



Extension
UtahStateUniversity



Growing Ventures

JORDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 8, 2024

The challenge of feeding an increasing population is concerning. Utah produces only about **50% of its own meat, 40% of its dairy, and 3% of its vegetables, importing everything else.** This lack of self-sustainability could be dire for the state's future.

Utah State University Extension 4-H requests funds to support Growing Ventures.

- Growing Ventures is a new youth urban agricultural initiative in Salt Lake County to **help foster entrepreneurship and agricultural literacy** in youth and build career pathways to agricultural/food science.
- The initiative will **help build the capacity of the USU Bastian Agricultural Center to meet the demand for urban agricultural programs.** It will also aid USU in its goals to reduce entrance barriers for diverse audiences interested in agriculture.
- USU Extension has collaborated with partners, specifically the Jordan School District, 4-H Refugee Goat Club, and Roots Charter School. USU Extension will **deepen relationships with partners and families to provide access and opportunity for all youth.**
- Growing Ventures will **help urban youth, especially those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds/communities, get involved in growing food** through gardening and livestock efforts. Youth will gain entrepreneurial skills and an increased understanding of horticulture, animal science, and agri-science. The program will be a model agri-science educational experience incorporating STEM skills, teamwork, communication, and workforce development.



Skills Taught



Resiliency/Grit



Work Ethic



Budgets



Leadership



Entrepreneurship



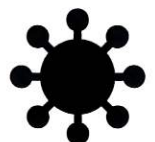
Communication and Teamwork



Scan for Video

Hub and Spoke Model

The Bastian Agricultural Center uses a "hub and spoke model" to disseminate programs. The Center serves as the hub to a large wheel of programming that radiates first through Salt Lake County and will expand to the entire state. The program will work with a variety of city, county, school, and nonprofit programs to train and build satellite garden and animal programs. The program will use the USU Extension network located in each county to expand the long-term reach.



Career Pathway

Today's youth are tomorrow's workforce. Research shows these youth are credentialed on paper but lack the critical skills to succeed in their careers. This is America's very real, very critical career readiness gap – resulting in only one in five college students saying they feel "very prepared" to join the workforce (National 4-H, 2015). Entering the workforce with soft skills and technical understandings of subjects related to personal interests is key to creating the job satisfaction and retention employers are seeking.

USU Extension 4-H uses a four-part career pathway to help youth find and foster their career interest and skills to place them on a pathway to success.

1. Explore

The Bastian Center program will engage approximately 7,000 students in short-term learning events that serve to introduce agriculture to children. These take the form of classroom visits, onsite field trips, and an annual agriculture career day.

3. Practice

Our 4-H clubs allow youth to learn over months as they work on a project from start to finish. Projects may include raising a garden or livestock. Through the project they learn hard work, leadership, life skills, and entrepreneurship. Approximately 100 youth will be involved in livestock clubs and an additional 175 in gardening clubs.

2. Learn

Summer camps and afterschool programs that last 6 hours or more deepen youth's understanding of local food and how to get involved. Approximately 500 youth will be involved in summer camps and afterschool programs.

4. Experience

The last part of the career pathway allows youth and young adults to build their skills as they prepare for a career in local food production. In addition to project work, these youth are leaders in clubs, teens as teachers, and serve as interns to support the learning of others in the program. Ten to 15 youth and young adults will be involved in the capstone of the pathway.

Program Financial Viability

- In order for the youth ag program to lead to sustainable businesses, it requires an increased level of learning and engagement from content experts. Growing Ventures will be a scaffold learning approach that will allow youth gardeners and farmers to learn and gain experience in a directly guided way.
- With sustainability in mind, a portion of the revenues from youth projects will be returned to the program to support the next year's projects. Any additional funds will be awarded to the youth for raising the project.
- This model will teach youth the importance of budgets, markets, and business management. It will also give youth the foundational financial skills needed for a successful future in agriculture. Youth will have the opportunity to sell produce and value-added products at the Utah Grown storefront at the Bastian Agricultural Center.

Request

Operating funds as well as salaries and benefits for three USU program coordinators and three student summer interns who will be responsible for the start-up training and ongoing support of the youth-led urban agricultural efforts. They would work with a larger group of USU faculty and staff to provide the content expertise to build a sustainable program.

\$325,000 per year ongoing funding.



Scan for the anticipated budget summary.

