Grant Supports
Student Mental Health

The Counseling & Psychological Services Center has secured a $300,000 grant to fund the Wildcat Support Network, a peer-based program created to decrease mental health stigma and give students additional mental health support.

The program will help students better manage stress and work toward decreasing depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide.

"Research has shown students are most likely to turn toward peers for help when they are in crisis," said Amy Blunck, WSU’s coordinator of mental health initiatives. "We are using the peer-based Wildcat Support Network as an additional way for students to receive the mental health support they need."

The first prong of the Wildcat Support Network is educating students as peer advocates and training them to recognize and respond to peers in distress. Students will learn about mental health disorders, suicide-prevention awareness and substance abuse.

Students can find additional help through Therapy Assistance Online (TAO), a platform of free self-help educational modules designed to develop strategies to aid students in their daily lives, available to students with an @mail.weber.edu address. They can sign up at thepath.taoconnect.org.

"We believe mental health advocacy and suicide prevention is everyone’s business," said Dianna Abel, Counseling, Health, and Wellness executive director. "We’re doing our very best to address these important issues as a community."

Q: Describe yourself in three words.
A: Hardworking, trusting and lucky

Q: Best advice you’ve been given about the new position?
A: “Surround yourself with great people.” I’m fortunate that this is already true!

Q: What does it mean to be louder and prouder?
A: Everyone quotes our fight song, "Weber State, Weber State, Great, Great, Great!" but we are so busy doing great things, we don’t stop enough to tell our story. The reasons to do this are a mile long, but, most importantly, it adds value to the degrees our alumni have invested so much to achieve. I hope all of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community will join me with the “Louder and Prouder” campaign!

Q: Something that people would be surprised to know about you?
A: I had a speech problem as I entered kindergarten, especially with my “Rs” (or “Aws,” as I would have pronounced them). I was lucky to work with some very kind speech therapists to correct the problem. I still haven’t figured out how to roll an “R,” so maybe someone can help me with that next!

continued on page 2
Q: Goals for the first 100 days?
A: Rather than a 100-day listening tour, I want to establish my commitment to listening to all perspectives throughout my tenure. A university should be a place where diverse viewpoints can be discussed in a civil way. I am committed to establishing that from the beginning, not just because it is good for Weber State, but because it is a model for how we should behave in a democracy. Lincoln’s opening phrase in the last paragraph of his second inaugural speech encapsulated this sentiment in eight words, “With malice toward none, with charity for all…”

I also want to set the university on a path to revisit our comprehensive, long-term strategic plan and start the collaborative process for building our vision for the future that capitalizes on our strengths as a student-focused, dual-mission teaching university.

With the upcoming legislative session, it’s always a bit dicey to set goals because there are forces beyond our control, but I’m optimistic we will receive funding for the Noorda Engineering Building and take a step forward in strengthening the Legislature’s understanding of Weber State’s impact.

Q: What athletic honors have you won?
A: “Mr. Hustle Award” (with a trophy), Ricks College basketball camp, 1985

Q: Favorite pastime?
A: Running (road and trail) and working out

Q: Last book you read?
A: “Educated” by Tara Westover

Q: Favorite fictional character? Why?
A: Either Luke Skywalker or Jimmy Chitwood (from the movie “Hoosiers”). I would watch the Star Wars movies as if I were Luke; I jumped out of my seat a couple times during “The Empire Strikes Back.” Jimmy Chitwood was based on a real person, who was somewhat fictionalized for the movie. I guess the common theme between them is no matter where you come from, if you work hard, you can find a way to fulfill your dreams (or your “destiny,” as the Emperor would say).

Q: Weber State’s best kept secret?
A: The devotion of our faculty and staff to student success. It’s not just lip service. I know example after example where faculty or staff members have gone out of their way to help a student overcome a challenge.

Q: Pancakes or waffles?
A: I love both with peanut butter and maple syrup!

Q: Favorite vacation spot?
A: Taking the road to Hana on Maui

Q: Your idea of perfect happiness?
A: I say this somewhat facetiously, but I always thought that would be the day the Seattle Seahawks won the Super Bowl. But when that happened on Feb. 2, 2014, I realized those kind of “wins” are nice, but much closer to perfect happiness for me is seeing family or friends achieve something difficult and knowing I had a small part in helping them get there.

