or Day, Nicola Corbin Makes a Difference

It's late evening. Associate professor of communication **Nicola Corbin** receives an email from a former student, asking for advice on how to improve a job acceptance letter. Instead of waiting to address the email the next morning, Corbin happily responds, suggesting revisions that, ultimately, help the student negotiate a higher salary. "At 10 p.m. her time!" the student emphasized in a letter nominating Corbin for a 2019 Crystal Crest Master Teacher award.

Corbin's authenticity, passion, enthusiasm and genuine concern for the success of each student guide all of her interactions, inside and outside the classroom. These qualities led to her winning the Master Teacher award at the Crystal Crest ceremony on April 13.

As a teacher, Corbin engages students in enriching experiences and discussions. As an adviser for Ogden Peak Communications, WSU's student-run public relations firm, Corbin builds connections between students and the community. Within the context of learning, Corbin says she listens to students. She allows for questions, particularly the politically incorrect ones, and is honest in her responses.

"My students learn from me, and I continue to learn from my students," Corbin said. "It is truly a symbiotic relationship, and it is why I absolutely adore my career. By motivating and supporting my students, I reap the same benefits they do — widening of perspective, the challenge of always engaging in critical thinking and of seeing each person as an individual with different needs."

Teaching Excellence

WSU honors faculty throughout the year through a variety of programs, the newest of which is the Presidential Teaching Excellence Award, created with a \$1 million gift commitment from Ogden philanthropists Bob and Marcia Harris.

The inaugural group of recipients, who were honored in fall 2018, includes:

Anthony Allred, Business Administration

Tim Border, Professional Sales

Carie Frantz, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Matthew Gnagey, Economics

Catherine Harmston, Nursing

Lisa Hopkins, Accounting & Taxation

Emily Petersen, English

Elizabeth Rocha, Nursing

Sarah Steimel, Communication

Natalie Williams, Teacher Education

Stephanie Wolfe, Political Science

James Zagrodnik, Health Promotion & Human Performance

WSU President Brad Mortensen surprised each honoree during one of their classes. To see the video, visit weber.edu/annualreport.



Growing a **DREAM**

Alissa Van Tassell said dreams are much like the plants she studied and tended on her way to a double major in botany and archaeology.

"Plants grow and change for a long time, and then all of a sudden, there's a beautiful flower," Van Tassell said. "The faculty, staff and friends I've made at Weber State have been the ones watering me, helping me achieve my dreams and goals. With their support, just like a plant, my dreams and goals have grown bigger and bigger."

After graduating with honors in the spring of 2019, Van Tassell headed to a master's program in botany at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

No one is more surprised at her success than Van Tassell, whose education nearly withered as a high school dropout. She earned a degree only after her 4-year-old daughter enrolled in Head Start, which offered parents a path to graduation.

"I decided back then I wanted a diploma, just so my kids knew they had to get at least a high school degree, so I like to tell people I actually graduated from Head Start," she said.

With three children, an ailing mother and household bills, Van Tassell used her high school education to secure a variety of jobs in business. Finally, she decided the future looked brighter as a university graduate, and Weber State was the right

combination of convenience and affordability.

"My very first day at Weber State, I pulled into Dee Events Center to park, and I sat in my car looking at all these young kids, going, I'm too old, I don't know what I'm doing here," Van Tassell remembers thinking. "I probably sat there for five minutes just giving myself a pep talk before I got out of my car and got on the shuttle bus.

"Initially I started out being the quiet kid in class. I figured I was too old for college, so I kept my head down and took tests the day they opened. But as I got in the botany department, I was able to step out of my box. I learned I was a lot smarter than I ever gave myself credit."

In addition to her course work, Van Tassell served as botany club president, worked as a laboratory and greenhouse assistant, earned scholarships, received a grant to conduct and present undergraduate research on flavonoids and anthocyanin in elderberries. She also participated in extended summer field projects.

"Weber State's definitely taught me to step out of my box and become the person I want to be and not the person I think people want me to be," she said.

Van Tassell hopes she might get another chance to bloom as a Wildcat: "My goal, I think, eventually, is to come back to Weber State as a professor."

"The faculty, staff and friends I've made at Weber State have been the ones watering me, helping me achieve my dreams and goals."

Highlighting Earth, Environment and Technology

Weber State raised its profile in earth and environmental sciences and geography during the 2018–2019 academic year, introducing a new department name and interdisciplinary program.

The Faculty Senate approved an update to the name of the Department of Earth and Environmental Studies, formerly the Department of Geosciences, to reflect student career goals and expectations.

The change, which took effect in fall 2018, falls in line with department names at other institutions and corresponds with earth or environmental science courses taught at local high schools.

The new name also makes it easier for students who are interested in environmental topics and earth sciences to discover department programs, and reflects the fact that many students plan on careers in the environmental sciences side of STEM professions.



Powering Real-World Experience

Weber State students in the Building Design & Construction program are gaining practical experience in their field by designing net-zero-energy homes for the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon.

WSU's design team was selected as one of 11 internationally in the year-and-a-half-long competition that challenges students to design and construct efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy.

In the spring of 2019, the Wildcats spent a weekend in Golden, Colorado, where a panel of judges evaluated their design work and advanced them to the next round. The team will now work with Redfish Builders to construct a duplex and triplex in Salt Lake City. In July 2020, they will take models and renderings of their project to Washington D.C., for the final segment of the competition.

A World of Opportunity

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the demand for environmental scientists, hydrologists and geoscientists will grow a robust 10–14% from 2016 to 2026.

The American Geosciences Institute projected a workforce shortage of 90,000 geoscientists nationwide by 2022.

The NUGeoTec Program

Weber State's NUGeoTec (Northern Utah Geospatial Technology Education) Program includes courses in the Department of Earth and Environmental Studies and the Department of Geography to prepare students for in-demand careers in the geospatial workforce.

The National Science Foundation awarded the departments \$183,336 for project research in May 2013. The major project objectives were met by May 2019, and the program officially launched in fall 2019.

NUGeoTec includes two certificates of proficiency and one minor.

"Geospatial jobs are growing at an enormous rate, as many government entities, private corporations and non-governmental organizations realize the power of spatial information," said Ryan Frazier, an assistant professor who teaches in both departments for the program.