Contact

Devin Wiser, Vice President, USU Government Affairs, devin.wiser@usu.edu, 435-757-5560

Josh Dallin, Director, USU Bastian Agriculture Center, josh.dallin@usu.edu, 801-253-5185

Ken White, Vice President, USU Extension and Agriculture, ken.white@usu.edu, 435-797-2201

Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent, Jordan School District, superintendent@jordandistrict.org, 801-567-8323

Statewide Energy Education & Workforce Initiative



Overview

Utah State University proposes **Utah's first statewide, rural-focused energy engineering program to serve as the Energy Knowledge Hub** for all of Utah. The program will enhance the state's energy economy and help develop a next-generation workforce better equipped to leverage Utah's energy portfolio.

Background

Utah is rich in energy resources but lacks the energy knowledge hub needed for a more robust energy economy. A future with enhanced economic opportunities for all Utahns requires a workforce with advanced engineering training and an entrepreneurial spirit to drive innovation. Knowledge of Utah's energy sector, as well as limited research in this area, limits economic opportunity for residents and constrains advances in production.

- » **Coal, oil, and natural gas** comprise a key portion of the state's energy economy. New research and innovations will support improved technology and advance energy security.
- » **Advanced small module** reactors offer a promising solution to safe and reliable nuclear energy.
- » **Minerals such as lithium, copper, cobalt, and nickel** are used to manufacture batteries for electric vehicles and everyday electronics. Utah is uniquely positioned to benefit from mineral extraction.

Why USU

- » The bulk of energy and mineral extraction happens in Central and Eastern Utah where residents have limited access to engineering education, but where USU has facilities to educate our workforce. With campuses in Price, Vernal, and Blanding (and 29 other locations), **USU is uniquely positioned to administer the state's first comprehensive energy workforce initiative.**

- » USU has **systemic experience statewide, including technical education focused on advanced manufacturing and specialized welding**, a long engineering tradition and award-winning faculty, as well as significant experience partnering with industry and world-class research facilities.
- » With our proximity to Idaho National Laboratory, USU **ranks in the top six nationwide for nuclear engineering research funding** from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Objectives

- » **Prepare tomorrow's energy engineers** who bring expertise and new insight to energy policy and economics.
- » **Provide a suite of education options**, including certificate, associate, bachelor's, and graduate degree programs to build a workforce for all levels of energy development.
- » Graduate engineers with **broad training and expertise** to guide Utah's energy future while improving quality of life in rural communities.
- » Serve Utah's **rural workforce with advanced technical knowledge and opportunities** for entrepreneurship and wealth building.
- » **Leverage the expertise and resources** of the USU Bingham Research Center in Vernal and the San Rafael Energy Research Center in Emery County.
- » Pioneer **innovative technologies and market-relevant insight** to inform decision-makers and better predict energy supply and demand issues.
- » Help Utah **navigate forthcoming transformations** in the energy and mining sectors to better predict economic risk and opportunities.



Request

» **\$2.1M ongoing**

Supports up to nine full-time engineering faculty and an academic advisor: five faculty in Blanding, Price, and Vernal; four faculty at the USU Logan campus.

» **\$450,000 one-time**

Upgrade existing USU facilities and purchase new equipment for energy research.

Broad Industry Support



Contacts

» **Devin Wiser, Vice President**

Government & External Affairs

devin.wiser@usu.edu

Mobile: 435.757.5560

engineering.usu.edu



College of Engineering
UtahStateUniversity

Expansion of the Business & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Southeastern Utah



Overview

Utah State University proposes an expansion of business education in Southeastern Utah to provide a path to economic opportunity for rural families. This proposal would expand opportunities and job outcomes to students in Price and surrounding regions.

Background

Business development and economic growth have a disproportionate benefit in rural communities where, in terms of employment rates, one job created in Carbon County is equivalent to 36 jobs created on the Wasatch Front (Utah Dept. of Workforce Services, 2019). However, more business entrepreneurs and leaders are needed to expand small business opportunities in Southeastern Utah and maximize its economic potential.

Why USU

- » The Huntsman School at USU is already a vital part of the **highly-skilled Utah labor market**, and a primary source of economic mobility within the state of Utah. This proposal leverages existing resources at USU Eastern.
- » As many as **300 students at USU Eastern** are interested in studying business but lack a pathway to accumulate coursework and credits in person, due to a lack of business faculty and staff on the Price campus.
- » As the land-grant institution in the state, USU is directly responsible and uniquely positioned for **providing excellent educational programs throughout Utah**.