Q: Last time a student really surprised you?
A: The morning after I was announced as president, I was in the Shepherd Union, and a student stopped me and said, “Aren’t you our new president?” It surprised me, in a pleasant way, that the student took the time to congratulate me. I hope our students will always feel that level of approachability.

Q: Design flaw in the world that creative thinking solved?
A: I hope we can create an environment here that fosters creative thinking, which helps us innovate and prepare to be relevant in the future. Take for example, baby carrots. I remember how difficult it was to scrub, peel and slice carrots so you could eat them. Now, you just go to the store and grab a bag of cleaned, bite-sized, ready-to-eat carrots. That kind of innovation and simplification had to help the carrot industry sell millions of additional tons of carrots.

Q: Personal mantra?
A: Two, somewhat related quotes: “I’d rather be lucky than good,” and, “Luck is when preparation meets opportunity.”

Q: Current state of mind?
A: Almost every night since I was named president, I wake around 3 a.m. to a cacophony of thoughts — hopes, ideas and challenges — related to being president. What Weber State does is so important for our students, alumni and community, I’m hopeful I can serve in a way that will add to the value and legacy of our great university. It’s humbling, exciting and overwhelming, but mostly exciting. It’s a great day to be a Wildcat!
Lindquist Hall Grand Opening
Helps Weber State Celebrate 130th Founders Day

The three-story grand entry on the building’s east side was packed with a cheering crowd when officials cut the ribbon on the newly completed renovation of Lindquist Hall.

The Jan. 7 celebration coincided with Weber State’s 130th Founders Day and the first day of spring semester.

Campus community members joined students to explore the four-story building, which houses 34 classrooms, 72 offices, multiple study spaces as well as research and computer labs. The 119,322-square-foot building was renovated at a cost of $34,940,000.

The massive renovation began in April 2017. The old structure was stripped to its reinforced concrete frame and foundation. A structural analysis determined that keeping “the bones” of the building would save about $50 to $60 per square foot, or $5 million to $6 million overall, while also reducing the environmental impact of manufacturing and installing new steel and concrete.

“We used the existing bones and injected new life with better architecture to create a better experience,” said Chad Downs, project manager. “We’ve done all the things we love to do, making the building brighter and more accessible, with tall ceilings, faster internet, better electrical, heating, ventilation and cooling. Hopefully, people are very excited. It’s really cool what we’ve been able to do.”

Lindquist Hall was designed and built with the goal of earning a LEED Gold rating for energy efficiency. A geothermal field, consisting of 150 wells drilled 425 feet deep into the northwest part of campus, supplements the building’s heating and cooling.

Formerly known as Social Science, the renovated building was renamed in honor of the Lindquist family. John E. Lindquist, Ogden business leader and philanthropist, donated $5 million dollars to the project.

continued on page 4
Additional funding for the building came from the Utah State Legislature. The Legislature approved $14 million for construction in 2017; an additional $16 million was allocated in 2018.

Lindquist Hall will be home to the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences and will house seven departments: criminal justice, geography, history, political science and philosophy, psychology, social work and gerontology, and sociology and anthropology. Additionally, the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service and the Richard Richards Institute for Ethics will be located in the new building.

“Winston Churchill is credited with this quote, ‘We shape our buildings and then our buildings shape us,’” said college Dean Frank Harrold. “The new Lindquist Hall will both increase the quality of the educational experience and promote interdisciplinary collaboration that’s increasingly part of higher education. Exciting discoveries are happening at the boundaries between disciplines, and I think the new building will make that easy.”
I was a skeptic — not about establishing a teaching award, but about the broad criteria. Donors Bob and Marcia Harris, who encouraged WSU to move ahead with a teaching award, insisted they didn't want to define what makes a teacher "excellent." Instead they outlined award criteria in one sentence: "Teaching excellence, which may be manifest in various ways, brings significant and important results for students and their success." This sentence appears at the top of the award nomination form, which includes very minimal instructions: "In 300-500 words, describe your relationship to the faculty nominee, why they are an outstanding teacher and the impact they have had on students." That's it. How were nominators going to respond to that prompt, and how was WSU's president, charged with selecting 12 awardees each year, going to make that selection?

