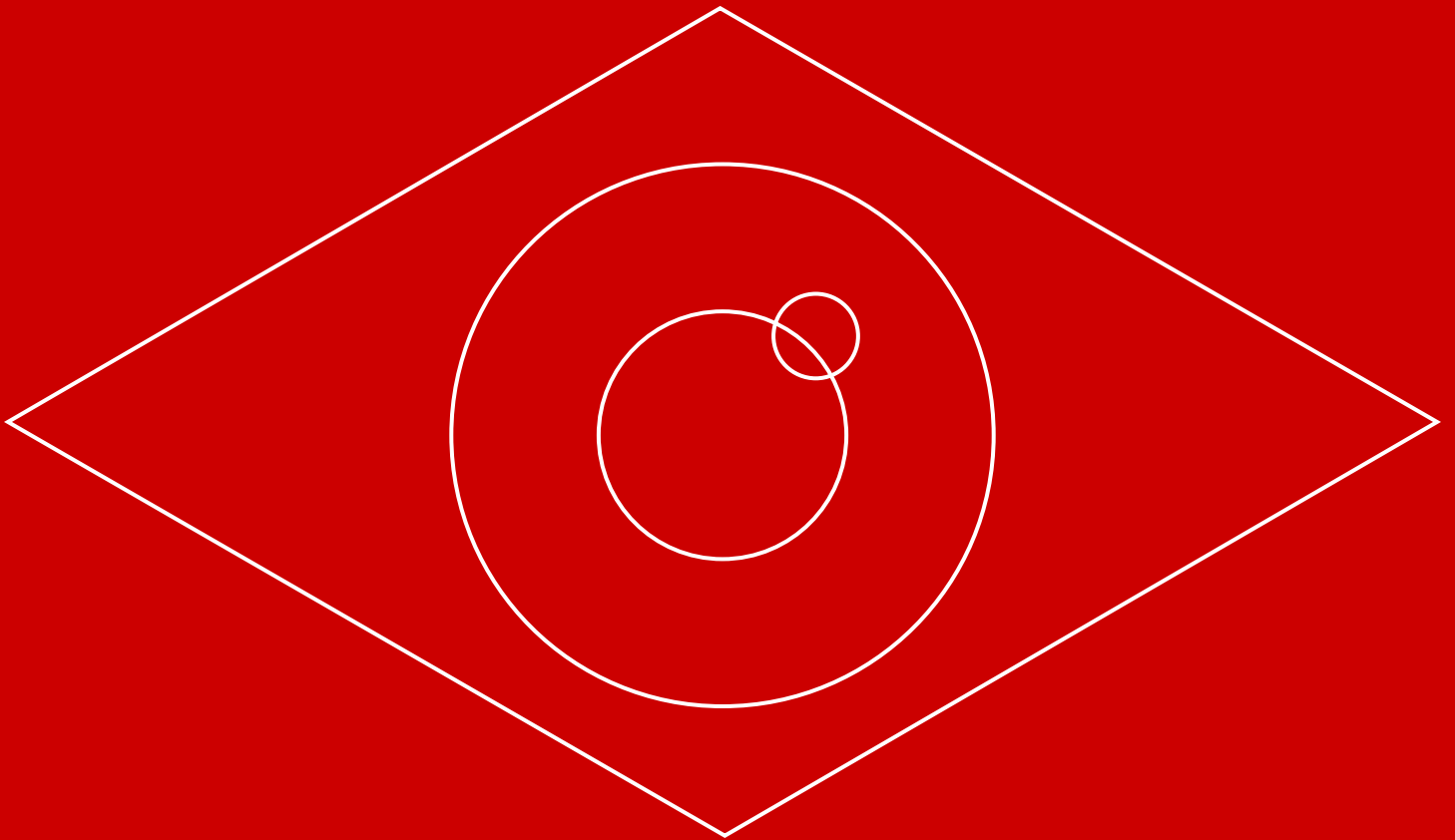


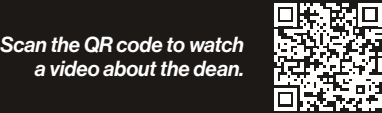
# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**AT A GLANCE 2025**



**College of Education**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

# MEET THE DEAN



## Frankie Santos Laanan, Ph.D.

Frankie Santos Laanan is Dean of the College of Education. He became Dean in spring 2023 before formally accepting a five-year appointment in spring 2025. Laanan is also a professor in the departments of Education, Culture & Society and Educational Leadership & Policy. Prior to this role, Laanan was appointed as the college's inaugural Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs (July 2021). Before arriving at the U, Laanan was Department Head of Educational Leadership, Policy, & Technology Studies and Professor of Higher Education Administration at the University of Alabama.

As dean, Laanan oversees undergraduate and graduate education programs with an enrollment of 800+ students (spring 2025). He serves on the Utah Council of Education Deans (UCED), consisting of every dean from every college of education in Utah along with representatives from the Utah State Board of Education and other education-related organizations. UCED works to ensure that Utah has highly trained, licensed school personnel needed now and in the future.

As an educational scholar, Laanan's research focuses on the impact college has at the individual and societal levels. He has conducted research and published work with a focus on postsecondary educational opportunities for first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students. His publications address educational and

career aspirations, adjustment and transition to college, post-college earnings, and higher education policy related to college access, transfer and articulation, career and technical education, STEM pathways for women and minority groups, and accountability.

Throughout his career, Laanan has secured and managed a grant portfolio of over \$3.5 million, and he has been involved with research projects totaling nearly \$6 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Laanan is currently Principal Investigator (PI) of a Spencer Foundation Grant (Ingram State Technical College: Exploratory Case Study of Incarcerated Adults in Career and Technical Education). He has participated in the University of Utah's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA), a \$19 million project funded by United States Agency for International Development to improve Pakistan's colleges and universities to address the country's mismatched skills and workplace needs.

Laanan was born and raised on the island of Guam. A Pacific Islander scholar and first-generation college student, he is passionate about engaging in educational research to investigate critical questions about college access and the success of students from all backgrounds. He earned his B.A. in Political Science and M.A. and Ph.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Change from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He believes in education as a tool for social good and has dedicated his career to advancing educational access and ensuring access for all students through evidence-based policies and procedures.

# CONTENTS

- 4

**Points of Pride**
  - Mission
  - Vision
  - National Ranking
  - Centers, Programs & Initiatives
  - Student Enrollment Spring 2025

- 6

**Academic Programs**
  - Departments
  - Undergraduate
  - Graduate
  - Certificates & Licensures

- 7

**Academics**
  - Strategic Plan 2030 Priorities
  - Academic Program Highlights
  - Fall 2025 Applications

- 8

**Research**
  - External Funding (FY 2025)
  - Programs of Research
  - Research Grants
  - Instructional Grants

- 10

**Faculty**
  - Notable Faculty Awards
  - Faculty Breakdown & Excellence
  - Department Chairs

- 12

**Societal Impact**
  - Math Symposium
  - USMHC
  - Stegner Young Writing Institute
  - U-FIT
  - Utah For All

- 14

**Community Impact**
  - Hiring Placements
  - Teaching Hours
  - National Accreditation
  - Licensure Rates
  - Licensure Placements
  - Reading Clinic (UURC)
  - U-TTEC

- 17

**Community-Engaged Learning**
  - University of Utah 2025 Public Service Professor
  - University Neighborhood Partners (UNP)

- 18

**Community-Engaged Partnerships**
  - Math Symposium
  - Stegner Young Scholars' Writing Institute
  - Mestizo Arts and Activism Collective
  - Utah Prison Education Program (UPEP)
  - U-TTEC and USMHC
  - U-FIT
  - Utah for All

- 20

**Advancement & Fundraising**
  - Scholarships & Student Support
  - Total Dollars Raised by Fiscal Year
  - Giving Day (2025)
  - Received Giving by Source
  - Endowed Faculty Positions
  - Gift from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

- 22

**Positioned to Lead**
  - Innovation
  - Excellence
  - Collaboration
  - Community Engagement

# CREDITS

- Creative & Communications**
  - **Jane Stringham** – PR/Communications Manager
  - **Rachel Walker** – Senior Graphic Designer
  - **Rosie Coleman** – Photography, Design Intern

- Research & Special Thanks**
  - **Melissa Goldsmith** – Research Associate, Dean's Office
  - **Kate Rockefeller** – Development Specialist
  - **Rachael Katz** – Research Associate, U-TTEC Lab
  - **Shari Fraser** – Educational Leadership and Policy

- Leadership**
  - **Frankie Santos Laanan** – Dean
  - **Kirsten Butcher** – Associate Dean
  - **Mary D. Burbank** – Associate Dean
  - **Wanda Penovich** – Director of Finance
  - **Safia Keller** – Development Director

# POINTS OF PRIDE



## Mission

The College of Education transforms educational knowledge, practice, and outcomes through cutting-edge research, deep community partnerships, and innovative approaches to teaching, learning and training.



