Grants Enhance Education in EAST

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) awarded $2 million to Weber State University to lead a collaboration of Utah technology groups and businesses in a continuing effort to expand apprenticeships. According to the DOL, the apprenticeships are specifically intended for underrepresented groups: veterans; service members who want to move to the civilian workforce; and groups that are underrepresented in apprenticeships such as women, people of color, and Americans transitioning out of the criminal justice system.

“By increasing engagement between education and industry partners and exploring innovative alternatives to the traditional academic programs, this partnership can help foster a more effective training model,” said James Taylor, WSU Office of Sponsored Projects director.

Thanks to the grant, tech businesses in Utah will be able to expand their pool of potential employees by offering apprenticeship opportunities. A registered apprentice will begin at 60% of full salary and receive a wage increase with each training or education benchmark met. The ultimate goal is full employment upon the completion of all benchmarks.

The College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST) will oversee the training and education benchmarks.

“The generous support from this grant allows for a unique, collaborative effort among Utah state organizations, academia and industry to identify and educate motivated individuals from all backgrounds to help them achieve a career in high-demand information technology positions,” said Brian Rague, EAST associate dean.

The program will expand across Utah from Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Tooele counties, with a focus on rural Utah through virtual and online training.

Junior high and high school students will also have an expanded pathway to high-demand and high-paying jobs through the Utah Architecture, Engineering and Construction Pathway program.

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WSU’s building design and construction program spent two years facilitating the collaboration with the Davis and Ogden-Weber technical colleges and the Davis, Morgan, Ogden and Weber school districts. Thanks to an initial grant of $200,000 and an annual contribution of $100,000 from the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, students can enter a pathway as early as eighth grade and eventually earn up to 14 hours of WSU credit and stackable credentials. Students who take four of the approved classes will receive an $8,000 EDGE scholarship at Weber State to continue their education.

EAST also received a $51,000 grant from Hill Air Force Base to support STEM pathway programs for K-12 students, including the annual Mission to Mars for fifth graders, WSU PREP, coding camps and FIRST Robotics programs for Utah.

Science Lab  Demolition

Weber State said a last goodbye to the Science Lab building, which crews finished demolishing just before the beginning of fall semester.

It took three months for interior demolition and hazardous materials and asbestos abatement. Crews removed everything on the interior in order to more easily separate and recycle steel and concrete from other debris. The exterior demolition and site restoration took another two months.

Built in 1969, the Science Lab housed the College of Science. Rapidly changing technology, unsafe conditions and a need for more space were all factors in the decision to tear down and replace the aging building with the Tracy Hall Science Center.
The new vice president of University Advancement, Betsy Mennell, is an experienced and dedicated leader who has spent more than 20 years at various universities building strong communication skills and advancement expertise.

Mennell, who began Aug. 1, will oversee Advancement Services, Alumni Relations, Development, Economic Development, Government Relations, Marketing & Communications and University Events.

Mennell has a special interest in enhancing opportunities for underserved populations and takes particular pride in programs created through philanthropy.

“I am very excited to join Weber State, where student success is clearly the driving force for all faculty and staff,” Mennell said. “Working with community members, government leaders and alumni to enhance the university’s mission and reputation is a wonderful opportunity. I also look forward to leading the university in its next comprehensive campaign.”

Mennell said she was interested in Weber State because of its outstanding reputation as a dual-mission university, serving a wide variety of students, from those seeking certificates and workforce training to those pursuing graduate degrees.

Mennell worked previously at Regis University in Denver and as vice president for Development and Alumni Engagement and Foundation president at Northern Arizona University. She earned her doctoral degree in educational administration from The University of Texas at Austin.

The Importance of PREP

The Human Resources department wants to help WSU staff navigate changes to the Performance Review Enrichment Program (PREP) and understand the importance of the system.

In the new PREP process, the employee and supervisor meet several times: first to set goals and identify evaluation criteria, then mid-year to review goal completion and finally, at the end of the year, to evaluate performance and restart the process.

“It is important for employees to get appropriate feedback from their supervisors about how they are performing in their specific jobs and responsibilities,” said Holly Hirst, Human Resources director. “Employees should know how they are doing all the way through the year, and nothing should ever be a surprise.”