Along with geospatial careers, students gain skills they can use in areas that examine spatial data such as geology, biology and medicine.

"It is truly an interdisciplinary program," said Michael Hernandez, NUGeoTec director. "We are seeking to give students experience through collaboration with other faculty, departments and the community with tackling issues using geospatial technologies."

Students Win for Cutting Costs, Not Quality

A team of WSU supply chain management students took second place in a two-day international case competition hosted by General Motors in October 2018. WSU competed against 24 teams from the top supply-chain programs in the world, including No.1 ranked Michigan State University.* GM asked students to determine how to "cut costs in a top-selling automobile, without cutting quality, particularly with the seats." Judges noted that WSU's score was incredibly close to the first-place finisher, Western Michigan University. WSU team member Joseph VanWagoner said, "Being able to hold our own and excel made us realize how applicable our education is and how outstanding Weber State's program is."

*According to U.S. News & World Report

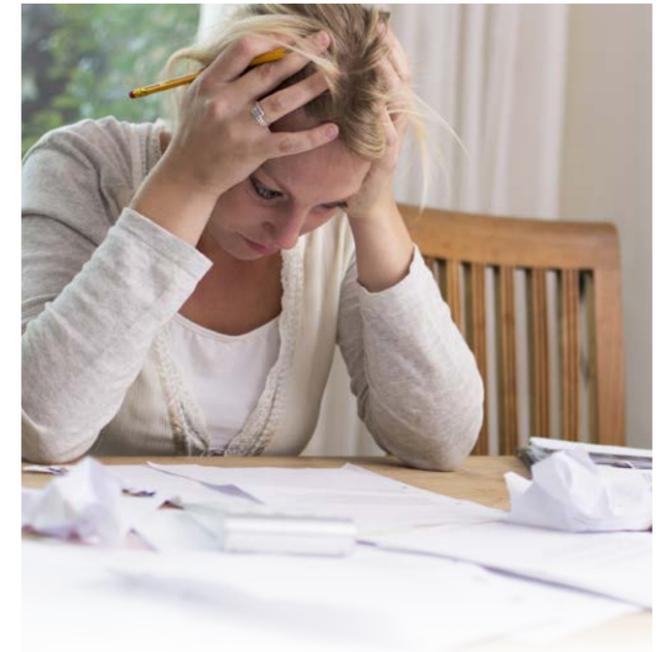
\$53,000-\$80,000

Average starting salary range of WSU's supply chain management graduates



Job placement for WSU's supply chain management graduates:

100%



WSU Research Reveals the Government Shutdown's Real Impact

Most American families do not have enough savings to cover even a \$1,000 emergency. The financial and emotional stress that can bring became apparent during the partial federal government shutdown, which began Dec. 22, 2018.

Weber State's Center for Community Engaged Learning-Research Extension (CCEL-RE) conducted a set of surveys to study the impact of the shutdown on individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations in northern Utah. They worked in partnership with Ogden City, Weber and Davis counties, the Division of Workforce Services and WSU's economic development director.

Findings revealed that during the 35-day shutdown, more than 35% of furloughed employees missed a rent or mortgage payment, 30% went to a food pantry or received a free meal, and 65% were "very" or "somewhat concerned" about finances after the shutdown. Another 72% reported experiencing high anxiety or stress, but only 4% received mental health support.

CCEL-RE plans to continue its research with focus groups to explore why furloughed employees had such low rates of savings, how employees working without pay can receive services and how the community can meet the mental health needs of those affected by a financial emergency.



A Family **TRADITION,** *High-tech Future*

Rachel Laub's older sister, **Abi**, started it, enrolling at Weber State as a geosciences major. **Rachel** followed, as a computer science major. In the fall of 2019, Abi and Rachel's younger sisters, twins **Ariel** and **Ivie**, started as first-year students. Another younger sister, **Micah**, is an Early College student and will graduate from high school in 2020 with an associate's degree from WSU.

Suffice it to say, Weber State is a Laub family tradition.

Much like Rachel's choice in university, her chosen major could have been easy to predict. She discovered her affinity for computers and technology in eighth grade. Before graduating from high school, she completed three certifications in information technology, received the Sterling Scholar Philo T. Farnsworth Governor's Award and won the National Center for Women & Information Technology award for aspirations in computing.

Recently, Rachel was honored as a finalist for the 2018 Women Tech Council's Student Pathway Award, given to college students who have shown outstanding service or outreach in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

"The Women Tech Council is an amazing group of innovative women who want to change the world," she said. "Being a finalist for the Student Pathway Award was a privilege."

Rachel came to WSU on an ambassador scholarship. Since enrolling, she has offered guidance to others pursuing their passions as an admissions ambassador, and shared her love for technology with peers in the Society of Women Engineers club and the Science, Technology, Engineering Programs club.



Golden Anniversaries

It was a golden year for two groups designed to empower underrepresented populations at Weber State.

The Black Scholars United club, which celebrated its 50th anniversary throughout the 2018–2019 academic year, promotes leadership, higher learning and education for black students, along with hosting community service projects and activities.

“Black Scholars United is more than a club; it’s a community,” said JaLisa Lee, 2018–19 club president. “We promote unity among black students through cultural understanding, academic excellence, community involvement, student engagement and leadership.”

During its 50th anniversary, the American Indian Council (AIC) hosted its inaugural Native American College Prep and Scholarship Night at Weber State University Davis in October. Partnering with local school districts, the event encouraged Native American high school students to consider post-secondary education.

Providing Native American students with connections and a sense of community is the primary focus of the AIC, says advisor Tashina Barber BA/BA '14. She first discovered the

value of the council while serving as a student member of the group in 2012.

“Being part of AIC provides a sense of belonging and it instills confidence,” Barber said. “It helped me connect with other groups on campus and prepared me to further my education in graduate school.”