## Vision

We envision ourselves as a leading College of Education addressing educational challenges as a trusted partner in innovation, development, growth, and societal impact.



## National Ranking


U.S. News & World Report ranked the College of Education's graduate programs #73 in the nation in 2025, up 26 spots from 99 in 2024. This jump means that our peers see the college's value on a national stage, and that our data tell a story of growth. The CoEdu has incredible momentum..

## Centers, Programs, & Initiatives

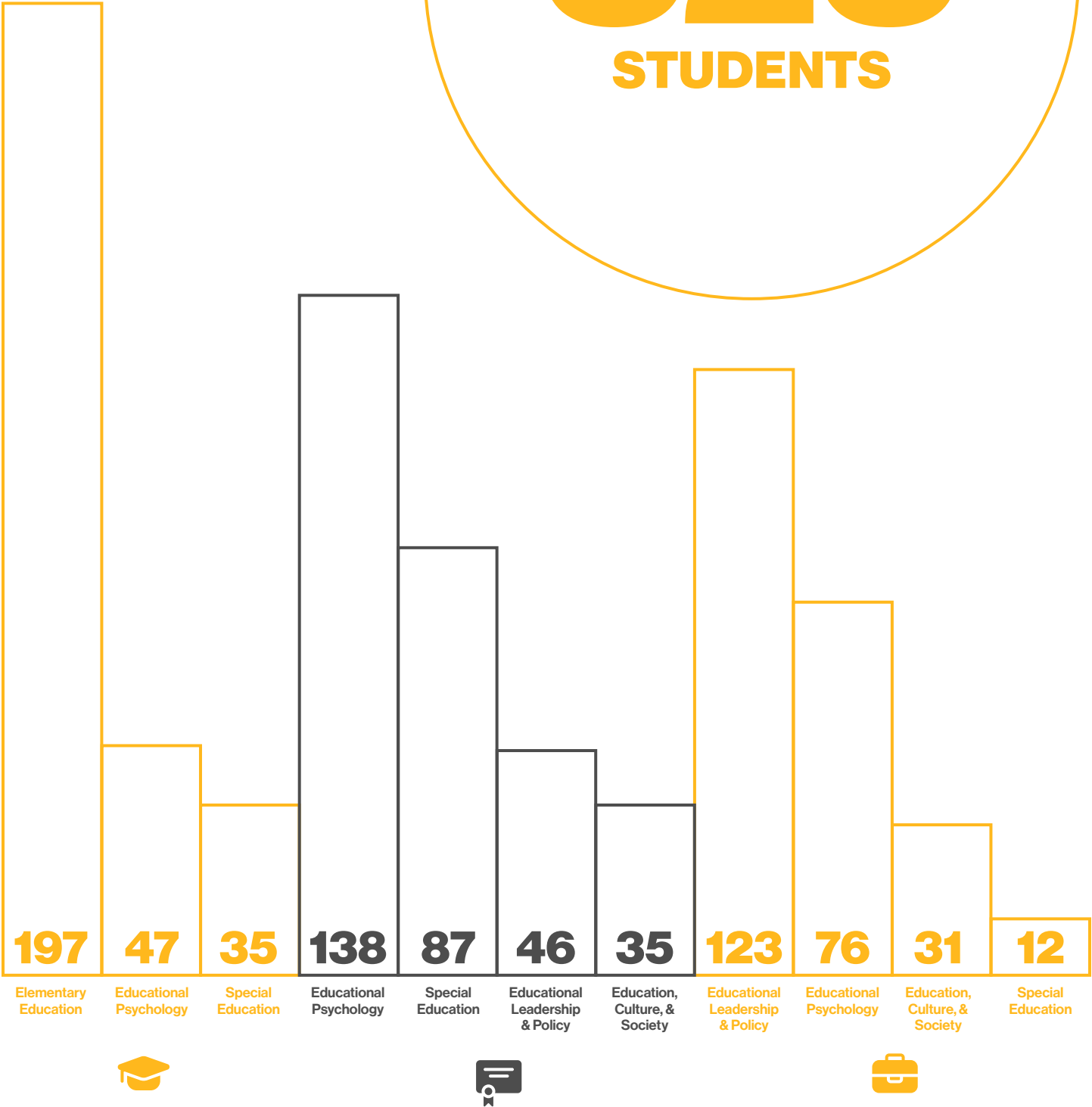
- Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC)
- Utah School Mental Health Collaborative (USMHC)
- University of Utah Reading Clinic (UURC)
- Counseling & Psychology Clinic
- Prison Education Research and Leadership Lab
- Teacher Recruitment Scholars
- U-FIT: an Adapted Physical Activity Program
- Emma Eccles Jones Teach for Utah Program
- Community Math Night
- Stegner Young Scholars' Writing Institute
- Utah for All

# Student Enrollment Spring 2025

 275 Undergraduates

 306 Graduates

 242 Doctoral



# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## Departments

Education, Culture & Society  
Educational Leadership and Policy  
Educational Psychology  
Special Education  
Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE)

## Undergraduate

### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES WITH LICENSURE

Educational Psychology  
Special Education (K-12)

- Severe Disabilities
- Mild/Moderate Disabilities
- Preschool & Early Intervention
- Visual Impairments
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE)

- Early Childhood Education (K-3)
- Elementary Education (K-8)
- Secondary Education (6-12)
- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Dance
- Earth Science
- English
- Film
- French
- Geography (Minor)
- Health (Minor)
- Health & Kinesiology
- History
- Math
- Music
- Physics
- Spanish
- Theater

### UNDERGRADUATE MINORS

Special Education  
Educational Psychology

## Graduate

### MASTER'S DEGREES AND SPECIALIZATIONS

Education, Culture & Society

- Social Foundations of Ed
- Teaching for Transformation
- With Secondary License
- With ESL Endorsement

Educational Leadership and Policy

- K-12 School Leadership
- K-12 Teacher Leadership
- Student Affairs
- With Secondary Licensure

Educational Psychology

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- School Counseling
- EDPS Undergrad Major + 1 (IDET)
- Instructional Design & Educational Technology
- Statistics
- Literacy Education
- With Elementary Licensure
- Secondary Licensure in English
- Learning Sciences

Special Education (For most specializations, a K-12 license + endorsement is available)

- Severe Disabilities with License
- Mild/Moderate Disabilities with License
- Preschool & Early Intervention with License
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Adapted Physical Education (A.P.E.)
- Visual Impairments with License
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing License
- Deafblind with License
- With Elementary Licensure
- Special Education (general Master's)

Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE)

- Elementary K-8 Licensure and Educational Psychology with License
- Elementary K-8 Licensure and Special Education with License
- Secondary ELP with License
- Secondary ECS with License
- Master of Arts in Language Pedagogy (MALP) with License

### SPECIALIST DEGREES

Educational Psychology (School Psychology)

### DOCTORAL DEGREES

Education, Culture & Society

- History, Philosophy & Sociological Studies
- Language, Culture & Curriculum

Educational Leadership and Policy

- Higher Education Administration
- K-12 Ed.D. or Ph.D.
- K-12 Ed.D. with Administrative Licensure
- Higher Education

Educational Psychology

- Counseling Psychology
- Literacy, Language, & Learning
- School Psychology
- Learning Sciences

Special Education

- Interdisciplinary

### DUAL/JOINT DEGREES

Educational Leadership and Policy

- Public Administration M.P.A.-Ph.D./Ed.D.