Objectives

- » **Assist business startups in Carbon County and throughout the southeast part of the state.** It will fill a crucial hole in the Southeastern Utah economic ecosystem, providing valuable resources to residents across multiple counties in helping them analyze, set up, and operate small businesses.
- » **Provide a path to prosperity for families in Southeastern Utah.** Business graduates in Utah tend to earn roughly \$10,000 or more per year than non-business graduates. (American Community Survey of Utah, 2015-2019).
- » Carbon County falls near the bottom of Utah in median household income (26th of 29 counties). Studying business is a means of **breaking generational poverty cycles, thereby providing upward economic mobility and opportunity.**
- » **Provide a pathway for students to complete associate of business degrees in Price**, which in turn facilitates the transition to a bachelor's degree program in Logan or through a USU statewide offering in accounting, data analytics, management, or marketing.
- » **Create new career pathways**, including marketing professionals for small businesses, data analytics for rural utilities, and routes to self-employed business ownership.

Supporters

- » Ann Anderson – Eastern Utah Broadcasting
- » Bill Hicks – Director, USU Eastern
- » Bobby Houston – CEO, Intermountain Electronics
- » Brad Watson – Director, USU Eastern
- » Brady Bradford – Director, Southeast Utah Health Department
- » Brock Johansen – CEO Emery Telcom
- » C.J. McManus – AJB Broadcasting
- » Carmen Jones – WaFd Bank
- » Casey Hopes – Carbon County Commissioner, Owner Carbon Print & Design
- » Casey Wilson – Real Estate Titans
- » Danny Van Wagoner – Mayor, Castle Dale City
- » Frank Peczuh – Peczuh Printing, Former USU Trustee
- » Geri Gamber – Executive Director, Southeastern Regional Development Agency
- » Gina Gagon – Gagon Family Medicine, USU Trustee
- » Jade Powell – Deputy Director, Southeastern Regional Development Agency
- » Jae Potter – REMAX Real Estate Group
- » Jared Haddock – Vertex
- » Jay Noyes – Castleview Hospital
- » JoAnna Hagen Manzanares – Director, Little Learners
- » Jordan Leonard – Emery County Commissioner
- » Kevin Butler – Owner, Kolossal Digital Design
- » Laren Huntsman – Plant Manager, PacifiCorp
- » Larry Jensen – Carbon County Commissioner
- » Lenise Peterman – Mayor, Helper City
- » Lisa Mortenson – Founder, Flawless Sheeting
- » Lisa Potter – RE/MAX Bridge Realty
- » Lynn Sitterud – Emery County Commissioner
- » Mark Morley – EB-5 Projects
- » Megan Marshall – Intermountain Electronics
- » Mequelle Woodruff – Carbon Country Club
- » Michael Kourianos – Mayor, Price City
- » Michael Mastin – Helper City
- » Mika Salas – Superintendent, Carbon School District
- » Oran Stainbrook – r.ecollab
- » Ryan Maughn – Superintendent, Emery County School District
- » Shanny Wilson – Carbon County Economic Development and Tourism
- » Shelley Wright – Family Support Center
- » Stuart Clason – UAC
- » Terry Willis – Willis Works Studio; Price City Council
- » Than Woodward – Attorney at Law
- » Tony Martinez – Carbon County Commissioner

Request

» Total: \$1,050,000 ongoing

» \$900,000 ongoing

- Five new full-time business faculty members at USU Eastern, who will teach lower division courses in accounting, economics, finance, data analytics, business communications, entrepreneurship, leadership, and marketing.
- One new part-time and one full-time academic advisor on the USU Eastern campus.

» \$150,000 ongoing

Maintain and expand existing programming, including youth entrepreneurship and business start-up workshops, at the USU Eastern Entrepreneurship Center to support community-centered economic development.

Contact

- » **Devin Wiser, Vice President**
Government & External Affairs
devin.wiser@usu.edu
Mobile: 435.757.5560

huntsman.usu.edu



UtahStateUniversity
Eastern

Utah Forest Restoration Institute



Overview

Utah is one of the most wildfire prone states in the U.S. On average, there are 800 to 1,000 wildfires in Utah annually. **A Utah Forest Restoration Institute at Utah State University** will facilitate improved management of fire risks and fire effects within the state, secure federal funding for Utah-specific initiatives, and create a way for managers and researchers to collaborate given the unique characteristics of Utah forests, woodlands, and wildfire.

Background

The Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-317) authorized the creation of restoration institutes in six states to improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems by leveraging best-science practices to reduce the risks and impacts of wildfire.