138
Number of Native American
Students at WSU

40%
of WSU Native American
Students are Navajo



Top Honors for New History Faculty Member

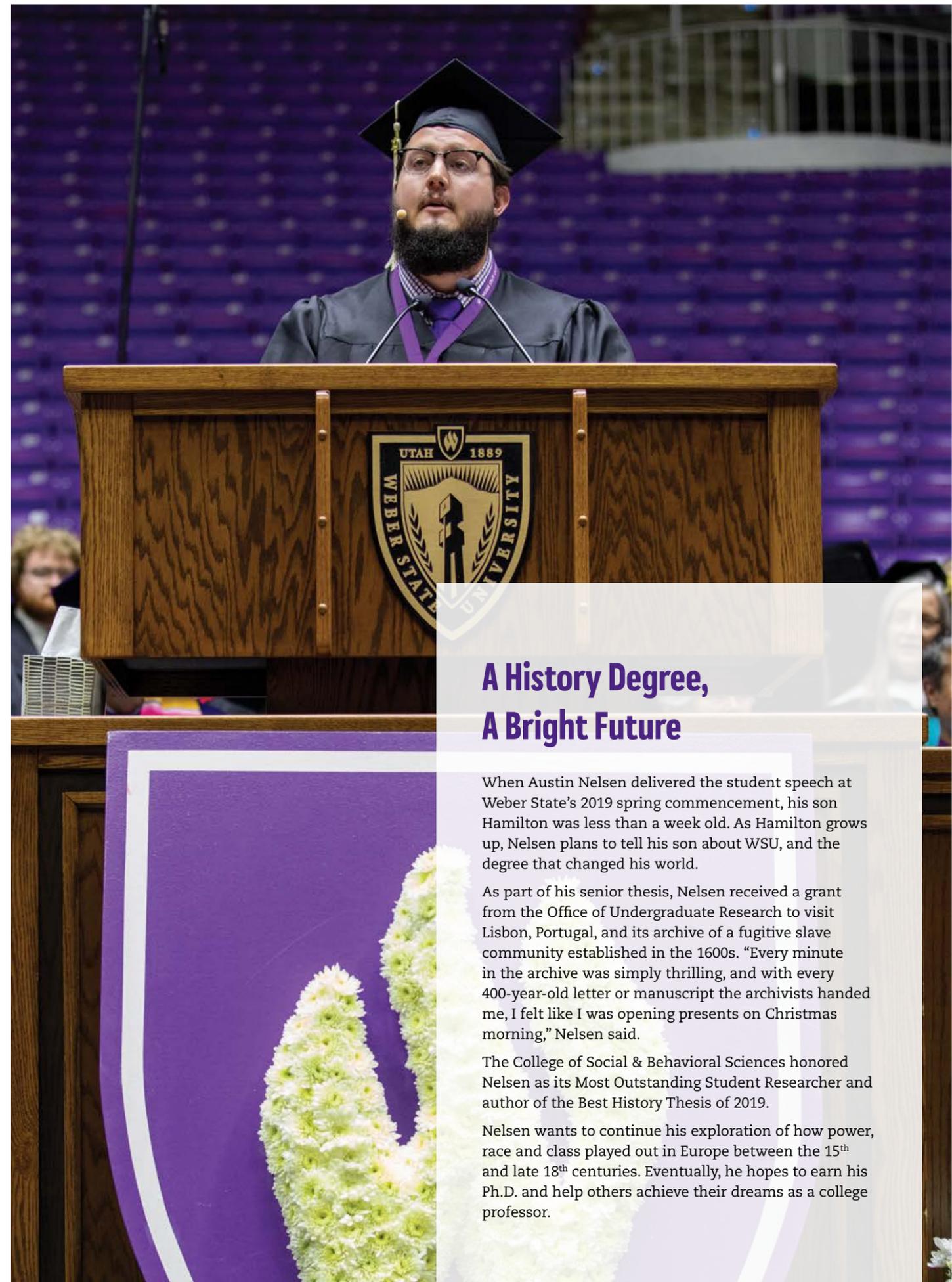
The Society of American Historians selected the work of Weber State’s newest history faculty member for the 59th annual Allan Nevins Prize.

Jonathan Lande was honored for his dissertation, “Disciplining Freedom: U.S. Army Slave Rebels and Emancipation in the Civil War.” He reviewed more than 30,000 transcripts of Civil War military courts martial in the National Archives. What Lande found was that a military organization committed to the destruction of slavery unwittingly subjected black soldiers to the violent discipline and coerced labor that many formerly enslaved Americans sought to escape.

The award came with \$2,000 and the guaranteed publication of his work into a book.

Lande earned his Ph.D. at Brown University and completed a postdoctoral fellow at the New-York Historical Society and the Lang College Department of History at The New School.

He began teaching at Weber State this fall; one of his courses is a new history class on African-American leaders.



A History Degree, A Bright Future

When Austin Nelsen delivered the student speech at Weber State’s 2019 spring commencement, his son Hamilton was less than a week old. As Hamilton grows up, Nelsen plans to tell his son about WSU, and the degree that changed his world.

As part of his senior thesis, Nelsen received a grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research to visit Lisbon, Portugal, and its archive of a fugitive slave community established in the 1600s. “Every minute in the archive was simply thrilling, and with every 400-year-old letter or manuscript the archivists handed me, I felt like I was opening presents on Christmas morning,” Nelsen said.

The College of Social & Behavioral Sciences honored Nelsen as its Most Outstanding Student Researcher and author of the Best History Thesis of 2019.

Nelsen wants to continue his exploration of how power, race and class played out in Europe between the 15th and late 18th centuries. Eventually, he hopes to earn his Ph.D. and help others achieve their dreams as a college professor.

Championing Sustainability

WSU continues to take great, Great, GREAT strides toward its goal of becoming carbon neutral and is expected to achieve a zero carbon footprint by 2040, 10 years earlier than its original target date.

2018-19 sustainability highlights include opening Lindquist Hall, which is on track to become Weber State's first carbon-neutral building (meaning it doesn't require fossil fuels to run), hosting the Intermountain Sustainability Summit, and participating in the State of Utah Mower Exchange.

Lindquist Hall was designed and built with the goal of earning a LEED Gold rating for energy efficiency. A massive geothermal field, consisting of 150 wells drilled 425 feet deep into the northwest part of campus, supplements the building's heating and cooling. In addition, underground preparations were made for the university's first solar-covered parking array in lot W10, also located northwest of Lindquist Hall. The actual array will be constructed in May 2020. It will feed directly into Lindquist Hall and the campus electrical grid.

The Intermountain Sustainability Summit, Utah's largest multitopic sustainability conference, provided nearly 400 professionals and emerging leaders from businesses, nonprofits, and government and education entities the opportunity to learn, share and network. Nearly 25% of participants were college students, many of whom participated in the student poster challenge. Students also explored sustainability-focused career paths and connected with potential employers.