Educational Psychology

- Secondary Science Teaching Dual B.S./M.Ed. with UITE Licensure. B.S. in Content Areas

Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE)

- Secondary B.S./M.Ed. with License
- Secondary Educational Psychology B.S./M.Ed. with License

## Certificates & Licensures

### CERTIFICATES

Undergraduate

- EDPS Undergraduate Positive Psychology Certificate

Graduate

- Community College Leadership & Teaching (CCLT)
- Working with Native Communities (WNC)

### LICENSURE ONLY

K-12 School Leadership  
Special Education Non-degree License and Endorsement Only

- Severe Disabilities
- Mild/Moderate Disabilities
- Preschool & Early Intervention
- Visual Impairments
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Deafblind

# ACADEMICS

## Strategic Plan 2030

### OUR PRIORITIES

1

### GROWING ENROLLMENT & LEARNER SUPPORTS

- Increase enrollment across undergraduate and graduate programs
- Increase scholarship and fellowship awards to reduce student financial burdens
- Refine comprehensive student support systems to ensure persistence to graduation

2

### ENHANCING ACADEMICS AND CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT

- Collaborate with school districts and LEAs to develop targeted curricula
- Expand online degree-granting programs
- Conduct a feasibility study for PreK-6 Learning Lab School construction
- Create interdisciplinary core curricula for teacher preparation through college collaboration

3

### INVESTING IN RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

- Increase grant submissions and large-scale national funding
- Recommit to interdisciplinary, collaborative research addressing grand societal challenges
- Encourage faculty research dedicated to shifting paradigms through innovation

4

### DRIVING EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

- Strengthen and expand partnerships with shared values to enhance community impact
- Invest in programs strategically addressing community needs and societal issues
- Grow alumni and donor engagement to drive change and expand educational access

5

### PURSUING OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

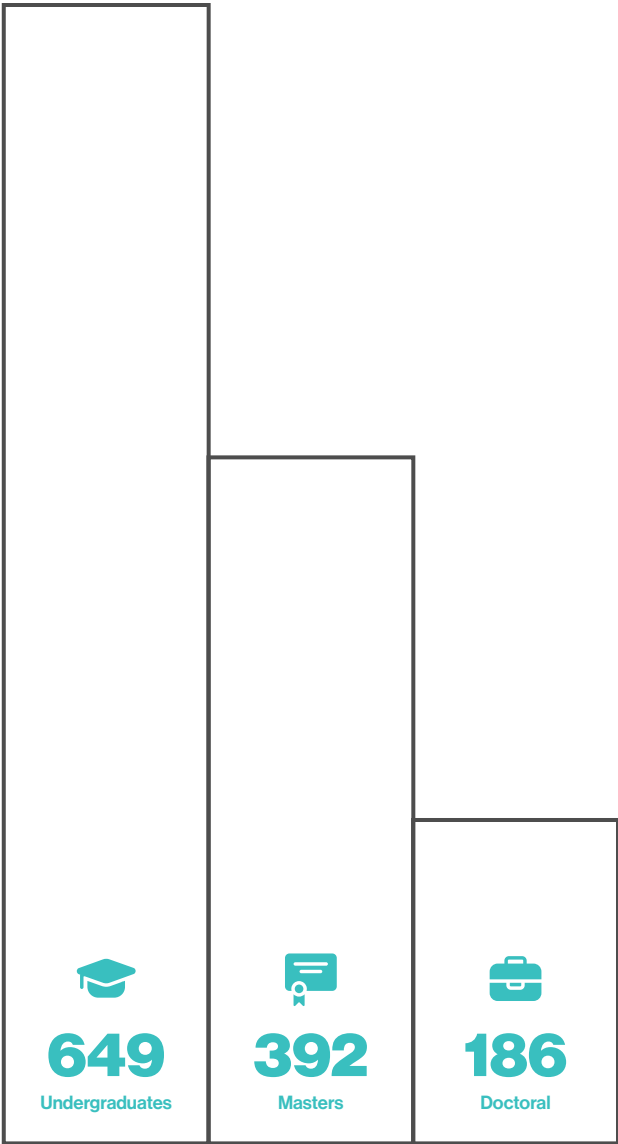
- Foster a sustainable workplace culture centering creativity, efficiency, and innovation
- Invest in technology, resources, and infrastructure to support growth
- Upgrade teaching technologies at Salt Lake and St. George campuses
- Create an accessible data analytics function for evidence-based decision making

## Academic Program Highlights

Our academic work tackles grand challenges. We create real-world solutions that improve educational outcomes for all students. Together, we shape the future of education by preparing students to lead in classrooms, institutions, and society.

## Fall 2025 Applications

### FROM PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS





# RESEARCH

The CoEdu leads in community-engaged research for positive and sustained societal impact in Utah communities. We conduct innovative, cutting-edge research to advance teaching, learning, mental health, and educational structures and contexts.

Key federal agencies fund our faculty: the **National Science Foundation**, the **National Institutes of Health**, and the **U.S. Department of Education**. Prestigious foundations and nonprofits fund our faculty: **Ascendium Education Group**, **WestEd**, and the **Strada Education Foundation**.

## External Funding (FY 2025)



\$5M+

ACTIVE EXTERNAL FUNDING PORTFOLIO



30

ACTIVE AWARDS IN FY 2025

In FY 2025, **66** external funding proposals were submitted totaling more than **\$36 million**.



+37.5%

FUNDING PROPOSALS  
(from FY 2024)

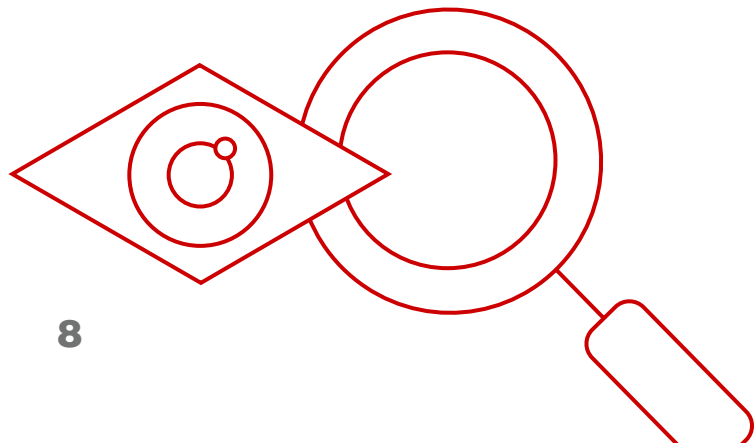


+39.4%

RESEARCH SUBMISSIONS  
(from FY 2024)

## Programs of Research

- AI in teaching, learning, assessment, and administration
- STEM education and workforce development
- Online and digital learning, training, and wellbeing
- Learning in informal (out-of-school) contexts
- Higher education for incarcerated individuals
- Mental health and psychological wellness
- Multilingual education and multicultural competencies
- Neurodiversity, autism, and special education
- Education history, policy, leadership, and management



\$800,000

**Chenglu Li, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor in Educational Psychology*  
ALTER-Math: AI-augmented Learning by Teaching to Enhance and Renovate Math Learning  
**Schmidt Futures Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, & Gates Foundation**