Three restoration institutes in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona were originally established, making up the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes. The institutes serve the particular needs of each state and work collaboratively on cross-cutting issues. Utah is well-positioned to build an institute as part of the southwest network, creating opportunity to increase federal dollars to address forest health and wildfire risk in Utah.

Why USU

- » USU has notable **strengths in forest ecology and silviculture, fire ecology, forest soils, and ecosystem restoration**. This is complemented by expertise in human dimensions of forest management and reduction of wildfire risk, creating a robust and balanced foundation for the institute.
- » USU's **communication and collaboration strengths include established Extension programs in forestry and fire** that connect people and organizations throughout the state, as well as **leadership in the federally funded Fire Science Exchange Network**.

- » USU scientists have **strong working relationships with Utah Department of Natural Resources agencies** through partnerships such as the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative and Utah Shared Stewardship.

Objectives

- » **Synthesize and share science on forest health, fuel dynamics, and pre- and post-fire treatments** for all types of land ownership in Utah forests and woodlands.
- » **Establish a network to monitor immediate and long-term vegetation changes** to assist land managers and the legislature in assessing treatment effectiveness.
- » **Use field data that considers local conditions** to compare options before and after treatments.
- » **Develop an accessible hub** to share relevant forest and fire management resources.
- » Develop a **clearinghouse of resources and data** through state web portals.
- » **Convene workshops, conferences, webinars, and trainings to build a community of practice in Utah**, which will create a collaborative network of experts, practitioners, and decision-makers.

Stakeholders

The Utah Forest Restoration Institute will focus on all lands and all ownerships. U.S. Forest Service | U.S. Bureau of Land Management | Burned Area Emergency Response | Utah Department of Transportation | Watershed Restoration Initiative | Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands | Utah Department of Public Safety | Tribes | Others involved in Shared Stewardship

Request

- » **\$765,000** ongoing
- » **\$55,000** one-time (field vehicle for data collection)

Director (annual partial salary + benefits)	\$30,000
Faculty team (annual partial salary + benefits)	\$45,000
Senior project manager (annual salary + benefits)	\$105,000
Project Manager (annual salary + benefits)	\$95,000
Communications and facilitation (annual salary + benefits)	\$90,000
Database/GIS Technician (annual salary + benefits)	\$105,000
Field Technicians (annual)	\$140,000
Operating funds (travel, equipment, network collaboration, field work)	\$155,000
Ongoing Support	\$765,000

Contacts

- » **Devin Wiser, Vice President**
Government & External Affairs
devin.wiser@usu.edu
Mobile: 435.757.5560
- » **Linda Nagel, Dean**
S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College
of Natural Resources
linda.nagel@usu.edu
435.797.1491



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Elizabeth Cantwell** joined USU as its **17th president**
- Launched the **first Earthquake Engineering Center in Utah** at USU
- The Institute for Land, Water, & Air began work on the **Bear Lake Comprehensive Management Plan**
- **College of Veterinary Medicine** welcomed **class of 2027**, first class that will begin and finish on the USU campus.

FOUNDED: March 8, 1888

TYPE: Land-grant, R1 public research university

Workforce

- All Campuses: **11,077**
 - » Student employees: **5,126**
 - » All other employees: **5,951**
- Space Dynamics Lab: **1,206**
 - » Student Employees: **163**

Statewide Campuses & Extension

- Main campus: **Logan**
- Residential campuses: **3**
 - » Logan
 - » Eastern (Price)
 - » Blanding
- Statewide campuses and centers: **29**
- Extension: **38** sites serving all of Utah's **29** counties (includes Ogden Botanical Center, Thanksgiving Point, and Utah Botanical Center)

Total Headcount Enrollment (Fall 2022)

- Total Enrollment: **28,063**
- Undergraduate: **25,048** (17,943 Logan; 5,784 Statewide)
- Graduate: **3,015** (1,940 Logan; 806 Statewide)
- Master's: **1,979** (1,168 Logan; 657 Statewide)
- Doctoral: **804** (706 Logan; 101 Statewide)

Alumni

- Total: **175,349**
- Location: All **50** states and in more than **120** countries

Most Popular Undergraduate Degrees (2022)

- Economics
- Psychology
- Mechanical Engineering
- General Studies
- Computer Science