WSU's sustainability offices, in partnership with the Weber-Morgan and Davis County health departments, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, and the Utah Clean Air Partnership, hosted a "Cut Pollution—Mow Electric" program to promote cleaner air and healthier lives. Residents of Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele and Utah counties who entered and were selected from a random lottery were eligible for a \$99 electric lawn mower or \$49 trimmer when they traded in an old, gas-powered tool.



The Intermountain Sustainability Summit, hosted by WSU, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019.



The 2019 lawn mower exchange program provided 1,259 electric mowers and 972 trimmers to eligible Utah residents.

Dream It, Design It, Build It

Thanks to a partnership between Weber State, the Davis and Ogden-Weber technical colleges, and the Davis, Morgan, Ogden and Weber school districts, Utah high school students have a direct line to an education with stackable credentials that leads to high-paying jobs in building, design and construction.

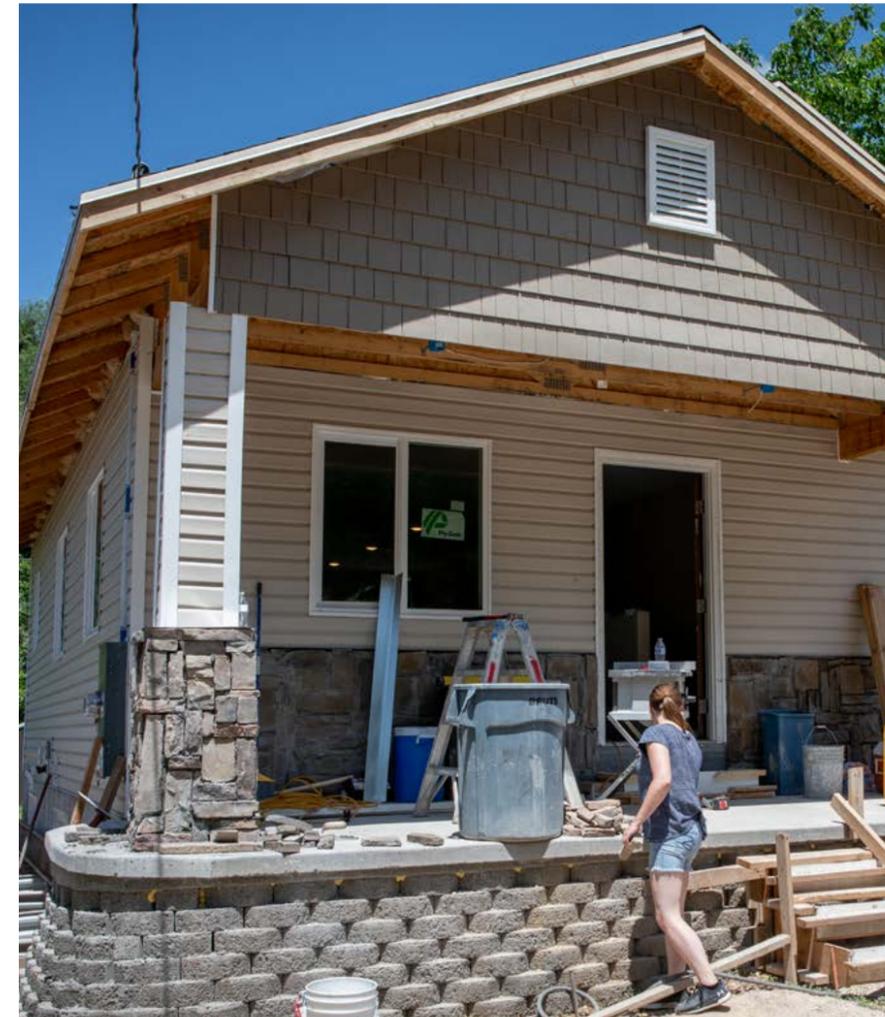
The new Utah Architecture, Engineering & Construction Pathway recruits students as early as the eighth grade. They then continue through high school and technical college, earning up to 14 hours of Weber State credit.

"This is all being driven by the industry, what they need us to prepare their employees to do, so those

they hire can hit the ground running," said **Jeremy Farner**, associate professor in the construction and building sciences department.

Utah high school students who take four of the approved pathway classes are guaranteed an \$8,000 scholarship to Weber State to continue their education.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Division of Workforce Services provided \$200,000 to kick off the program. The legislature approved \$260,000 annually from the Strategic Workforce Initiative to help the effort succeed.



WSU Students Help Build Net-Zero House for Habitat for Humanity

Weber State students collaborated with a number of community partners to design and build the first affordable, net-zero energy home in the Northern Wasatch Parade of Homes. Featured in the July 2019 event, the house demonstrates how existing homes can be retrofitted to achieve net-zero energy. A Habitat for Humanity project, the home went to a family who lost their home to the tornado that hit Ogden in 2016.



Engineering Growth

For the past five years, Weber State has led state institutions in awarding engineering and computer science degrees. Now, two new buildings and four new programs will help Weber State continue educating students for high-demand positions in engineering and technology fields in Utah and around the nation.