\$717,503

**Kathleen Strickland -Cohen, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor in Special Education*  
CICO-High School: Evaluation of an Effective Tier 2 Behavior Intervention for Students in High Schools  
**Sub with University of Oregon/IES**

\$599,971

**Tracy Dobie, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor in Educational Psychology*  
Developing and Implementing Case-Based Scenarios to Support Elementary Pre-Service Teachers  
**National Science Foundation**

\$261,201

**AJ Metz & Claire Son, Ph.D.s**  
*Associate Professors in Educational Psychology*  
Beginnings: Utah Network for Integrated Computing and Semiconductor Research and Education  
**National Science Foundation**

\$250,000

**Andrea Rorrer, Ph.D.**  
*Professor in Educational Research and Policy*  
Region 15 CC Evaluation  
**WestEd**

\$245,687

**Jason Taylor, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor in Educational Research and Policy*  
Understanding the Evolving Impact of Dual Enrollment Faculty Qualifications and the Value of Dual Credit in Indiana  
**Strada Education Foundation**



\$2,141,444

**Matt Jameson, Ph.D.**  
*Professor in Special Education*  
SCIENCE-ESN: preparing individual doctoral candidates to develop and disseminate knowledge to improve outcomes for students with ESN through research, teaching, and service  
**U.S. Department of Education**

\$1,230,863

**Chris Bischke, Ph.D.**  
*Professor in Special Education (Clinical)*  
Project ASSIST: To re-enroll underrepresented and non-traditional scholars to increase representation within the field of pediatric educational audiology and education of children who are deaf and hard of hearing  
**U.S. Department of Education**

\$1,163,995


**Keith Radley, Ph.D.**  
*Professor and Chair in Educational Psychology*  
Implementing A Culturally Responsive and Collaborative Interdisciplinary School Mental Health Training Program to Support Spanish Speaking Communities  
**U.S. Department of Education**

\$1,088,692

**Sondra Stegenga, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor in Special Education*  
IPEP: Interdisciplinary Preparation of Early Childhood Professionals for Mental Health Promotion, Prevention, and Intervention  
**U.S. Department of Education**

FACULTY


Notable Faculty Awards




**Zac Imel, Ph.D.**  
*Professor of Educational Psychology (EDPS)*  
**University of Utah 2025 Distinguished Research Award**  
Joins William Smith, first CoEdu faculty to receive award, 2021



**William A. Smith, Ph.D.**  
*Distinguished Professor of Education, Culture, & Society (ECS) and Ethnic Studies*  
**2025 Man of Impact Honoree**  
Selected by Impact Magazine

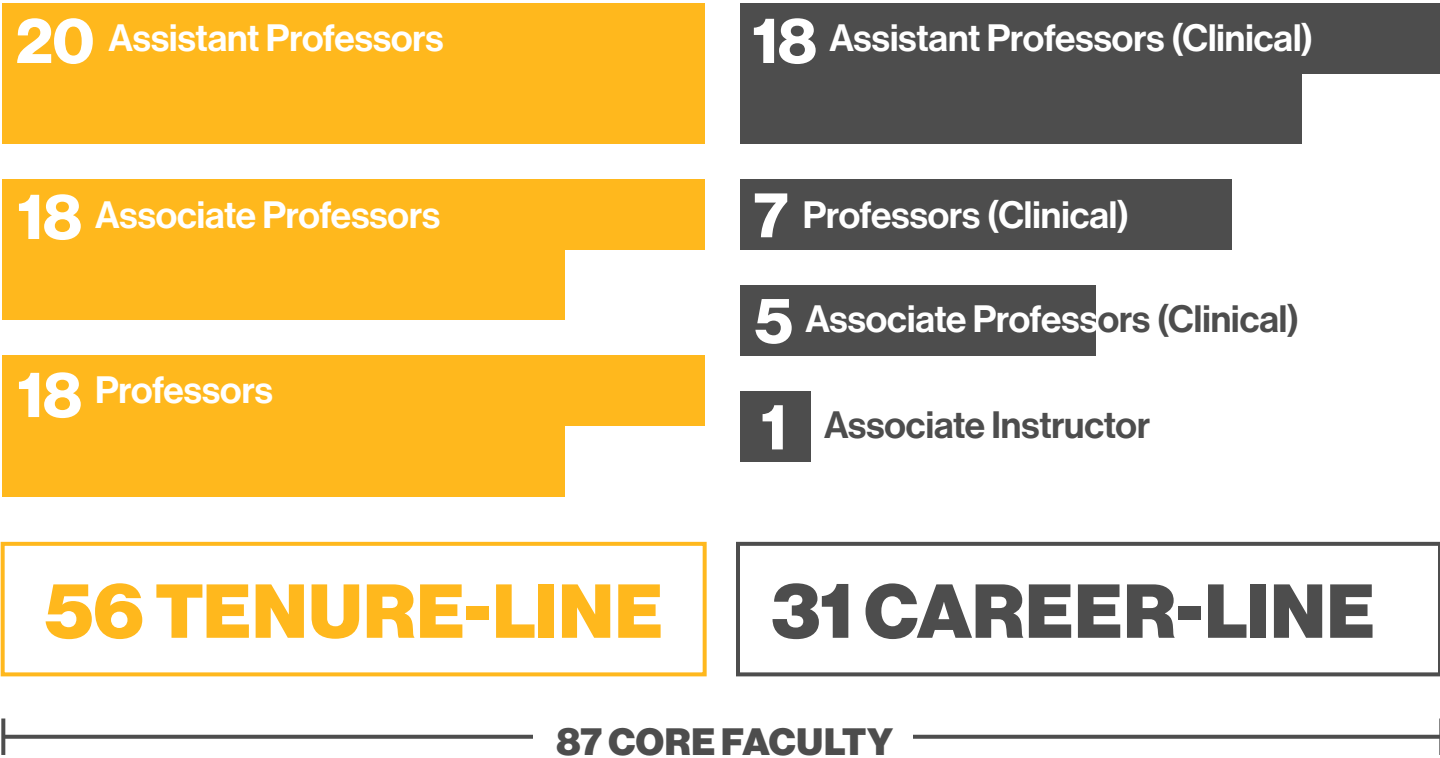


**David Stroupe, Ph.D.**  
*Professor of Educational Psychology (EDPS) and Interim Associate Dean of Research*  
**2025 Fellow American Association Advancement of Science (AAAS)**  
Joins former CoEdu dean and faculty member Nancy Songer in this lifelong appointment



**Udita Gupta, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor (Career-line) of Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE)*  
**University of Utah 2025 Public Service Professor Award**

Faculty Breakdown



Faculty Excellence (FY 2024-2025)

ACADEMIC PRODUCTIVITY




ACADEMIC PRODUCTIVITY

Faculty in the college authored **30 collaborative publications** with scholars in **19 countries**.


TEACHING & MENTORING




Department Chairs




**Verónica Valdez, Ph.D.**  
**Education, Culture, & Society (ECS)**




**Breda O’Keeffe, Ph.D.**  
**Special Education (SPED)**



**Keith Radley, Ph.D.**  
**Educational Psychology (EDPS)**



**Connor Warner, Ph.D.**  
**Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE)**



**Chris Linder, Ph.D.**  
**Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP)**



# SOCIETAL IMPACT

## Math Symposium

The annual Math Symposium helps middle and high school students deepen their math skills by exploring the social issues that matter to them most. It is led by José Francisco Gutiérrez, Assistant Professor of Education, Culture & Society, and Roger Quinonez, a CoEdu alum who now chairs the City Academy math department.

## U-FIT

U-FIT provides physical activities for children and youth with special needs in a fun, non-competitive environment to help them reach their goals. Skilled volunteers partner with students to build friendships, increase self-esteem, and improve motor skills and fitness. U-FIT is directed by Samantha Ross-Cypcar, Assistant Professor in Special Education.

