

Utah State University

Compiled August 2025



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1. Search Process *[will update as information becomes available]*

- a. Search Firm: [CSA Search & Consulting](#)
- b. [Ad Hoc Committee](#)
 - i. Co-chairs
 1. [Sandy Barbour](#), Interim Athletic Director
 2. [Doug Fiefa '15](#), Utah House of Representatives; former USU Football student-athlete
 - ii. The committee will provide a report that offers recommendations for:
 1. Essential and preferred job qualifications of the next USU Athletic Director
 2. How the new Athletic Director can most meaningfully engage various USU constituencies during the first 60 days in the role
 3. Critical directions for advancing the mission and national recognition of USU Athletics
 4. Becoming "Pac-12 ready" by July 1, 2026
 - iii. The committee will complete its work by early August 2025
- c. Search Committee
- d. Application & Position Details

2. University Leadership

- a. Utah State University
 - i. [Office of the President](#): Alan L. Smith ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#))
 1. Dean of the USU Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services [appointed interim](#) in Feb. 2025
 2. [Communications](#)
 3. [Presidential Search](#)
 - a. Search Firm: AGB Search
 - b. [Search Committee](#) (bios [here](#); LinkedIn profiles below)
 - i. [Steve Neeleman](#) (Co-Chair), Utah Board of Higher Education Member Founder; Vice Chairman of HealthEquity; former USU Football student-athlete
 - ii. David Huntsman (Co-Chair), Member, USU Board of Trustees; President of the Huntsman Foundation
 - iii. [Laurel Cannon Alder](#), Former USU trustee and alumni association president; Deputy Director of SLC Arts Council

- iv. [Grant Cardon](#), USU Faculty Senate President, Interim Dean combined colleges of Natural Resources and Ag. and Applied Sciences
- v. [Bill Plate](#), USU Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications
- vi. Matt Richey, USU Student Body President (2024-25)
- vii. [Elisa Taylor](#), USU Staff Employee Association Vice President, Assistant Director for the Center for Instructional Design and Innovation
- viii. [Cydni Tetro](#), Board member, Utah Board of Higher Education; 3X CEO | COO of MTNP | Former CIO of Swire Coca-Cola
- ix. Clark Whitworth, Member of USU Board of Trustees; Retired CEO of the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies
- c. [Process and Timeline](#): application open until Sept. 7, 2025; board anticipates naming during 2025-26 academic year.
- 4. [Past Presidents](#)
- ii. [University Org Chart](#)
- iii. [President's Cabinet](#)
 - 1. Laurens H. Smith ([Bio](#)), Provost and Executive Vice President
 - 2. Lisa Berreau ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), Vice President, Research
 - 3. David T. Cowley ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services
 - 4. Kerri Davidson ([LinkedIn](#)), Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief of Staff
 - 5. Mica McKinney ([LinkedIn](#)), Senior Vice President and University Chief Legal Counsel
 - 6. John S. O'Neil ([LinkedIn](#)), Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
 - 7. William Plate ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), Senior Vice President, University Marketing and Communications
 - 8. Sandy Barbour ([Bio](#)), Interim Athletic Director
 - 9. Brian Steed ([LinkedIn](#)), Executive Director of the Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water & Air

10. Kenneth L. White ([LinkedIn](#)), Vice President of Extension, Director of Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, and Senior Vice President of Statewide Enterprise
 11. Matthew T. White ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), Vice President for Advancement
 12. Devin Wiser ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), Vice President for Government and External Affairs
- iv. [Board of Trustees](#)
1. Nine persons appointed by the Governor of the state to four-year terms, and two ex-officio members who are the president of the University's Alumni Association and the president of the student body of the university.
 2. [Members](#)
 - a. Chair: Tessa White ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), Chief Executive Officer/Founder of The Job Doctor
 - b. Vice Chair: Gina Gagon ([Bio](#)), Gagon Family Medicine + Urgent Care
 - c. Kent K. Alder ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), former CEO and President, TTM Technologies
 - d. John Y. Ferry ([Bio](#)), owner and president, JY Ferry and Son + Little Mountain Cattle Company
 - e. David H. Huntsman ([Bio](#)), President, Huntsman Foundation
 - f. Heather Mason ([LinkedIn](#)), USU Alumni President; Founder & CEO, The Impact Lounge + Caspian Agency
 - g. Kacie Malouf ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#)), co-founder of Malouf Companies
 - h. David A. Petersen ([LinkedIn](#)), former President & Chief Executive Officer, O.C. Tanner Company
 - i. Jacey Skinner ([Bio](#)), Of Counsel, Ballard Spahr LLP
 - j. Brandon Sorensen, USUSA President
 - k. [Clark Whitworth](#) ([Bio](#)), retired CEO of the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies
- b. [Utah System of Higher Education](#)
- i. Commissioner: Geoffrey Landward ([Bio](#), [LinkedIn](#))
 - ii. Board of Higher Education members (bios [here](#); LinkedIn profiles below)
 1. [Amanda Covington](#) (Chair), Chief Corporate Affairs Officer for the Larry H. Miller Company
 2. [Jon Cox](#) (Vice Chair), principal at Utah Public Affairs

3. [Javier Chavez Jr.](#), attorney and small business owner
4. [Sharon Eubank](#), director of Humanitarian Services of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5. [Danny Ipson](#), former executive for DATS Trucking Group of Companies, DATS Trucking, Inc., Overland Petroleum, LLC, Overland Leasing, LLC, and Ernies Stores, Inc.
6. Tina Marriott, President and Chief Operating Officer at Recursion
7. [Steve Neeleman](#), founder and Vice Chairman of HealthEquity, former USU Football student-athlete
8. [Aaron Skonnard](#), Chief Executive Officer of Pluralsight, Inc.
9. [Cydni Tetro](#), former CEO of Brandless, CIO of Swire Coca-Cola

3. State of the University

- a. General Information
 - i. [Mission, Vision, Strategic Direction](#)
 - ii. [Fast Facts](#)
 - iii. [History and Traditions](#)
 - iv. [Recent News](#)
- b. [Strategic Planning](#): 5-Year Roadmap 2025-2030 (Draft) [Strategic Pillars](#)
 - i. Focus on Student Success and Enrollment/Recruitment
 - ii. Elevate Research Expenditures and Impact
 - iii. Expand the Statewide Enterprise
 - iv. Increase Operational Modernization
 - v. Develop Expanded and Relevant Academic Offerings
- c. Campus Planning/Capital Projects
 - i. [Campus Master Plan](#) (2000)
 1. [Master Plan & Innovation Campus Update](#) (2021)
 2. [North Core Master Plan](#) (2014) (Athletics on pg. 17)
 - ii. [Current Projects](#)
 - iii. Campus Views: [Campus Map](#) // [Virtual Tour](#)
- d. [US News](#) Rankings
 - i. #259 in National Universities (tie)
 - ii. #145 in Top Public Schools (tie)
 - iii. #323 in Top Performers on Social Mobility (tie)
- e. [Accreditation](#) via Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
 - i. First Accredited: 1924

- ii. Most Recent Evaluation: Spring 2025 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- iii. Next Evaluation: Spring 2027 Ad Hoc Report
- f. [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#) (2024)

4. University Financials

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