National Rankings

- **#5 most engaging college social media** in nation (*Rival IQ, 2023*)
- **Best employer in Utah** (*Forbes, 2023*)
- **2020 Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments** *Council on Undergraduate Research*
- **USU Online Bachelor's Programs Rank in Top 25 for 9th Straight Year** (*U.S. News & World Report, January 2022*)

Research

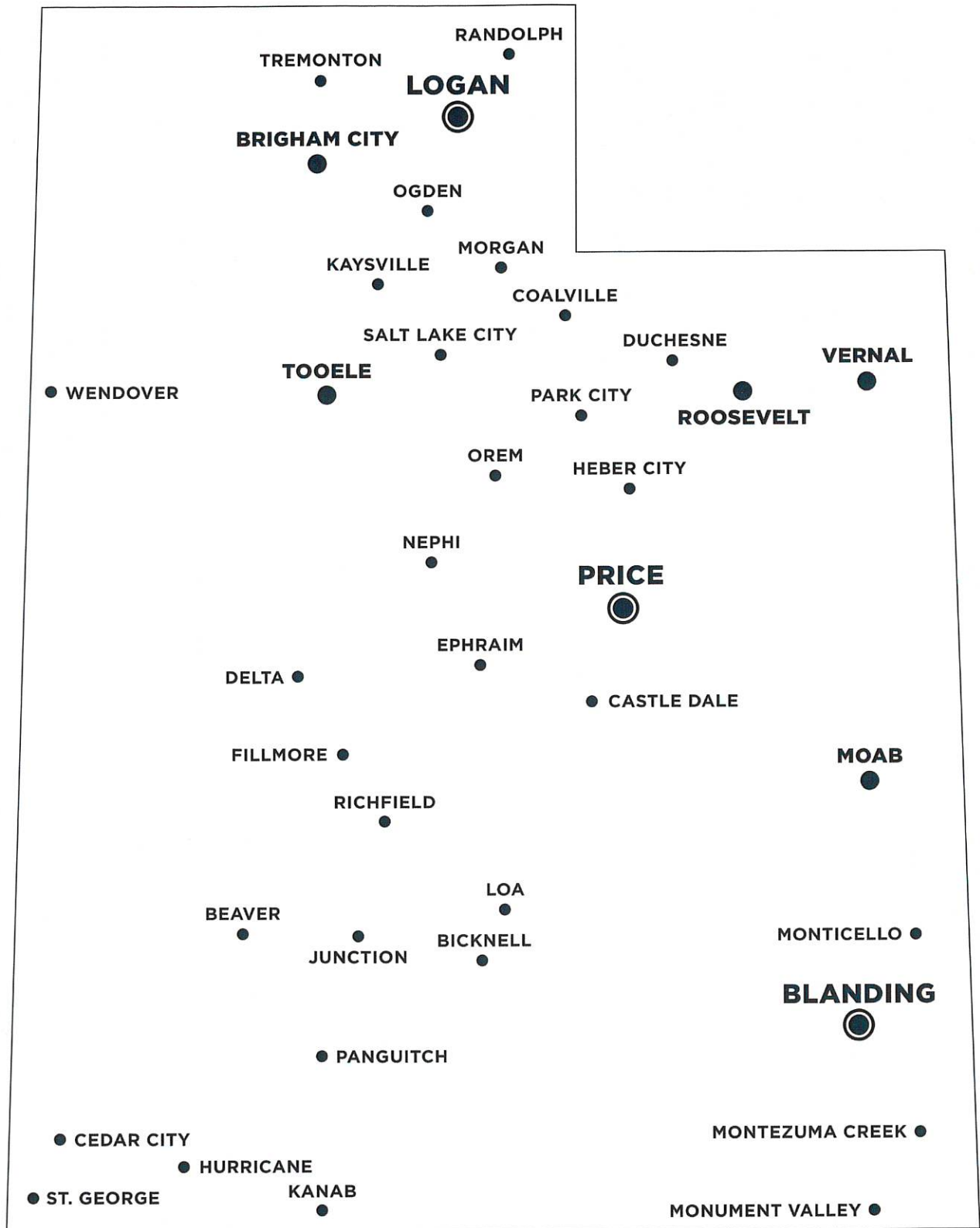
- **\$405.6 million in sponsored awards** during the FY 2023
- **Carnegie-recognized R1 institution** — High Research Activity
- **50+ research institutes and centers**

Scholarships

- **4,319 students** received **\$9,069,074** in donor-funded scholarship support



USU STATEWIDE EDUCATION AND EXTENSION SITES



THIS IS OUR STATE 