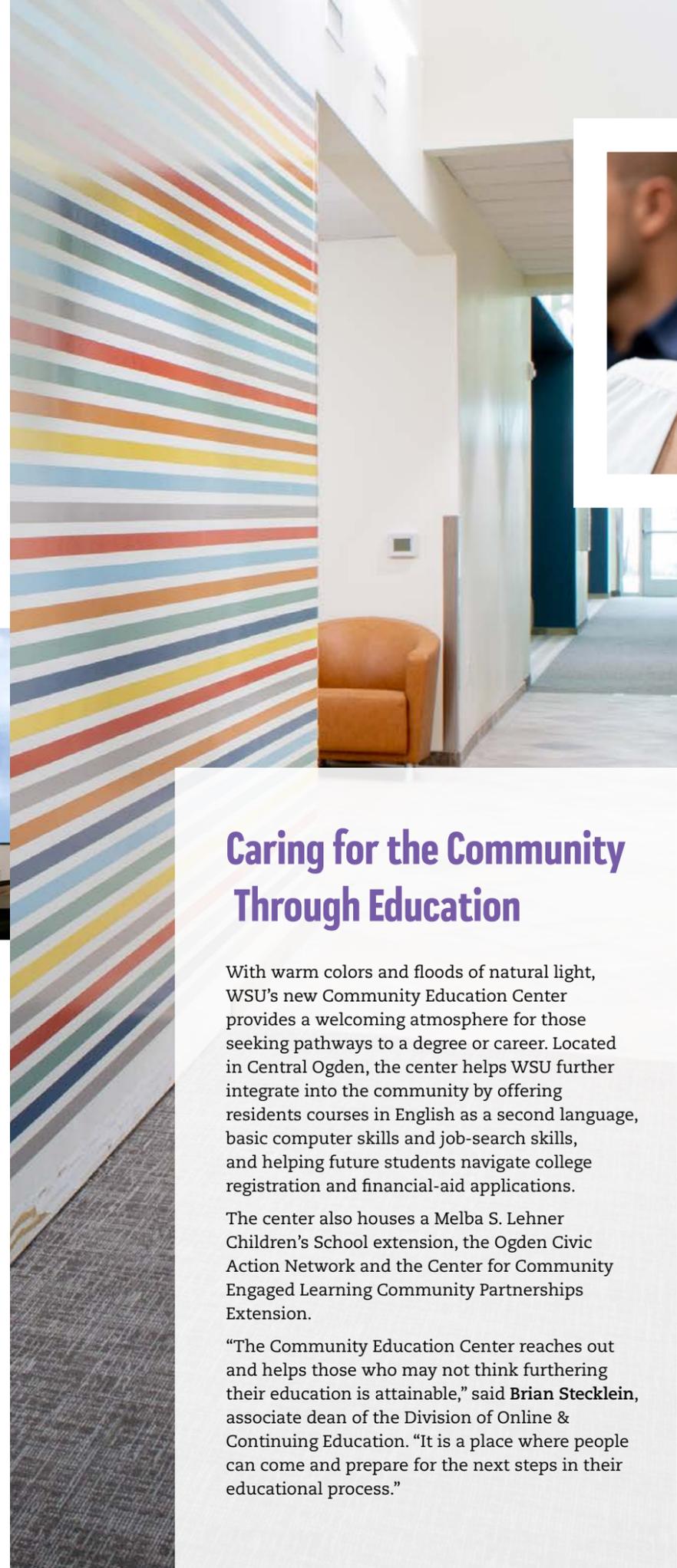
Construction is underway for the Computer & Automotive Engineering Building at Weber State University Davis. The 50,000-square-foot building will support growth in the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology. In addition to providing a location for computer science and software engineering courses, the building will be the new home for automotive technology.

Weber State will break ground on the Noorda Building for Engineering, Applied Science & Technology in spring 2020. The 143,000-square-foot facility will house WSU's mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, computer



science, professional sales and product design and development programs. Additionally, four centers will be housed in the building: The Concept Center, the Center for Technology Outreach, the National Center for Automotive Science & Technology and the Alan E. Hall Center for Sales Excellence. The Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering & Science (NUAMES-North) high school has guaranteed \$7.5 million to operate its charter school in the building.

The expansion to facilities coincides with an expansion of programs. The university recently added two master's degrees in computer science and electrical engineering and two bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and manufacturing systems engineering.



Caring for the Community Through Education

With warm colors and floods of natural light, WSU's new Community Education Center provides a welcoming atmosphere for those seeking pathways to a degree or career. Located in Central Ogden, the center helps WSU further integrate into the community by offering residents courses in English as a second language, basic computer skills and job-search skills, and helping future students navigate college registration and financial-aid applications.

The center also houses a Melba S. Lehner Children's School extension, the Ogden Civic Action Network and the Center for Community Engaged Learning Community Partnerships Extension.

"The Community Education Center reaches out and helps those who may not think furthering their education is attainable," said Brian Stecklein, associate dean of the Division of Online & Continuing Education. "It is a place where people can come and prepare for the next steps in their educational process."

CEC By the Numbers

42

Number of classes offered at the CEC

500

Number of students served

40

Number of volunteers

9

Number of bilingual staff members

18

Number of children attending the children's school



Braving an **UNCLEAR FUTURE**

Young children can be unsteady on their feet, but 3-year-old **Naheed Davis'** steps were alarming. Her mother noticed her hesitant walk one evening in Guatemala, where Naheed was born. "My mom says I would stop, feel around with my foot, then walk a bit, then stop, feel around with my foot, then walk a bit," Naheed shared. "Worried, she decided I should go to an eye doctor."

The diagnosis was retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic disorder that affects peripheral vision and makes it difficult to see at night. By age 5, Naheed's central vision had become impaired — she would later learn she also had macular degeneration. She had to sit in the front row of all her classes to see the board, even with glasses. At 6, Naheed's family emigrated from Guatemala. She started first grade a few weeks after arriving in the U.S. She soon realized she loved numbers.

Naheed graduated from high school in 2003 and enrolled at WSU that fall. She was OK for a few semesters, but her eyesight worsened, and she started to fail classes. Microeconomics and business statistics were particularly difficult because graphs were hard to see. "I was too embarrassed to ask for help," she admitted.

So she quit.

And she took a customer service job. It was unfilling, and she knew it wouldn't help her provide for her family — she had two kids of her own — long term.

So Naheed re-enrolled at WSU. This time she sought help from the university's Disability Services office, which provided her with screen readers and note takers.

Naheed excelled and got an internship at the Utah State Capitol, through Kristen Cox, executive director of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. Cox is also blind. She helped Naheed gain confidence.

Naheed graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting in April 2019. She is currently enrolled in WSU's Master of Taxation program and has been offered a job in the Department of Defense. Naheed is also working with David Malone, chair of the School of Accounting & Taxation, on a project that explores the opportunities and challenges she and others who are visually impaired face in the world of accounting and finance. Her goal is to publish the research in an accounting education journal.

"Throughout my time at WSU, some things were more challenging than others," Naheed said, "but I have had amazing support from faculty, staff and classmates who made it a lot easier."

Examining Our Tech Tendencies

If you ever felt compelled to check Facebook and then logged off feeling lonelier than when you signed in, you're actually not alone. Recent research by Weber State professors shows that our digital habits affect both our moods and behaviors.