## USMHC

The Utah School Mental Health Collaborative (USMHC) is housed in the U-TTEC Lab within the CoEdu's School Psychology Program. USMHC works to support the mental health and wellbeing of students and educators across Utah, including those in underserved rural areas. It is led by Aaron J. Fischer, Professor of Educational Psychology.

## Utah for All

Utah for All held its inaugural campus experience for students with varied needs and abilities over three days of dynamic programming in June 2025. With big plans for growth, university-wide support, and deeply invested community partners, the program is directed by Associate Dean Mary D. Burbank.

## Stegner Young Scholars' Writing Institute

Since 2008, the annual Stegner Young Scholars' Writing Institute has created opportunities for youth to find strength in their voices as writers. The Institute was founded and co-directed by Professor Emeritus Monica Ferguson. It is currently co-directed by Colli Lucas, Associate Professor (Clinical) in Educational Psychology, and Sheree Springer, Assistant Professor (Clinical) in UITE.

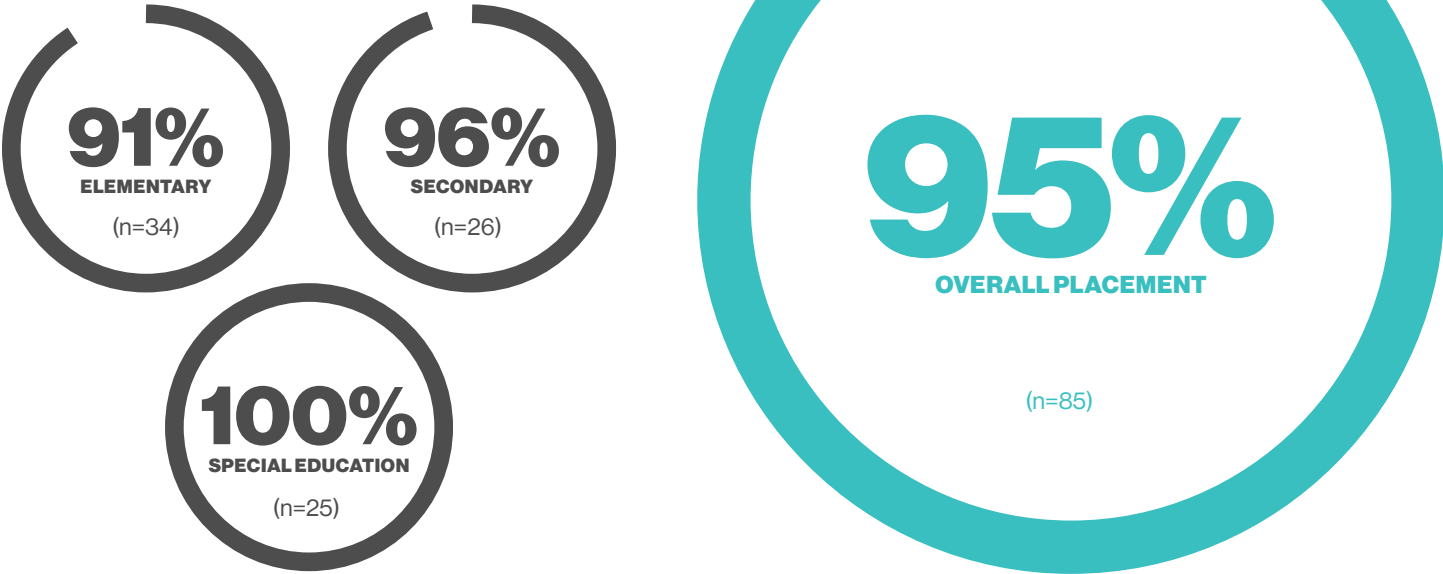




# COMMUNITY IMPACT

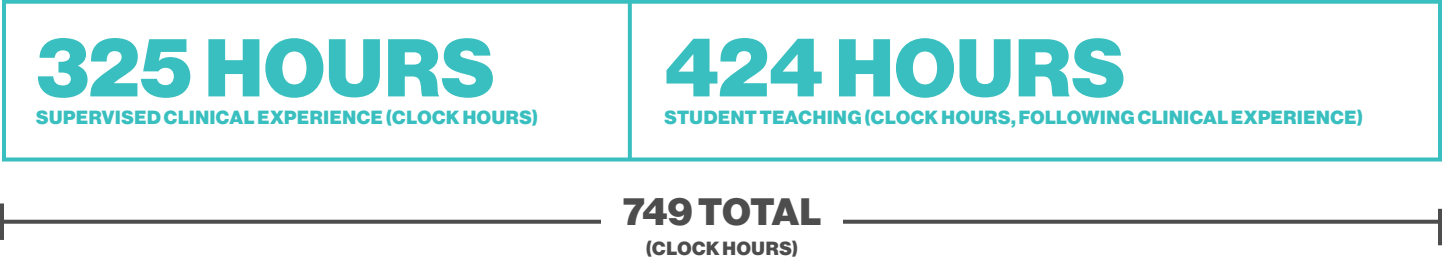
## Hiring Placements

TEACHER EDUCATION (2023-2024)



## Teaching Hours

ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY & SPECIAL EDUCATION (2023-2024)



## National Accreditation

- ✓ The University of Utah is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).
- ✓ In the College of Education, the Teacher Licensure Program is accredited by CAEP, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (UITE, SPED).
- ✓ The School Leadership Licensure Program is accredited by CAEP, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (ELP).
- ✓ The School Counseling Program is accredited by MPCAC, Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (ED PSYCH).
- ✓ The School Psychology Program is accredited by NASP, National Association of School Psychologists (ED PSYCH).

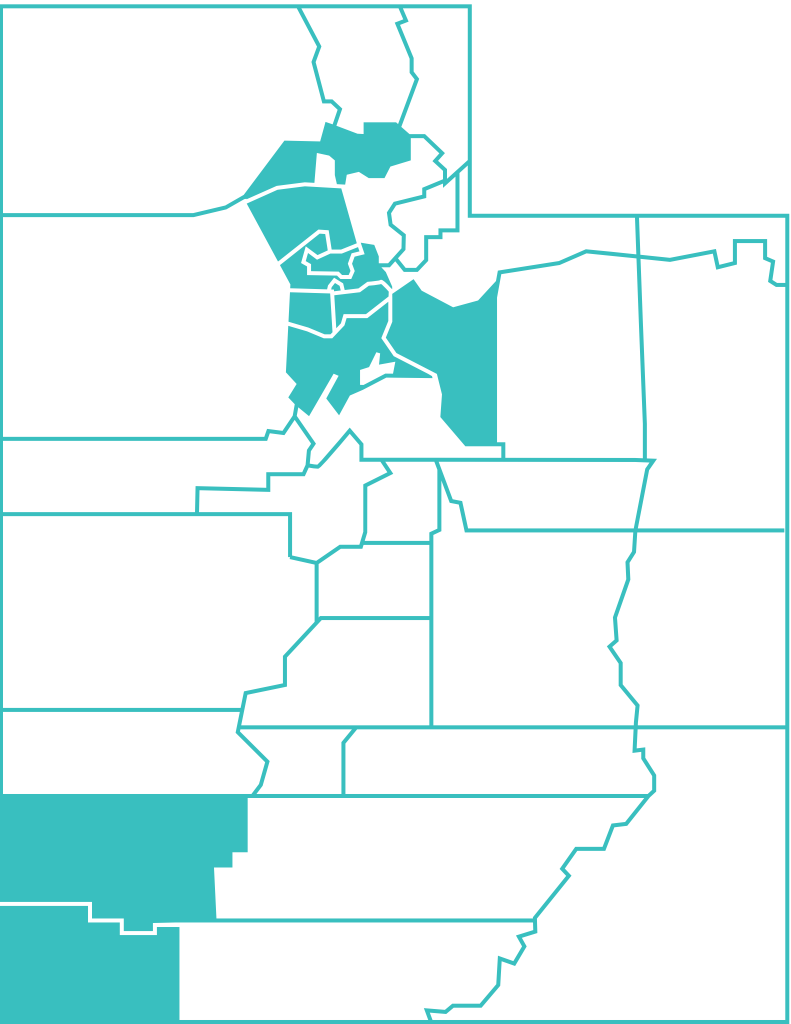
# Licensure Rates

INITIAL AND SECOND (2023-2024)




