

A decorative plaid pattern in shades of green, white, and dark blue runs vertically along the left edge of the image.

The Greats

2025



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VIDEO: Brad Mortensen is introduced as Utah State University's 18th president.

DEAR AGGIES AND FRIENDS,

At Utah State University, we share a commitment to helping every Aggie to thrive — from Logan to Monument Valley and everywhere in between.

This year's **Greats** highlights the many ways USU is transforming lives and strengthening Utah in meaningful ways.

From launching the state's first four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, to groundbreaking research that advances water resilience, AI-driven environmental forecasting, and space-weather science, USU's impact is visible, global, and growing.

Our students and faculty are contributing in extraordinary ways. This includes developing 3D-printed hybrid rocket motors to support NASA's Human Landing System, mapping global migration patterns through the university's Analytics Solutions Center, serving communities statewide through the One Utah Service Fellowship, and earning national honors in academics, research, athletics, and skilled trades.

These achievements reflect the promise of a land-grant, Research I institution that pairs world-changing discovery with deep care for every learner. They reinforce our belief that education should remove barriers, not create them, and illustrate how USU is strengthening Utah's workforce while fueling opportunities across the state.

As we look ahead, I am eager to listen, learn, and work with you to build an even brighter, more connected future for Utah State University. Together, we can shape the opportunities that will define the next generation.

GO AGGIES,
BRAD MORTENSEN
President, Utah State University

Learning

Two new 737 jet
simulators at USU have

DOUBLED TRAINING CAPACITY

for the jet program
and enabled year-round
instruction, while
enrollment in the
air traffic control
minor has grown
from 36 to more than

100
STUDENTS.



USU received a \$747 thousand grant

to expand peacebuilding
curriculum through the Heravi
Peace Institute, integrating
“Character of Peace” courses across
Logan and statewide campuses.



USU EASTERN’S ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP,

the campus’s largest program,
has enabled students to earn while they learn toward
a journeyman license, directly tackling the state’s

USU’s nursing program doubled its
Bachelor of Science in Nursing capacity in
Logan with a new state-of-the-art nursing facility.
The program has maintained a 95%
pass rate on the National Council
Licensure Examination, equipping
graduates to meet urgent workforce
demands across Utah.



SKILLED WORKFORCE NEEDS.

Discovery

USU researcher

John Kemper

debuted a first-of-its-kind

AI MONITORING TOOL

FORECASTING WATER CONTAMINATION

using the National Water Model, giving water managers earlier, more actionable warnings.

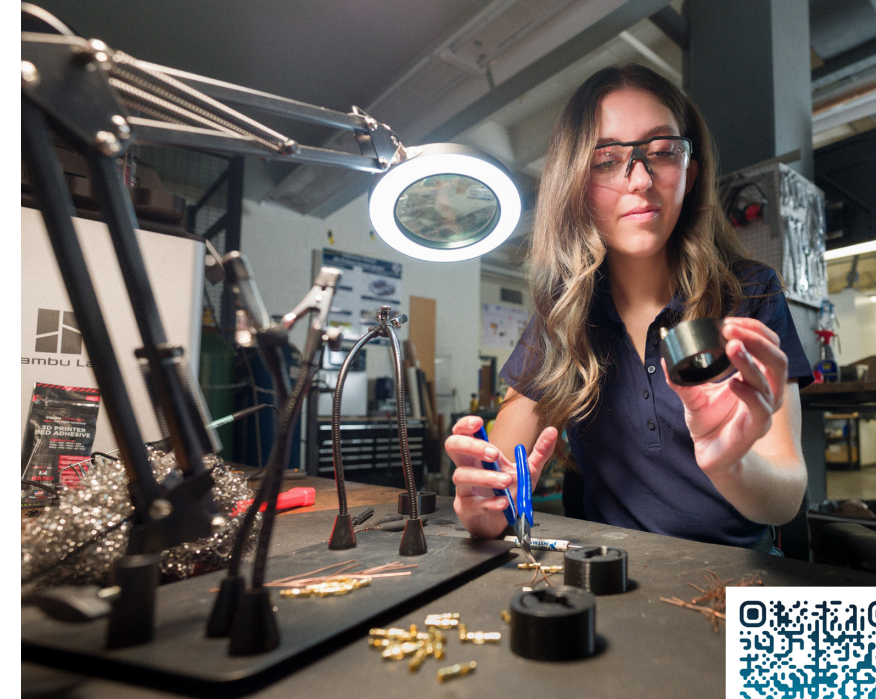


USU ecologists

documented 1,167 bee species in Utah, positioning the Beehive State among the nation's bee-rich regions and giving conservationists a state-level baseline for action.