Jeff Clements, business administration assistant professor, and **Randy Boyle**, associate professor of management information systems, in the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics, published "Compulsive Technology Use: Compulsive Use of Mobile Applications" in the journal *Computers in Human Behavior*, examining the habitual use of technology and when a habit turns into a compulsion.

"There are things about a person's psychology that can be manipulated by very smart designers and mobile app developers that can strengthen compulsive behaviors," Clements said.

It is no mystery that compulsive technology use can affect our moods, as computing assistant professor **Luke Fernandez** and his spouse history professor **Susan Matt** discovered.

Fernandez and Matt's research showed emotions such as loneliness, boredom, vanity, awe and anger have changed or been redefined as people have interacted with new technologies throughout history. Their research is published in their book "Bored, Lonely, Angry, Stupid: Changing Feelings about Technology, from the Telegraph to Twitter."

"In the past, people expected that there would be limits on their experiences; limits on how much they could learn, be entertained or interact with others," Fernandez said. "By contrast, many today have developed a limitless sense of self in comparison to previous generations, meaning they expect unending affirmation, infinite social contacts, never ending entertainment and the right to unrestrained anger."



Ciencias Económicas

With 577 million Spanish speakers worldwide and 40 million in the U.S., WSU's Goddard School of Business & Economics is preparing students to compete successfully in the global marketplace by offering select business courses in Spanish. Associate economics professor **Álvaro La Parra-Perez**, a native of Gandia, Spain, began teaching a WSU economics class in Spanish in the summer of 2019 — a first for the Goddard School. The class will help both native and non-native Spanish speakers develop their basic economics knowledge while adding cultural and social norms to help make them marketable and more valuable to an organization.

ECONOMICS *Explains Behavior*

Did you know that posting hospital prices doesn't actually help consumers find better deals, or that individuals are more willing to save money to benefit others than they are to benefit themselves?

Weber State economics faculty discovered these surprising stats recently through their innovative research work.

Assistant professor of economics **Christopher Yench** and co-author Paula Fitzgerald, from West Virginia University, scrutinized more than 7 million consumer-hospital interactions nationwide to explain how the healthcare market differs from other

free markets. Their conclusion: New federal requirements to post prices will not have the hoped-for results.

Professor of economics **Therese Grijalva** and assistant professor of economics **Matt Gnagey** confirmed with their research that individuals are more willing to scale back spending to protect and provide future resources for members of their households, specifically their spouses or partners, than they are to save for themselves. The 188 participants in the study demonstrated they were more interested in the future of their families than in their own well-being.



Anticipating a **BRIGHTER FUTURE**

Weber State University junior **Jeni Claudio** is proud to report that her five young children have made great strides in their educational achievement since she began reading to them regularly. That's quite an accomplishment, considering she was raised by parents who couldn't read.

Ana Carlin, a 2006 Weber State child and family studies graduate.

"Reading to my kids is going to help them in the future," Claudio said. "Having that family time with a book, or having my son on my lap and teaching him his letters is really nice. Now, all of my kids are doing great in school."

Carlin met with Claudio for nine months, and although the formal visits ended in 2013, they continue to stay in touch.

"At the beginning, I could see that Jeni felt alone and needed help from the community," Carlin said. "Now, wow, what a change. She is focused, and she wants to improve her life and improve the lives of her children."

The Claudio family is just one of 2,000 Weber County families that WSU's Family Literacy Program has served since its inception in 2006.

The program, housed in the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education, provides in-home literacy and parenting support to families, most of whom participate in Head Start and come from lower-income backgrounds. Parents in the program gain skills for engaging in literacy with their children and learn parenting strategies like setting goals and establishing positive discipline practices that avoid yelling or spanking.

The Family Literacy Program operates in partnership with WSU's Department of Child & Family Studies, Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership (Head Start), Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Ally Bank, Stewart Education Foundation, and the Weber State Boyd K. and Donna S. Packer Center for Family and Community Education.

The Ogden Deseret Industries Thrift Store has donated 4,500 books and educational games to the program, and the Glasmann family, represented by Myrene Glasmann Temple, is the program's primary donor.

In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics called for pediatricians to talk to parents about the importance of reading to children from infancy, stating that it stimulates optimal patterns of brain development and strengthens parent-child relationships, while building language, literacy and social-emotional skills. In addition, studies show that children who engage in literacy at home are more likely to graduate from high school and pursue higher education.

"Research shows that a larger vocabulary in kindergarten is a strong predictor of later academic success," said **Paul Schvaneveldt**, Family Literacy Program director. "The goal of the program is to empower families to build literacy skills with their children to better prepare them for success in school and life."

Claudio said her family dynamics changed significantly following the help and guidance of facilitator

To hear from Jeni, visit weber.edu/annualreport.



2,000

The number of families WSU's Family Literacy Program has served

Designing New Paths in Arts & Humanities

A wide range of recently approved programs in the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities have increased learning opportunities and career paths for liberal arts students.

As of the 2019–2020 academic year, students could enter any of the following programs:

Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies

Associate of Arts or Minor in Localization

Associate of Arts in Technical Theatre

Minor in Literary Editing

In addition, the college began offering certificates of proficiency in American Sign Language, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, jazz studies and music entrepreneurship.