## Licensure Placements

INITIAL & SECOND LICENSURE COHORTS (2024-2025)



 **133**  
UTAH CLASSROOMS

 **29%**  
OF UTAH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

### 12 DISTRICTS REPRESENTED

1. Alpine District
2. Canyons School District
3. Davis School District
4. Granite School District
5. Iron County School District
6. Jordan School District
7. Murray District
8. Nebo School District
9. Salt Lake City School District
10. Wasatch School District
11. Washington County School District
12. Weber School District



# COMMUNITY IMPACT (CONT.)

## Reading Clinic (UURC)

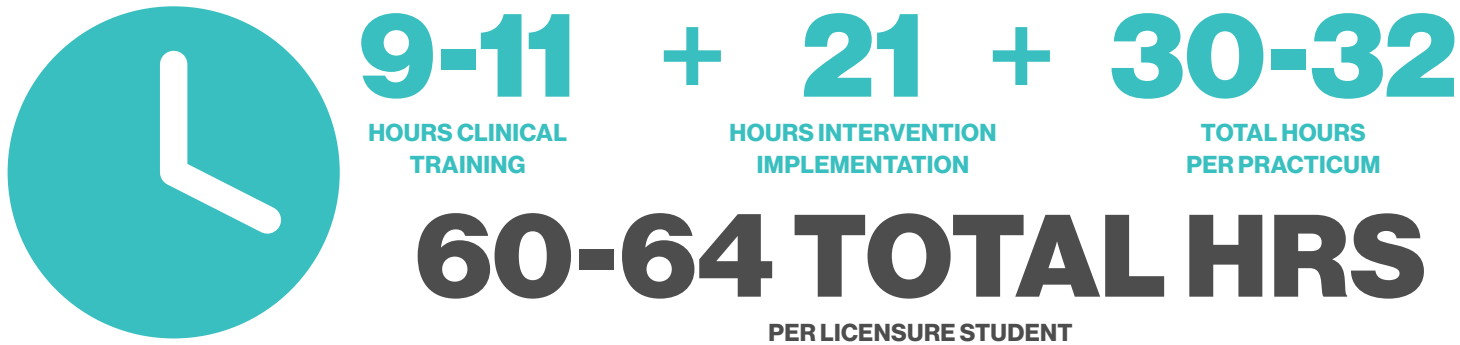
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH READING CLINIC PRACTICA

**100% of licensure students** across **3 programs** complete practica with the reading clinic. Practica experiences include opportunities to support learners, complete tutoring, and engage in reading support.

### 3 LICENSURE PROGRAMS



### TIME COMMITMENT PER PRACTICUM



## U-TTEC Lab

In 2024-2025, U-TTEC Lab delivered **17 trainings** to a total of **100** school providers, educators, and after-school personnel.

# COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

Community-engaged learning (CEL) connects academia with communities to cultivate positive societal impact. CEL is a cornerstone of the College of Education curriculum; all departments play an important part in designing and facilitating community-engaged learning experiences for our students.



## U of U 2025 Public Service Professor

Udita Gupta, Associate Professor (Career-line) in the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE) was selected as the 2025 University of Utah Public Service Professor.

This prestigious, university-level award will allow Gupta to pursue a public service project that aims to establish Community Engaged Teaching and Learning Labs (CETLL) for both mentor teachers and their student teachers in public schools in Utah. Through monthly professional development meetings, participants will engage with faculty and community members to integrate cultural knowledge into lesson planning, fostering meaningful connections and inclusive learning environments.



## University Neighborhood Partners (UNP)

The College of Education collaborates with University Neighborhood Partners in developing CEL experiences to bring together University and west side people and resources in reciprocal learning, action and benefit. UNP's goal is to build university-community partnerships focused on resident-identified issues and opportunities. Above all, UNP is a convener, bringing partners to the table to share ideas, identify common goals, and create their own initiatives. The organization is proactive in bringing to that table voices that have historically been unheard in the decision-making that affects their communities. It aims to support those partnerships by encouraging active communication, relationship building, resource sharing, and capacity-building.

CoEdu faculty member Miguel Trujillo, Assistant Professor (Clinical) of Education, Culture & Society, serves as the Associate Director of Community-engaged Scholarship and Evaluation for UNP.

# COMMUNITY-ENGAGED PARTNERSHIPS

## Math Symposium

City Academy Math Symposium, organized by the College of Education and City Academy, a secondary charter school in the heart of Salt Lake City, continues to showcase how mathematical inquiry and analysis can strengthen students’ identities. Each year, middle and high school students come to the College of Education to present on topics that matter to them most—all filtered through the lens of mathematics. Lead symposium organizers include José Francisco Gutiérrez, Ph.D., assistant professor of Education, Culture, & Society, and College of Education alum Roger Quinonez, chair of the City Academy Mathematics Department. Gutiérrez and Quinonez first conceptualized the symposium to foster connection and interdisciplinary learning among students and their families.

## Stegner Young Scholars’ Writing Institute

Renowned author and past resident of Salt Lake City Wallace Stegner once said, “We write to make sense of it all.” At the Stegner Young Scholars Writing Institute, teachers from secondary and collegiate education help burgeoning young writers develop the skills they need to make sense of the world around them. Originally founded and co-directed by College of Education Professor Emeritus Monica Ferguson, the institute creates opportunities for youth to find strength in their voices as writers. The Salt Lake City School District (SLCSD), the Granite School District (GSD), and the University of Utah College of Education (U College of Education) co-sponsor the Institute, which has traditionally taken place on the University of Utah campus annually over 5 days in June.

## Mestizo Arts and Activism Collective

The Mestizo Arts and Activism Collective (MAA) is a university-community partnership located in the Westside of Salt Lake City, Utah. Leticia Alvarez Gutiérrez, Associate Professor of Education, Culture & Society, serves as the group’s faculty advisor. She guides a group of high school students, undergraduate mentors, researchers, and artists working collaboratively to create positive change in the community. The collective works together to foster an engaging space for high school students to develop community-based leadership skills and create community-based research projects around issues that matter to members and their communities. Drawing from critical theory, students begin to unpack issues impacting their communities and respond by creating activist projects that address our communities’ concerns (e.g. through websites, documentaries, newspapers articles, murals, music, dance, etc.).

## Utah Prison Education Program (UPEP)

In 2016, Erin Castro co-founded the University of Utah Prison Education Project (UPEP) and in 2017 launched the Research Collaborative on Higher Education in Prison. UPEP is committed to social transformation, advancing educational justice through on-site higher education, empirical research, and advocacy. UPEP currently organizes, manages, and plans for-credit and non-credit bearing educational programs including classes, workshops, and guest lectures at the Utah State Correctional Facility.

### MATH SYMPOSIUM

**José Gutiérrez**  
*Assistant Professor of Education, Culture & Society (ECS)*  
**Faculty**

**Roger Quinonez**  
**Community Partner**

**City Academy**  
**Community Partner**

### STEGNER YOUNG WRITERS’ INSTITUTE

**Colli Lucas**  
*Associate Professor of Educational Psychology (EDPS)*  
**Faculty**

**Sheree Springer**  
*Assistant Professor in the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE)*  
**Faculty**

**Granite School District**  
**Community Partner**

**Salt Lake City School District**  
**Community Partner**

### MESTIZO ARTS AND ACTIVISM COLLECTIVE

**Leticia Alvarez Gutiérrez**  
*Associate Professor of Education, Culture & Society (ECS)*  
**Faculty**

**University Neighborhood Partners**  
**Community Partner**

**Mestizo Institute for Culture and Arts**  
**Community Partner**

## U-TTEC and USMHC

The College of Education’s Technology in Training, Education, and Consultation Lab (U-TTEC)—directed by Department of Educational Psychology Professor Aaron J. Fischer—is a leading-edge lab within the School Psychology program. U-TTEC houses the Utah School Mental Health Collaborative (USMHC), which supports the wellbeing of students and educators across the state, including underserved rural areas.