Previously, employees completed the evaluation first and would then set goals for the following year’s evaluation. Implemented as a trial in 2018, the idea was to create a more straightforward, supportive and goal-oriented process that helps every employee be successful.

“It is a good program,” Hirst said. “Our goal is that all staff have a review each year, so we want to encourage everyone to use it.”

Departments can contact Human Resources for questions or if they want to request a short presentation.
Welcome to fall semester at WSU. As I’ve said before, this season energizes me, and I hope you feel the same. It’s a time for new faces, new initiatives and new challenges. I learned about one of those challenges when Tim Herzog, Faculty Senate chair, kindly shared responses to a survey he had sent to faculty. The survey asked what changes Faculty Senate committees would like to address. Among numerous topics of concern, one that caught my attention was respondents’ frustration to a President’s Council (PC) decision last spring to put a hold on course fees. Here is some background information on that decision.

Course fees are governed by PPM 5-5: weber.edu/ppm/Policies/5-5_TuitionFees.html. The policy clarifies the purpose of course fees, spending guidelines and the approval process. In short, the fees are to cover costs of equipment replacement and maintenance, consumable materials or regulatory requirements. Collected fees for consumables are to be spent annually, leaving a fund balance of less than 20%. New proposals and ongoing fees, up for mandatory review, are to be submitted to the Course Fee Review Committee, which then makes recommendations to PC, the final approval body.

Two years ago, at its March 15, 2017, meeting, PC was asked to approve fee proposals that, in total, were going to result in an increase of 5.5% over the previous year. Along with other members of PC, then-President Chuck Wight, who had made a commitment to affordability, was concerned. Facing a deadline to get the new fees in the schedule for fall, however, PC agreed to approve the 2017 requests, as long as the deans would develop a policy to cap fee increases in the future. Deans developed guidelines that summer, essentially tying fee increase percentages to tuition increase percentages (generally, no more than 3% a year).

In spring 2019, the Course Fee Committee presented proposals to PC that increased course fees overall by 16.6% (an increase of $426,256). PC was not happy. With the help of Betty Kusnierz, Director of Academic Finance & Administration, the deans were able to bring revised requests to PC that projected a one-year change of $213,019 or 6.9%. But by that point, PC was unwilling to settle.

PC used authority granted to it under PPM 5-5 to withhold approval of the proposed fees. President Mortensen empowered a task force to examine how fees are governed at other USHE institutions, to consider a range of possible funding sources for equipment/maintenance and, finally, to make recommendations to him by October 2019 for course fees. Meanwhile, funds equivalent to what fees most likely would have generated in revenue in FY 2019-20 have been set aside from other sources and will be transferred to departments, based on course enrollments at the end of fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters, to offset costs formerly covered by course fees.

**PROVOST’S MESSAGE**

Madonne Miner

**Welcome to fall semester at WSU. As I’ve said before, this season energizes me, and I hope you feel the same. It’s a time for new faces, new initiatives and new challenges. I learned about one of those challenges when Tim Herzog, Faculty Senate chair, kindly shared responses to a survey he had sent to faculty. The survey asked what changes Faculty Senate committees would like to address. Among numerous topics of concern, one that caught my attention was respondents’ frustration to a President’s Council (PC) decision last spring to put a hold on course fees. Here is some background information on that decision.

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**INAUGURATION/HOMECOMING WEEK EVENTS**

**Oct. 5 Saturday**
8:30 a.m.  
Mount Ogden Hike  
weber.edu/outdoor/annualwsu/m bogdenhike.html

**Oct. 7 Monday**
12:45 p.m.  
Homecoming Pep Rally  
Bell Tower Plaza

**Oct. 9 Wednesday**
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Make a Difference Day

**Oct. 10 Thursday**
1 p.m.  
INAUGURATION  
President Brad Mortensen  
Val A. Browning Center  
Open to the public  
Reception following

**Oct. 11 Friday**
7 p.m.  
WSU Salutes Celebration  
Val A. Browning Center  
Open to the public

**Oct. 12 Saturday**
4 p.m.  
WSU Homecoming Fan Fest  
Stewart Stadium  
North Parking Lot  
6 p.m.  
Football Game  
weberstatesports.com
WELCOME to WSU