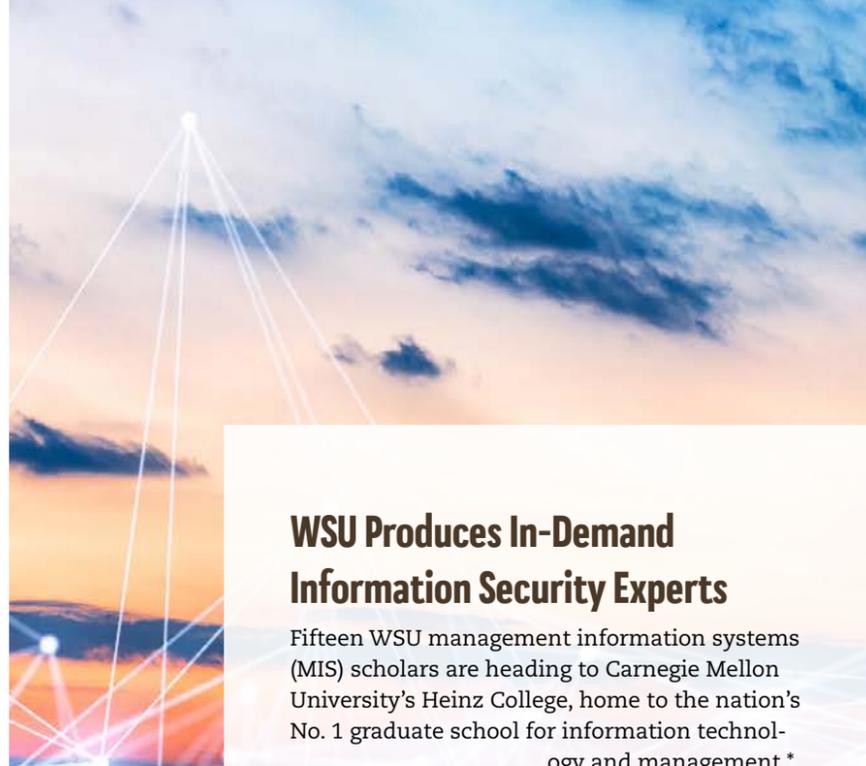
“Our new programs prioritize deep learning in the liberal arts combined with the professional and technical skills required for an enriching, lifelong career,” said Scott Sprenger, dean of the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities.

Wildcat Travelers

In the spring of 2019, three study abroad trips took students from the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions to China, Ecuador, Cambodia and Thailand. In China, students learned to identify culturally appropriate health care practice interactions for patients whose belief systems originate in Chinese traditions. In Ecuador, students provided daily care to children living in orphanages. In Cambodia and Thailand, students cared for villagers in remote locations.



54
The total number of students who studied abroad with the Dumke College of Health Professions in 2019.
For a complete list of WSU's 2019 study abroad trips, visit weber.edu/studyabroad.



WSU Produces In-Demand Information Security Experts

Fifteen WSU management information systems (MIS) scholars are heading to Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College, home to the nation's No. 1 graduate school for information technology and management.*

Nine will be starting their master's degrees at Carnegie Mellon in the fall of 2019; six attended a cybersecurity fellowship at the university over the summer.

Recognizing the need for highly skilled cybersecurity and information systems professionals, WSU associate professor of MIS **Randy Boyle** collaborated with industry leaders to develop an innovative formula of curriculum

and instruction to meet industry demand, and prepare students for advanced degrees.

Boyle's students have been successfully competing for placements in the CMU summer fellowship for several years. In 2019, he spearheaded a partnership where his students compete for limited spots in CMU's master's programs.

Randy Trzeciak, a director at CMU, has been impressed by WSU students. “Weber State students have unique skills that are indicators of success in a master's program,” he said. “In addition to tech skills, they have solid business and critical-thinking skills.”

*According to U.S. News and World Report

Employment of information security analysts is projected to grow 28% from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Ready for School

WSU's Department of Child & Family Studies and the United Way of Northern Utah hosted Spring into School Readiness, an event for children under age 5 and their parents, at Newgate Mall. Children enjoyed story time, performances and activities, and WSU students helped parents complete a questionnaire to help them track their children's development in areas like communication, problem solving and gross motor skills.

Sharing the DREAM

It's hard to argue with success.

Weber State's Dream Weber program, which offers free tuition and general student fees to students whose annual household income is \$40,000 or less, has proven so successful over the last decade that it inspired legislation. Specifically, Rep. Derrin Owen (R-Fountain Green) sponsored HB260 during the 2019 legislative session.

WSU President **Brad Mortensen** and his Salt Lake Community College counterpart, Deneece G. Huftalin, voiced support of Owen's proposal by co-authoring an op-ed in the Salt Lake Tribune, noting that children of families from the lowest income quartile were four times less likely to graduate from

college than their higher-income peers. Like Dream Weber, the SLCC Promise program helps community college students bridge the gap between federal aid and actual tuition expenses.

Lawmakers approved Owen's legislation, establishing the Access Utah Promise Scholarship program, which will cover the first two years of tuition and fees at Utah's public universities and colleges for qualifying students.

Access Utah Promise is Utah's first statewide, needs-based scholarship in Utah.

To read the op-ed, visit weber.edu/annualreport.



Leading Out with **WSU'S NEW DOCTORATE**

Shane Archibald is a nursing student who bleeds purple, and he has the degrees to prove it.

Initially, he trained at Weber State to become an EMT. He returned to become certified to work in law enforcement and as a paramedic. Years later, he came back to become a licensed practical nurse and registered nurse, and went on to earn both his Bachelor of Science (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Practitioner (MSNP) degrees.

Now, Archibald will be one of the first students in WSU's first doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), balancing his studies with family life and obligations to the U.S. Army Reserve.

Archibald and his classmates will help meet a need in the community. "In healthcare, we definitely have a shortage of physicians," said **Susan Thornock**, chair of

the Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing. "Our Doctor of Nursing Practice allows the graduate to practice at a level where they can give diagnoses, order labs and take care of their patients in every way."

The DNP program offers two educational pathways: The Leadership program prepares nurses for executive roles, and the Family Nurse Practitioner program trains nurses as leaders in clinical practice.

The National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) has mandated that all nurse practitioners earn a Doctor of Nurse Practice degree by 2025. Weber State is ahead of many other regional universities in implementing the degree.

"I'm super honored that I was chosen to be in that first cohort," Archibald said, "to be able to represent Weber State, represent my family, represent the military and be a first-time-ever college student in my family to reach that final, big, ultimate level of schooling — a doctorate."

Making Quantitative Literacy Work

With many students struggling with math, finding the best way to help them fulfill their quantitative literacy (QL) requirements has been a challenging equation to solve.

While **Eric Amsel**, associate provost for academic programs and assessment, said he had noticed many Weber State programs and initiatives working to support QL success, they weren't necessarily sending students a consistent message.

So, two years ago, Amsel and then Weber State University College of Science Dean **David Matty** formed a quantitative literacy task force with staff and faculty from departments across campus. The group set out to answer one question: "What can we do together to make QL work?"

One solution was strengthening success in Math 1030, a QL course for students seeking non-STEM-related degrees.

In response, WSU launched a five-credit, five-day-per-week experimental course called Co-Requisite Contemporary Mathematics that fulfilled the same QL requirement as Math 1030 during the 2018–2019 academic year. Two groups of students attended the course: those from Wildcat Scholars, a retention program for students who are at risk of feeling alienated or challenged at the university; and students who only had their QL requirements to finish for graduation.