- Utah has one of the highest numbers of mental health cases among children and the highest prevalence of children not receiving mental health care. U-TTEC and USMHC work to:
- Advance and align school mental health infrastructures
  - Provide technical training to develop effective mental health systems
  - Facilitate multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) frameworks

- 2024-2025 Highlights
- Provided 17 trainings and technical assistance to ~100 school mental health providers across 11 school districts
  - Partnered with the Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI) to provide school-based psychiatric evaluations and consultations in 4 school districts
  - Received \$902,000 in funding for both direct therapeutic services and technical assistance and training

## U-FIT

U-FIT is a successful adapted physical fitness program for local youth with disabilities, directed by Ross-Cypcar and her team of passionate university volunteers. During 10 weeks of programming each fall and spring semester, U student volunteers pair up with participants and guide them through four dynamic activity areas at the HPER building on U campus. Looking ahead, Ross-Cypcar aims to expand program offerings to adults and continue her partnership with the team at Special Olympics Utah and Unified Fitness Club.

## Utah for All

Utah for All seeks to define the university’s vision for creating inclusive campus experiences tailored to young people with varying needs and abilities. In 2024, stakeholder groups including the University of Utah Office of the President, the College of Education, Salt Lake City School District, and Elizabeth Academy met to consider the ways in which a Utah experience would serve a range of young people in their pursuits of higher education. The outcome? A face-to-face experience during the summer of 2025 where 11 students, ages 18-27, and some family members from across the Wasatch Front, participated in experiences that provided access to people, places, and activities, at the U.

### UTAH PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM (UPEP)

**Erin Castro**  
*Associate Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy and Associate Dean for Community Engagement and Access in the Office of Undergraduate Studies*  
**Faculty**

**Utah Department of Corrections (UDC)**  
**Community Partner**

**Utah State Correctional Facility**  
**Community Partner**

**Brigham Young University, Southern Utah University, Utah Valley University**  
**Community Partners**

### U-TTEC AND USMHC

**Aaron Fischer**  
*Professor of Educational Psychology*  
**Faculty**

**Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI), School Districts across Utah**  
**Community Partners**

### U-FIT

**Samantha Ross-Cypcar**  
*Assistant Professor of Special Education*  
**Faculty**

**Utah school districts**  
**Community Partner**

**Special Olympics Utah**  
**Community Partner**

### UTAH FOR ALL

**Mary D. Burbank**  
*Associate Dean*  
**Faculty**

**Elizabeth Academy**  
**Community Partner**

**Salt Lake City School District**  
**Community Partner**

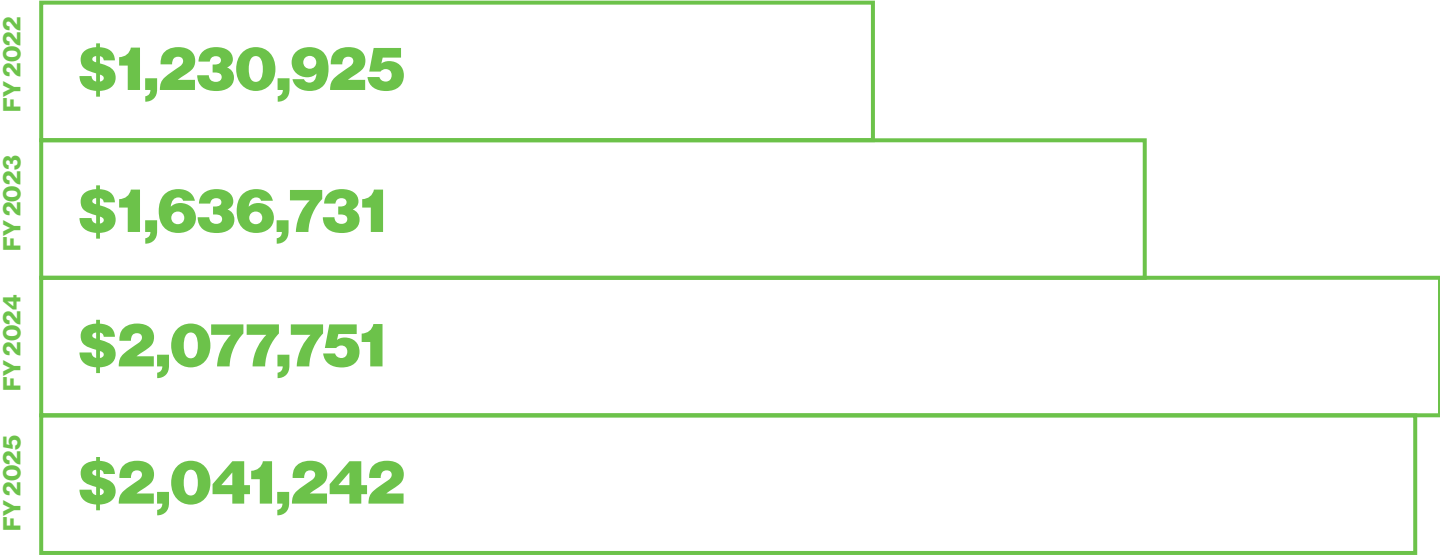
# ADVANCEMENT & FUNDRAISING

We aim to establish a sustainable funding model that enables the college to lead transformative changes in education both locally and nationally. Our strategic fundraising goals include: expanding access to quality teacher training, increasing access to higher education, advancing research, and addressing key community issues, such as mental health in schools. Philanthropic support allows us to offer scholarships, recruit renowned faculty, and launch innovative initiatives to address pressing educational challenges.

**\$682,200** from donors, representing **123 scholarships**, was awarded to **114 students** for the 2024-2025 academic year.