The USU-led NASA Atmospheric Waves Experiment

released data from its first 3,000 orbits of a Space Dynamics Laboratory-built instrument aboard the International Space Station, providing insight into atmospheric disturbances and their impact on technological systems on the ground and in space.



Undergraduate and graduate students

worked with engineering professor Stephen Whitmore to develop a

3D-PRINTED HYBRID ROCKET MOTOR

at USU's Propulsion Research Laboratory to

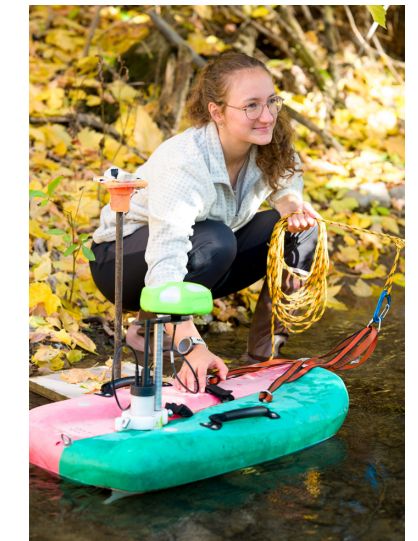
SUPPORT NASA'S HUMAN LANDING SYSTEM.

Huntsman School of Business students

gained hands-on experience mapping global migration patterns and delivering real-world insights through the Analytics Solutions Center, which has employed more than 150 student analysts since 2022 and generated over \$1.2 million in sponsored projects.

USU's Utah Water Research Laboratory

worked to pinpoint how wildfires alter streamflow to help agencies plan for water quality and supply issues after burns.



Engagement

The Utah Water Research Laboratory marked

60 YEARS OF
GLOBAL IMPACT,



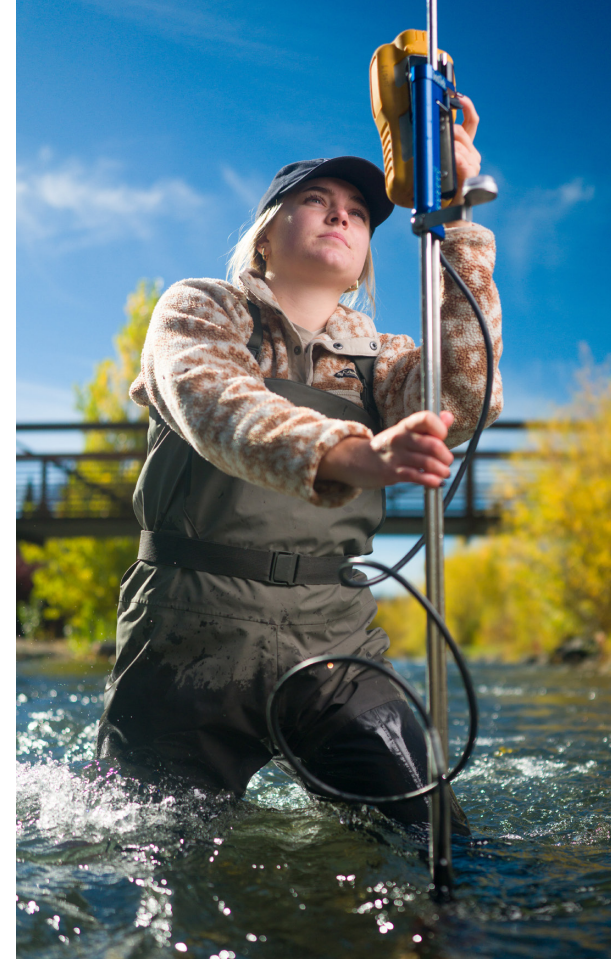
with researchers tackling Great Salt Lake management, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and microplastics, and

**DATA-DRIVEN
WATER
SOLUTIONS.**



USU's National Center for Agricultural Literacy created a USDA-funded online certificate that equips K-12 educators to weave agriculture into core subjects.