My skepticism proved unfounded, at least with respect to nominators. Academic Affairs, which helped facilitate the process for the President's Office, received nearly 100 nominations. Students submitted the greatest number, with faculty coming in a close second. Department chairs, program directors, academic advisors and administrative specialists also took time to describe ways in which faculty members distinguish themselves as exceptionally effective educators. Below are representative comments that were reflected in many of the letters and describe how Weber State faculty members profoundly and positively affect students’ lives:

"I have taken several of her courses, and I have never had a professor as detailed as she with course content and information. Despite giving students a lot of information to absorb, she always makes it known she has an open-door policy, both online and in person. Always fair and true to her word, she delivers content that will continue to help students after they have left her class. I found myself recalling immense amounts of information for my internships and felt grateful I was exposed to the information so early."

"I recall numerous times when a concept seemed way beyond my comprehension. Each time I asked for help, he made time to explain the concept and ensured the explanation solved any issue. I noticed his explanations were not the same for every student on the same topic. He tailored his assistance for the student, so their strengths would help them solve their questions. I was amazed at how he knew each student and how to help us help ourselves."

"She teaches in a special way, utilizing not only lecture slides and diagrams on the board, but also she plays videos, gives us handouts to use during class, creates learning games and facilitates several group projects. She has the most creative demonstration ideas I have ever seen and can make nearly any difficult subject understandable by physically demonstrating the processes and relating it to something tangible and easily understood. She once demonstrated the vastness of geologic time using a roll of toilet paper strung across the room and demonstrated the placement of microbe species in a microbial mat by lining us up across the classroom."

"She understands the importance of diversity and equality in education and the workforce. She facilitates group projects to enhance diverse perspectives as we learn together and gives students an experience of what working in the real world is like. She has encouraged her students to reach for their dreams and make them a reality, not worrying when others say we can’t do it."

Although I could have taken paragraphs from any of the nominations, I especially like these, as they illustrate students’ appreciation of faculty who show concern for the individual student needs, teach concepts/practices the students can build on in the future, experiment pedagogically and are attentive to our changing world. Numerous nominations testified to similarly positive qualities, so the real challenge in this process fell to WSU's president, who had to select only 12 from among so many qualified nominees. Happily, fall 2019 will bring another opportunity to highlight excellent teaching faculty for which WSU is deservedly well-known. I am a skeptic no more.

Note: This year’s awardees will be honored at WSU’s Faculty Symposium on April 2. Look for more details soon from the Teaching and Learning Forum.
Faculty & Staff Accomplishments
#louderandprouder

Jennifer Anderson, business administration assistant professor, had her paper “Misleading by Example: The Effects of a Manager’s Unfair Customer Treatment on Service Employee Performance and Perceived Managerial Trustworthiness” published in the journal Social Justice Research.

Communication professor Colleen Packer Berg was selected for the 2018 Distinguished Fellows Outstanding Presentation Award at the annual Society for the Exploration of Teaching and Learning conference for her presentation “FUN with Evidence Based Learning: Fundamental, Useful, and Natty Teaching Practices to Promote Student Success.”

Utah Business magazine’s Green Business Awards honored Weber State’s sustainability team, including Jennifer Bodine, Bonnie Christiansen, Alice Mulder and Justin Owen with the Energy Conservation Award, recognizing Weber State’s leadership in the Mow Electric program, which exchanged 837 gas-powered mowers for electric.

English professor Hal Crimmel produced the documentary “The Rights of Nature: A Global Movement” with Issac Goekeritz, a WSU history graduate, and Maria Valeria Berros from Argentina.

Loisanne Kattelman, instructor in the School of Accounting & Taxation, was honored with the 2018 Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants Outstanding Educator Award, which recognizes members who have contributed significantly to the community.

Professor of management information systems Taowen Le published “Evaluation of Google Question Answering Quality” in the journal Library Hi Tech.

Medical laboratory sciences chair Matthew Nicholaou, along with chemistry faculty Tracy Covey, Timothy Herzog and Barry Lloyd, co-authored “Polyoxometalate Induces Susceptibility of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus to Oxacillin” in the journal Clinical Laboratory Science.


Assistant professor of digital media Andres Orozco produced the film “American Migrant Stories,” which was named a finalist in the Hollywood International Independent Documentary Film Festival.


Visual art and design professor K Stevenson was given the 2018 Ogden Mayor’s Award for Arts in Education. In addition, Stevenson exhibited and presented at IMPACT 10, the International Printmaking Triennial Symposium and Conference in Santander, Spain. One of the numbered, International Exchange Portfolios, which she co-directed, has been donated to the Elizabeth Dee Shaw Collection.


Zoology professor emeritus Sam Zeveloff published “The Legendary Masked Bandit” in the October 2018 issue of Natural History.