## Total Dollars Raised

BY FISCAL YEAR



**57**  
ENDOWED  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**12**  
ANNUALLY FUNDED  
SCHOLARSHIPS

## Giving Day (2025)

**\$22,352**  
DOLLARS RAISED

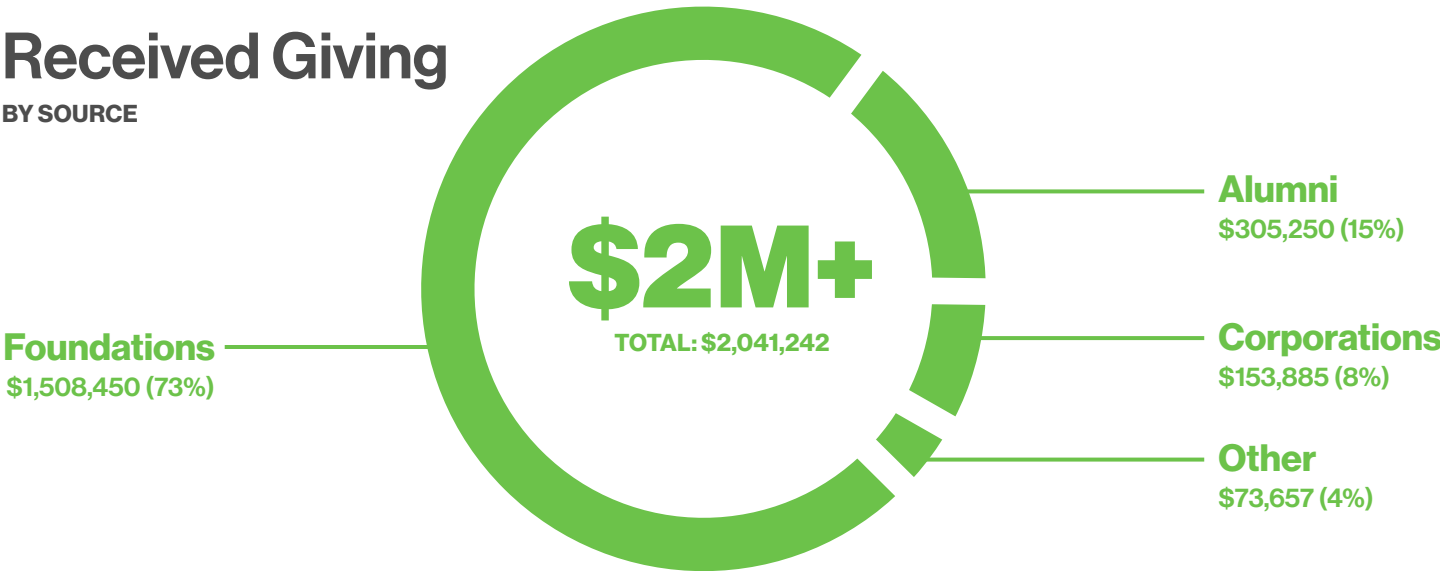
**110**  
DONORS

### GIVING DAY SUPPORTED

- University of Utah Reading Clinic
- The Student Scholarship Fund
- The Dean's Innovation Fund
- The Utah School Mental Health Collaborative

## Received Giving

BY SOURCE



1

### Endowed Professorship

THE DEE FAMILY ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

1

### Endowed Presidential Chair in Special Education

SORENSEN LEGACY FOUNDATION ENDOWED PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

**\$240,000**

Gift from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the Utah School Mental Health Collaborative to provide services in eight school districts for the 2024-25 academic year. These school districts spanned the state from Washington County and San Juan School Districts in southern Utah to the Logan School District in northern Utah.





# POSITIONED TO LEAD



## We are dedicated to innovation

We continually build knowledge and push the boundaries of what we know. To lead in academic innovation, we holistically integrate best practices and practical experiences across our educational offerings. We are positioned to lead at the forefront of educational transformation.



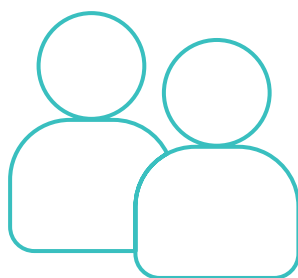
## We are committed to excellence

We don't just do, we do *well*. The pursuit of excellence orients all aspects of our work. This commitment to continuous improvement drives us to continually assess and enhance our programs, resources, practices and methodologies, providing the best education and support.



## We center collaboration

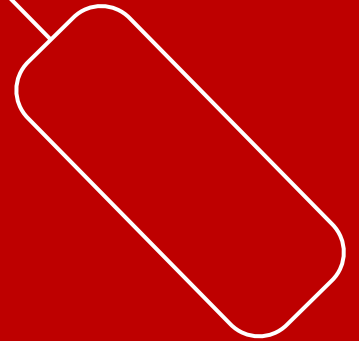
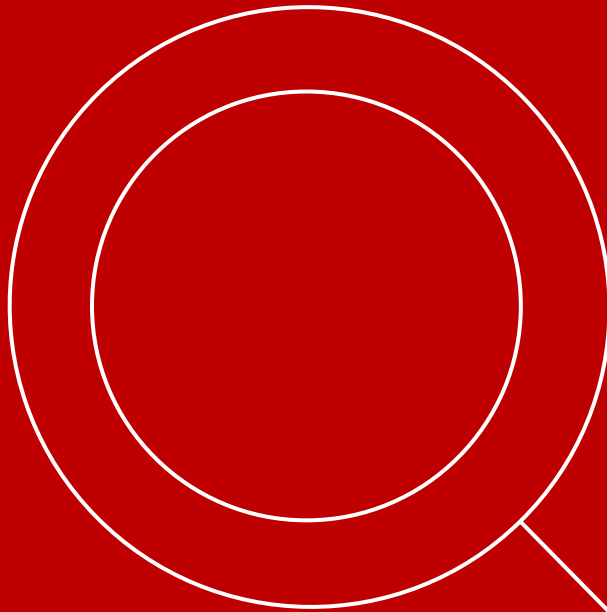
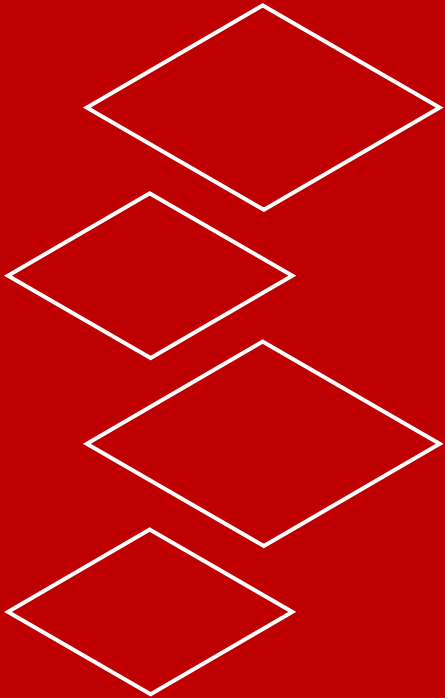
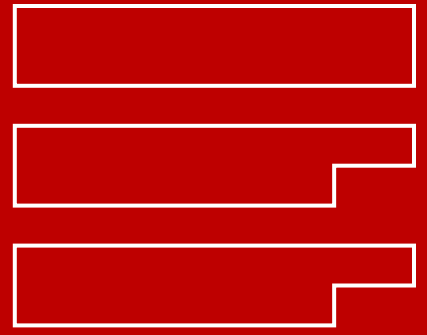
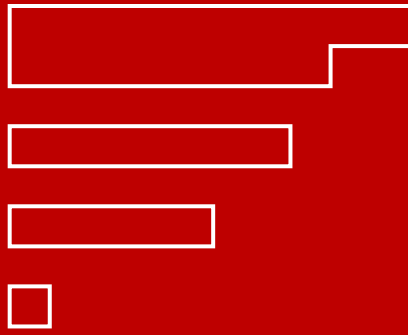
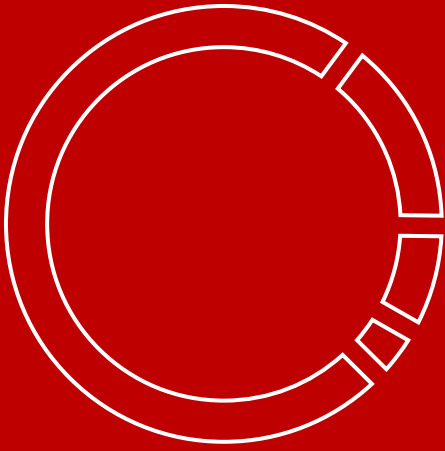
Collaboration is at the heart of all we do. We meet challenges through a lens of partnership, understanding that working together, with a chorus of perspectives, enhances our ability to drive significant societal impact. We consider our partnerships meaningful, reciprocal, and sustainable.



## We prioritize community engagement

In the College of Education, our work is constantly extending beyond the walls of the Sorenson Arts & Education Complex. By intentionally engaging with alumni, supporters, and educational systems, we create meaningful, relevant and lasting connections that in turn enhance our impact.





## Contact

-  [education.utah.edu](https://education.utah.edu)
-  [collegeofeducation@utah.edu](mailto:collegeofeducation@utah.edu)
-  801-581-8221
-  1721 Campus Center Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

## Connect

-  [@uofueducation](https://twitter.com/uofueducation), [@uofudean\\_ed](https://twitter.com/uofudean_ed)
-  [facebook.com/uofueducation](https://facebook.com/uofueducation)
-  [linkedin.com/school/uofueducation](https://linkedin.com/school/uofueducation)

