

STRATEGIC PLAN | 2024

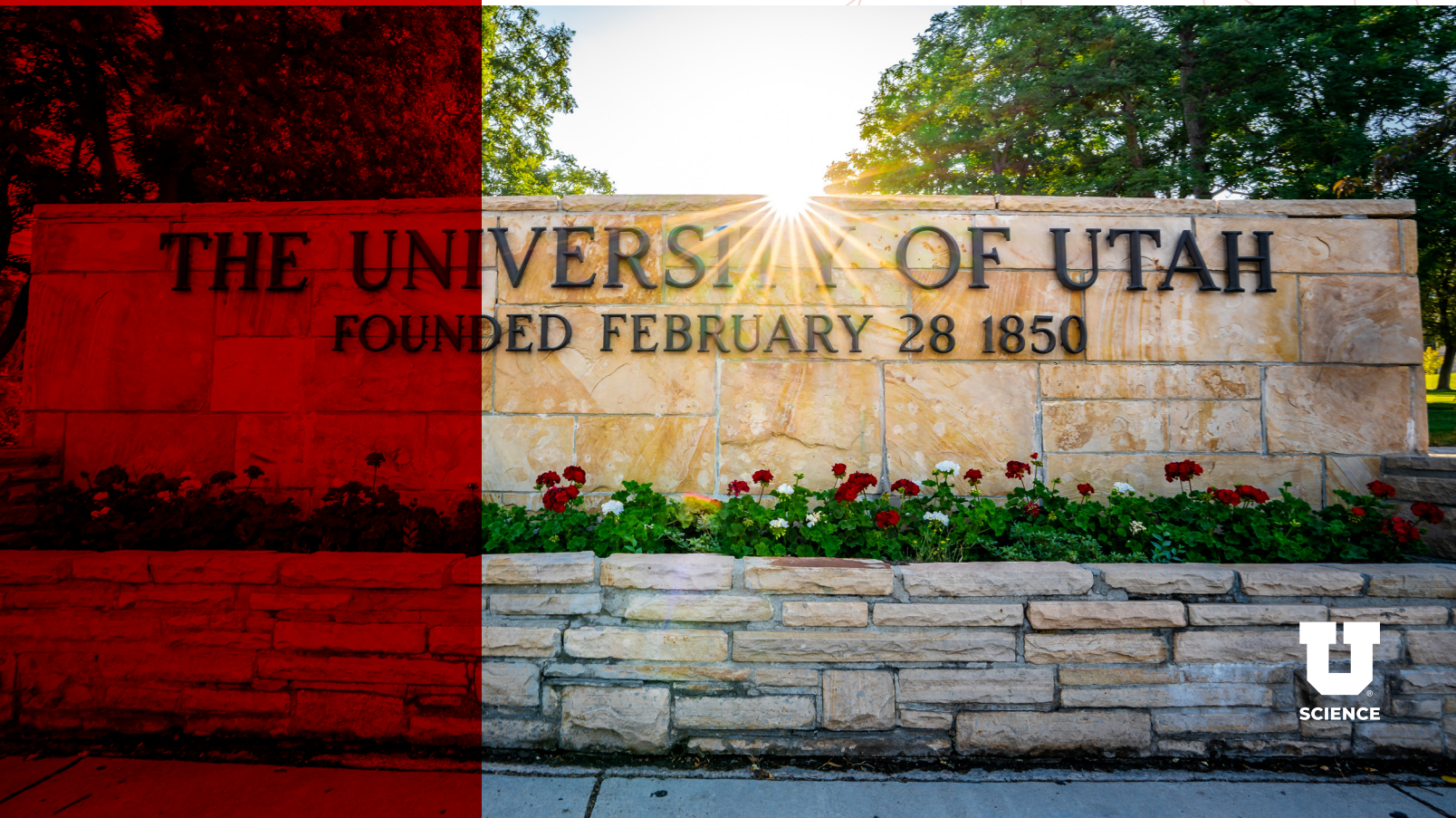
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE



College of Science
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

COLLEGE VISION

The College of Science at the University of Utah advances the frontiers of research and innovation in science, mathematics, and engineering. We educate and mentor the next generation of STEM leaders, and work together to develop solutions for the economic, environmental, and societal challenges of our changing world.





2023 - 2024

STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE

June 2023

Strategic Planning process begins

August - November 2023

Survey, focus groups, and individual meetings to identify priorities and generate ideas

January - March 2024

Strategic Plan drafted; Feedback solicited in focus groups

March - April 2024

Strategic Plan updated; Presented to faculty and staff for comment

April 2024

Strategic Plan presented to College Council

PRINCIPLES



MAINTAINING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL WHO LEARN AND WORK IN THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE.