The One Utah Service Fellowship, launched with strong first-year impact, placing students in community roles statewide that deliver measurable service while building workforce skills.



USU's Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air released its fifth annual report showing environmental policy successes and challenges on Utah's land, water, and air and informing future state decision-making.



USU water scientists guided

**COLORADO RIVER
PLANNING**

with new streamflow "storylines," physical models, and adaptive operations research to

**NAVIGATE A
DRIER FUTURE.**



A USU-SLCC partnership propels outdoor product design innovators with a transfer pathway to streamline graduation.

Athletics



USU Gymnastics won its **FIRST-EVER**

MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIP.



USU student-athletes set a **SCHOOL RECORD** with

481 ACADEMIC HONORS.

Utah State women's soccer claimed its third consecutive Mountain West Tournament championship in 2025, besting Boise State in the championship game and advancing to the NCAA Tournament.

The USU Eastern women's soccer program was named NJCAA Co-Academic Team of the Year with an overall GPA of 3.79, one of the highest in the nation.



Utah State women's volleyball went undefeated in conference play, winning the Mountain West regular season and tournament titles. The team also won its first NCAA tournament match since 2001.

Economic Contributions



The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute studied USU's economic contribution to state and local communities. The estimates covered FY 2023 and focused on short-term measurable effects of university-related spending.

USU IS UTAH'S
\$2.2 BILLION
ECONOMIC ENGINE

A total of \$1 billion in earnings, \$1.4 billion in gross domestic product, and \$2.2 billion in output (total sales) in FY 2023.

USU SUPPORTS (directly and indirectly)
17,000+ JOBS

USU is the largest employer in Cache County and seventh largest employer statewide, with 10,000+ jobs in FY 2023.

Utah State by the Numbers

#1

Public college
in Utah for tuition dollars
Washington Monthly, 2025

20%

of undergrad
degrees went to
first-generation students

\$68.8M

Given in
donations (FY 2025)



Achievements



USU Eastern's
Benjamin Cornaby won his

THIRD STRAIGHT

NATIONAL WELDING TITLE

and is training for WorldSkills
Shanghai 2026.

**Graduate student Ryan
Lewis and undergraduate
Michelle Norman** received a
distinguished, funded research fellowship
from the National Science Foundation.

**Janet Quinney Lawson
Foundation** endowed a new deanship
for the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney College
of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**Marie Eccles Caine Foundation
— Russell Family** endowed a new
directorship in the Caine School of the Arts.

**Audiology
professor Aryn
Kamerer** was
awarded an Early Career
Research Grant to train
AI to distinguish auditory
diseases in the inner ear
and brain, potentially
leading to more precise
diagnoses and better
treatment.

OPEN THIS
FLAP TO
READ MORE
ACHIEVEMENTS!



USU's College of Veterinary Medicine

opened applications for the Class of 2029 after earning the AVMA Council on Education's Letter of Reasonable Assurance, launching Utah's first four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program.



USU cut the ribbon

on the 45,000-square-foot Carolyn and Kem Gardner Learning and Leadership Building, a Huntsman School hub for internships, industry projects, and experiential learning.



USU's College of Veterinary Medicine

honored its first-ever graduate, a milestone for the new college and for Utah's veterinary workforce pipeline.



Behavioral neuroscientist Sara Freeman earned a

\$1.4M NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CAREER GRANT

for research on the behavioral, hormonal, and neural basis of coyote monogamy, as well as a **NATIONAL AWARD** for undergrad research mentorship.

UTAH STATE, HEY *Aggies all the way.*



In its programs and activities, including in admissions and employment, **Utah State University does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination,** including harassment, based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, status as a protected veteran, or any other status protected by university policy, Title IX, or any other federal, state, or local law.

Full statement at www.usu.edu/civilrights-titleix/non-discrimination.



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