A Vision for the Future

During his inauguration on Founders Day, Jan. 7, President Brad Mortensen shared his vision for the future of Weber State. He expressed his desire to align the university’s strategic plan and emerging opportunities with the strength and accomplishments of its historic values.

“I hope it can be said I have been a listening, learning president, and that Weber State has been a learning university — not just a university that imparts knowledge, but a university that itself is learning,” Mortensen said.

Under his leadership, Mortensen said the university will continue its hallmark of personalized attention; redouble its efforts to promote student enrollment, retention, completion and success; and prepare a next-generation workforce that balances technical skills with aptitude in problem-solving, critical thinking, communication and teamwork.

Mortensen will maintain a focus on the core themes of access, learning and community. He wants to expand the university’s leadership role as a dual-mission institution, where students can earn certificates and easily advance from associate’s to bachelor’s to graduate degrees.
Faculty and Staff Accomplishments
#LouderandProuder


In December 2019, Daniel Turner completed the AIARE Course Leader Training allowing him to offer AIARE Level 1 and 2 Avalanche education courses without the assistance of outside contractors.

Campus recreation director Teri Bladen published "Exercise for the (Mental) Health of It!” in the American College of Sports Medicine’s Health & Fitness Journal and served as chair of the 2019 NIRSA Directors Institute.

Five faculty from the Department of Foreign Languages presented at the 2019 Convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Spanish professors Isabel Asensio and Craig Bergeson, along with associate professor of Spanish Electra Fielding, co-presented “Building Proficiency in Language-for-the-Professions Courses”; Spanish instructor Chantal Esquivias presented “A PBL Premise: Why do Students Care? The Product Square Template”; and Kacy Peckenpaugh, associate professor of German, co-presented “GOAL! Bring Culture and Communication to Life with German Soccer.”

Earth and environmental sciences professor Carie Frantz co-authored “Physical and optical characteristics of ‘rotten’ heavily melted Arctic sea ice” in The Cryosphere.

Botany professor Sue Harley presented “A series of case studies to address misconceptions about the process of science” at the Botanical Society of America’s annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

Associate professor of theatre Jennifer Kokai co-edited an anthology and contributed a chapter to the book Performance and the Disney Theme Park Experience: The Tourist as Actor published by Palgrave.

Professor of economics John Mukum Mbaku’s article, “International Law and the Anglophone Problem in Cameroon: Federalism, Secession or the Status Quo?” was the lead article in Suffolk Transnational Law Review, winter 2019.

Medical laboratory science assistant professor Justin Rhees and co-authors received the Distinguished Author Award — Clinical Practice for the article “Current Practice of Mitigating Monoclonal Anti-CD38 Interference in Pretransfusion Compatibility Testing” in the journal Clinical Laboratory Science.

Zoology professor Michele Skopec presented “Dietary and habitat specialization in woodrats (genus Neotoma) is associated with differences in caching behavior” at the American Society of Mammalogists 2019 annual meeting in Washington, D.C.


Health, physical education and recreation professor Yan Huang published three articles: “Using Walking Survey as a Community-Engaged Learning Component of an Online Health Promotion Course” in Education; "Father’s Role in Secondhand Smoke Exposure During Pregnancy: A Systematic Review” in the Californian Journal of Health Promotion; and “Addressing Grade Negotiations by Adding Detailed Submission Policies to the Syllabus” in The National Teaching & Learning Forum.

Today, thanks to that scholarship, Yandriel is enrolled in a master’s degree program and working as a software engineer. He calls his Weber State experience “life-changing.”

“Without coming to the U.S. and attending college, I would either be working on a Cuban sugarcane plantation or in jail,” Rodriguez said. “Everywhere I go, I let people know that I’m a veteran and that I went to Weber State.”

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The Weber Cares Program, which provides free food and resources to students in need, received a $3,225 donation from Weber Dining (Sodexo) to aid in its efforts to combat food insecurity.

Supported by the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL), Weber Cares includes the Food & Resource Pantry, an emergency food voucher program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Since 2014, the pantry has served 1,190 visitors and distributed 23,562 pounds of food, a number that has increased significantly each year. During the 2018-19 school year, the pantry helped more than 600 students.