Cayden Allen, Financial Services
RuthAnn Allen, Athletics Admin & Support
Tariq Arif, Mechanical Engineering
Maria Barrera, Continuing Education
Jessica Bartlett, Nursing
Nicole Batty, Manufacturing Systems Engineering
James Bell, Athletics Admin & Support
Angelica Betancourt, University Housing
Shawn Beus, Continuing Education
Joseph Blake, Performing Arts
John Brinton, Purchasing
Lauren Busby, Housing
Brent Butler, Facilities Management
Richard Campos, Student Success Center
Jesse Checkman, Student Affairs
Lujean Christensen, Teacher Education
Arpit Christi, School of Computing
Alex Collopy, Child & Family Studies
Paloma Contreras Sanchez, Housing
Eric Daniels, Athletics Admin & Support
Michael Dansie, Registrar’s Office
Diego Dominguez, Student Success Center
Mark Farrell, Application Development
Melanie Flores, Continuing Education
Ryan Frazier, Geosciences
Mark Galaviz, Communication
Jesus Garcia, Education Access & Outreach
Eric Gibbons, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Aimee Gilette, Communication
Sandra Gonzalez, Housing
Christel Grange-Hicks, Manufacturing Systems Engineering
Kasey Grubb, Nursing
Myranda Hackley, Continuing Education
Unique Harston, Housing
Braxon Hastings, Facilities Management
Pannawat Hiranbanthow, Academic Support Centers
Bridget Jensen, Financial Aid
Kristie Johnson, Wildcat Stores
Michael Johnson, Nursing
Anne Kendrick, Nursing
Marina Kenner, Stewart Library
Taylor Knuth, Development
Kathryn Lande, Academic Affairs
Jonathan Lande, History
David Laws II, Facilities Management
Michael Long, Performing Arts
Rosa Lopez, Housing
Avery Lytle, Women’s Center
Marrie Mack, School of Computing
James McAllister, Communication
Hollie McKeeth, Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities
Lisa Meets-Brandsma, Health Physical Education Recreation
MaryElla Mitchell, Center for Community Engaged Learning
Daniel Molter, Political Science & Philosophy
David Morris, Academic Technology Services
Perla Navar, Housing
Megan Nelson, Zoology
Aminda O’Hare, Psychology
Guillermo Oviedo Vela, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Kyle Peterson, IT Business Services
Jessica Pleyel, Women’s Center
Rachel Rauschenberger, Purchasing
Cynthia Reinhard, Human Resources
Steven Richardson, President’s Office
Shane Rivera, Housing
Andrea Salcedo, Career Services
Craig Sanders, Athletics Admin & Support
Shannon Sanders, President’s Office
Israel Santana, Education Access & Outreach
Kyle Scoville, University Police
Asl Soltani-Stone, Communication
JoAnn Spencer, Nursing
Michael Stenquist, Financial Aid
Jennifer Summer, Exercise & Nutrition Sciences
Kassandra Tello, Academic Affairs
Caitlin Tems, Geosciences
April Tonks, Housing
Rodrigo Trujillo, Continuing Education
Jonathan Tun mage, Stewart Library
Anthony Turner, Athletics Admin & Support
Jeshua Van Sickle, Admissions
Jesse VanWay, IT Business Services
Heidi Voorhees, Respiratory Therapy
Ioana Vulpe, International Student Services
Conor Ward, Performing Arts
Kaden Watkins, Housing
Stacie Wing-Gaia, Exercise & Nutrition Sciences
Nicholas Yamagata, Continuing Education
Robert Yonce, Athletics Admin & Support
Melissa Young, Nursing

On the Move/Promoted

Wendi Birch, Professional Sales
Megan Boyle, Athletic Training
Bethany Brown, Student Success Center
Stephen Cain, Infrastructure Services
Julie Christensen, College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology
Lindsay Crowton, Facilities Management
Ann Gessel, Dumke College of Health Professions
Aimee Golden, College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology
Sonja Green, WSU Davis
Troy Growcock, Facilities Management
Kristin Hadley, College of Education
Bart Hancock, Facilities Management
Frank Harrolld, Sociology
Christopher Hauser, Stewart Library
Cobie Hymas, Academic Support Centers
Katherine Johnson, English
David Matty, Geosciences
Cheyenne McMichael, Dee Events Center
Diana Meiser, Stewart Library
Matthew Mouritsen, Goddard School of Business & Economics
Jessica Oyler, Human Resources
Angela Payan, College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology
Bethany Rasmussen, Human Resources
Jack Rasmussen, Academic Affairs
Julie Rich, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Enrique Romo, Access & Diversity
Jeffrey Steagall, Economics
Crystal Taylor, Dee Events Center
Megan Thunell, Athletics Admin. & Support
Robert Vermillion, Dee Events Center
Gengsheng Zeng, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Retired