"The combination was really fun," said **Cora Neal**, assistant professor of mathematics, who instructed the course with **Lorraine Gale**, concurrent enrollment coordinator. "They were willing to talk to each other, to talk to us, to help each other; we were real-

ly this collective group trying to succeed together."

The class focused on solving real-life math problems. Students used math techniques to determine which ketchup bottle was the best value, or the impact of paying extra money on a car loan. These practical problems introduced math concepts that could be generalized to a wide variety of situations.

Students in the course also attended an hour of tutoring each week, while the Wildcat Scholars fulfilled additional community service duties by tutoring others.

Co-Requisite Contemporary Mathematics has been offered again for the 2019–2020 academic year as a six-credit course with three sections.

Changes were also made to math courses offered through Weber State's concurrent enrollment program, which trains local high school teachers to teach college-level courses and offers their students credit for college mathematics courses while they are attending high school.

In past years, high schools put more emphasis on Math 1050, with the impression that students would be prepared for any major they enter.

Weber State offers concurrent enrollment Math 1030 courses in 19 schools, including those in Davis, Ogden, Weber and Morgan school districts.

"The push for 1030 is because not everybody needs 1050," said Gale, whose daily work involves educating high schools about QL requirements for different areas of study. "Almost 65% of the WSU class of 2015–2016 could have fulfilled QL with 1030."

Co-Requisite Contemporary Mathematics Success

28: Students in the course during the 2018–2019 year

75%: Passing rate for the class

(Students in regular Math 1030 courses had a passing rate of 70%, while those in Math 950, where many students in the new class placed, had a 52% passing rate.)

0: Amount of Unofficial Withdrawals from the course

NSF Grants Help Attract Underrepresented Students

Two new Weber State programs received nearly \$1 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants to help improve graduation rates for underrepresented and low-income students studying physical sciences.

The programs, Weber State Scholars (WEST) and Geoscience Education Targeting Underrepresented Populations (GETUP), will help WSU increase recruitment, retention and graduation rates of students in chemistry, geosciences, mathematics, physics, computer science and engineering.

WEST Scholars began offering four-year scholarships to study in STEM fields in fall 2019. The low-income, high-achieving students in the program complete their course work in groups, attend a weekly science, technology, engineering and math seminar course, meet regularly with faculty mentors and participate in leadership opportunities.

Project GETUP will focus on early outreach and access to collaborative research for high school and university students. The program will also allow WSU's Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences to test ways to engage, recruit and eventually graduate students.



Advancing to Medical School

Weber State beat the national average for students who applied and were accepted to medical school for the 2019–2020 academic year by 33 percent, including five members of the Multicultural Advancement in Science (MAS) club.

Associate professor of zoology **Jon Marshall** started the club in 2014. The club is geared toward encouraging and providing opportunities for community building and outreach for student populations that have traditionally been underrepresented in science, though all science students may participate to understand systems of oppression that have discouraged certain students from pursuing science careers.

"Our focus on getting out into the community and sharing our passion with elementary school students is really powerful when those students see the diverse faces of college students that are pursuing careers in science," Marshall said.

Of the 30-plus club members since its inception, all have graduated WSU or are currently enrolled. The majority has continued to graduate schools in science-related fields.

MAS Members Starting Medical School

Gideon Lomiiko, University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine

Eryberto Martinez, Creighton University School of Medicine

Joaquin Zetina Huesca, University of Utah, School of Medicine

Sara Naveed, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine

Oscar Bedolla, University of Utah, School of Medicine

Celebrating 150 Years

Weber State Special Collections partnered with Weber County Library and Union Station in 2019 to host the Whistle Stop Tour, a series of lectures and exhibits marking the Transcontinental Railroad's 150-year history. Lectures focused on a wide range of topics, including the railroad's diverse workforce and how Ogden became the "Junction City." Exhibits centered on the railroad's impact on northern Utah and Ogden's 50th anniversary celebration held in 1919.

Big Names Tackle Big Topics at WSU

Throughout the 2018–2019 academic year, WSU hosted a variety of public figures who tackled a wide range of topics, including activism, journalism, race relations and science. In September, human rights activist **Dolores Huerta**, who helped found the United Farm Workers union in the 1960s alongside César Chávez, delivered the keynote speech for WSU's Hispanic Heritage Month activities. In January, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Ronan Farrow**, whose groundbreaking article in *The New Yorker* was a catalyst for the #MeToo movement, visited for an interview with radio host Doug Fabrizio. As part of Black History Month in February, retired law enforcement officer **Ron Stallworth** shared his story of infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan — a story that inspired the motion picture *Black Klansman*. In April, WSU capped the academic year with famed scientist and entertainer **Bill Nye**, "The Science Guy," who took part in a moderated Q&A.

Mission to Mars:

2,040

Students who have participated over the past four years

12

Schools that have participated

60

Average number of volunteers

Blast Off for STEM

WSU partnered with Hill Air Force Base to take 300 fifth-graders from local elementary schools on a Mission to Mars in the spring of 2019.

The Mission to Mars Link-up Day allowed the students to apply their research on sustaining life on the red planet. Teams built habitats and presented their life-support system models, team mission patches and uniforms, and stories or plays about their journeys to Mars, to a team of judges at WSU's Swenson Gymnasium. The College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST) and the Hill Air Force Base STEM Outreach Program have sponsored the event annually since 2012.

"It is a pleasure to work with the Hill Air Force Base team and local schools on Mission to Mars," said **Dana Dellinger**, director of EAST's Center for Technology Outreach. "We share the goal of helping kids maximize their STEM education now and go on to pursue degrees and careers in STEM fields."

Along with Mission to Mars, EAST sponsored a wide range of outreach programs in 2018–19, including a digital technology camp for girls and 2D video gaming and welding camps. The college is also an affiliate partner for FIRST® Robotics for Utah, which runs STEM programs and competitions like FIRST® Tech Challenge, FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST LEGO® League Jr.

EAST Camps:

5: Summer camps offered in 2019

760: Students who participated in the 2019 WSU Prep summer STEM school, a free academic program for students in the Davis, Ogden and Weber school districts

412: 2018–19 FIRST Robotics for Utah teams hosted by WSU



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