Recent pantry efforts include adding a refrigerator, offering cooking courses and creating a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA position to focus on reducing food insecurity.

“"In the future, we hope to use produce from the campus community garden, recover food from campus events for grab-and-go meals and provide recipes and kits for students to learn how to cook," said Teresa Martinez, CCEL program coordinator.

Weber Dining holds an annual fundraiser for the pantry, where it asks diners to contribute extra money when they purchase a meal. This year, participants contributed $2,225. Weber Dining donated an additional $1,000 it received in grant money from the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation On-Campus Pantry Program.

Weber Dining also contributes to the pantry by collecting extra food from its kitchens each day. The food is packaged and taken to the pantry with help from student volunteers. After stocking the pantry, volunteers take any remaining food to Lantern House, a local community shelter.

Reasons to participate

- Census determines how billions of federal dollars are allocated to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other community resources.
- Lawmakers, government agencies, business owners and others use data to provide daily services, products and support for the community.
- Determines the number of congressional seats from each state, as well as how legislative and school districts are drawn.
School of Business
Dean Appointed

The new dean of the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics, Matthew Mouritsen, is no stranger to WSU, having served as interim dean since June 2019, as director of the MBA program from 2008 to 2019 and as a faculty member since 2001. In his various roles, Mouritsen has established strong relationships with community partners, led strategic initiatives to discover innovative ways to meet student needs and expanded Weber State’s MBA program.

“I am a firm believer in the strong and unique competitive advantage Goddard School graduates achieve at Weber State,” Mouritsen said. “A large percentage of our students work in their fields, which connects our relevant curriculum with contemporary business practices.”

Mouritsen believes educating business professionals to prioritize ethical behavior and to emphasize long-term profitability over short-term gains is the way to restore consumer trust.

“The Goddard School’s faculty and staff have a key role in moving the Utah economy forward,” Mouritsen said. “Our role is accomplished as we help students transform themselves through the acquisition of knowledge, skills, abilities and ethics.”

As dean, Mouritsen is excited to continue this legacy of forward-thinking, hands-on learning.

WELCOME to WSU

Heather Burnham, College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology
Mitchell Hansen, Accounting Services
Zachary Harris, Facilities Management
Karla Hughes, Academic Support Centers & Programs
Dustin Huntsman, Advancement Services
Michael Leue, Veterans Upward Bound
Alan Miller, Facilities Management
Panhia Moua, John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics
Kyra Neeley, Nursing
Jaed Norberg, Student Affairs Office
Megan Olsen, Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities
McKell Painter, Stewart Library
Angela Parkinson, University Housing
Chelsea Pike, Nursing
Kelly Roberts, Facilities Management

Tania Romo-Ayala, Continuing Education
Christopher Steelman, Radiologic Sciences
Sandra Stennett, Dumke College of Health Professions
Alexis Stokes, Stewart Library
Joann Tolman, Nursing
Kelley Trump, Nursing

Lewis Grant, Application Development
Matthew Hendricks, Facilities Management
Ashley Hilton, Bursar and Collection Services
Taylor Knuth, Development
Dane LeBlanc, Public Safety
Jennifer Lueckler, Continuing Education
Teresa Martinez, Center for Community Engaged Learning
Stephanie McKee, Financial Aid Office
Sherri Melton, Continuing Education
MaryElla Mitchell, Center for Community Engaged Learning
Marvin Murry, Academic Technology Services
Jeffrey Page, Physics
Marcella Palmer, Financial Aid Office
Scott Polvey, Facilities Management
Nicole Schweppe, Continuing Education
Sadie Wayment, Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions
Cathy Wells, Radiologic Sciences
Tessie Zarogoza-Davies, University Police

On the Move/Promoted

Wendi Birch, Professional Sales
Cody Brenchley, University Police
Samantha Burroughs, Student Success Center
Catherine Burrup, Human Resources
Seth Cawley, University Police
Elizabeth Crawford-Bizzell, Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions
Michael Davies, University Police
Verla Dearden, School of Computing
Joseph Dunn, Facilities Management
Erich Goeckeritz, Admissions Office

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