Stephanie Bossenberger, Dental Hygiene
Vicki Corgiat, Dee Events Center
Alan Dayley, WSU Davis
Brenda Dussol, Student Health Center
Carla Jones, Center for Community Engaged Learning
Diane Kawamura, Radiologic Sciences
Jody Lake, Dee Events Center
Cherrie Nelson, Human Resources
Chris Soelberg, Construction & Building Sciences
Rick Wade, Environmental Health & Safety
Faculty and Staff Accomplishments #Louder&Prouder

Student Affairs mentor coordinator Olga Antonio led WSU’s Peer Mentoring program to win the Outstanding Peer Education Program Award for Social Identity Conversations at the 2018 general assembly in Florida and Outstanding Peer Group Award at the NASPA Region V/VI Peer Education Conference.


Arts and humanities librarian Nicole Beatty and instruction librarian Ernesto Hernandez Jr. published the article “Socially responsible pedagogy: critical information literacy and art” in Reference Services Review.

Teacher education instructor Ryan Cain co-authored “A wearables-based approach to detect and identify momentary engagement in afterschool makerspace programs” in the journal Contemporary Educational Psychology.

Teacher education professor Mike Cena published “Building an aesthetic literacy experience for Twenty-first Century Students” with J. A. Alred in the International Journal of Humanities Education.

Teacher education faculty Shirley Dawson co-presented “No One Is an Island: Networking, Collaborating, and Supporting Each Other” at the Council for Exceptional Children 2019 Education Convention in Indianapolis.

Matt Donahue, athletic training assistant professor, presented “The Effects of Peristaltic Pulsed Pneumatic Compression on DOMS Recovery in Active Individuals,” along with Master of Science in Athletic Training students Brandon Shapiro and Courtney Miller, at the World Federation of Athletic Training & Therapy 2019 World Congress in Tokyo.


Economics assistant professor Matt Gnagey presented his paper “Measuring Price Elasticities of Demand for Residential Irrigation Water” at the Western Economic Association International Conference in Tokyo.

University archives coordinator Kandice Harris and university archives and special collections processor Michael Thompson presented on using social media to promote archival collections during the 2019 Conference of Intermountain Archivists & Society of Southwest Archivists Joint Annual Meeting in Arizona.

Student Success Center academic advisor Daniel Jensen was selected as the 2019-20 president of the Utah Advising Association.

Exercise and nutrition sciences assistant professor Damon Joyner published “Effects of the FIT Game on Physical Activity in Sixth Graders: A Pilot Reversal Design Intervention Study” in JMIR Serious Games.

Jonathan Lande, assistant professor of history, was awarded the 2019 Allan Nevins Prize for his dissertation “Disciplining Freedom: U.S. Army Slave Rebels and Emancipation in the Civil War.”

Zoology professor Ron Meyers published “Comparative anatomy of the postural mechanisms of the forelimbs of birds and mammals” in Journal of Ornithology.

Medical laboratory science professor Matthew Nicholaou and co-authors received the Distinguished Author Award: Research and Reports for the publication “Polyoxometalate Induces Susceptibility of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus to Oxacillin” in Clinical Laboratory Science. Co-authors include students Candace Adamson, Katie Wilkinson and Tyler Wilkinson, as well as WSU chemistry faculty Tracey Covey, Timothy Herzog and Barry Lloyd.


Zoology assistant professor Elizabeth Sandquist co-authored “Adult neural stem cell plasticity” in Neural Regeneration Research and “Nanoengineered biomaterials for retinal repair” in Nanoengineered Biomaterials for Regenerative Medicine.

Mathematics professor T. H. Steel published “Dynamics of Baire-1 functions on the interval” and co-authored “Classes of iterated function systems and their attractors” in European Journal of Mathematics, as well as “Dynamics of typical Baire-1 functions on a compact n-manifold” in Aequationes Mathematicae, and “Dynamics of Baire-2 functions on the interval” in Topology and Its Applications.