Providing students with a world-class education and transformative experiences that prepare them for future STEM careers.



Driving discovery and innovation through our basic and applied science, engineering, and mathematics research.



Changing lives, policy, and practice through the societal impact of our work.



Engaging communities to share new developments and opportunities in STEM.



Advancing sustainability, through research, education, and practice.



Promoting safety and wellness in our laboratories, classrooms, and beyond.





EDUCATION

Continually update and modernize undergraduate and graduate curricula, working with internal and external stakeholders and accrediting bodies, as relevant.



- Prioritize improvements for gateway and other critical content courses across the college, including proactively expanding options for times and modalities (e.g. online-only, asynchronous options) for high-enrollment courses and continued improvements in peer learning support through the Learning Assistant (LA) Program.



- Expand modular, project-based learning infrastructure to adapt nimbly to the changing needs of external stakeholders. Use this infrastructure, complemented by hands-on, immersive, and place-based course offerings, to scale experiential learning opportunities through programs such as the Science Research Initiative (SRI) and ACCESS.



- Invest in course offerings and experiences to support students in their academic success, wellness, and career preparation, incorporating professional skills, scientific ethics training, and capstone projects.



- Develop new technology-driven pedagogy to improve learning outcomes.



- Expand professional masters offerings and microcredentials, delivered in flexible modalities, to align with market demand and career opportunities.

INITIATIVES



Implement a Proactive Advising model, including data-driven student support and cohesive student services such as career coaching and access to embedded mental health resources, to support student retention, completion, and career placement.



Program designated resource spaces accessible to all students across the college for services such as advising and career coaching, as well as expanded tutoring programs.



Collaborate with university organizations and experts within the college to support awareness of math- and science-specific instructional best practices. Facilitate and incentivize their implementation.



INITIATIVES

RESEARCH



Prioritize college support for research infrastructure, including comprehensive pre-award and research development support at the college level.



Promote research and innovation in strategic areas, including those related to new and urgent local, national, and global priorities.



Improve seed funding program(s) based on outcomes data from previous award cycles and investigator needs.



Leverage institution-wide initiatives and opportunities through collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Research.



Evaluate and evolve our research training programs, including those for graduate students and postdocs, to address sustainability of funding and to advance research and educational goals.



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INITIATIVES



Establish a College Advisory Board consisting of industry leaders and other key external stakeholders to provide guidance on strategic initiatives and opportunities.



Improve industry connections both locally and nationally by cultivating and maintaining relationships to enhance career opportunities for graduates and to identify opportunities for mutually beneficial collaborations.



Strengthen connections with alumni and philanthropic partners through targeted communications and events, including working with the University of Utah Alumni Office to partner on outreach initiatives, activities, special events, and alumni chapters.



Prioritize engaging communities in all corners of Utah through outreach and educational programming.

INITIATIVES

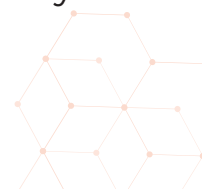


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Identify and implement a unified, data-driven outreach and recruitment strategy for Utah and nationwide, including leveraging and improving connections to Utah high schools through the Utah Science and Engineering Fair, recruitment experiences, and community outreach.



Serve as a statewide resource for K-12 educators to improve awareness of opportunities and pathways to pursue post-secondary STEM studies.



INITIATIVES



Cultivate scientific leaders and support their development by providing pathways and growth opportunities.



Provide onboarding for all new tenure-line and career-line faculty in the college.



Celebrate tenure and promotion and improve faculty support offered by the Dean's Office, including new targeted programming for faculty career stage transitions.



Celebrate the accomplishments of career line lecture and research faculty and provide opportunities for continued professional development.



INITIATIVES



Work with unit leaders to improve clarity of review processes and contract terms for career-line faculty.



Promote student organizations that build community and enhance belonging.



Establish and support professional communities across the college, and where appropriate, across the U of U campus.



Successfully establish a career ladder progression for all staff employees, aligning with U of U Human Resources policy.





INITIATIVES



Continually update and advance college-wide and unit-level space plans.



Hold annual leadership retreats for academic leaders within the college to onboard new leaders, support those continuing in their roles, and coordinate strategic goals and priorities for each academic year.



Optimize usage plans for student gathering, study, and event spaces with a focus on increasing belonging, community, and wellness.



INITIATIVES



OPERATIONS

Update college-level and unit specific operational plans that accommodate projected enrollment growth while acknowledging the changing landscape of the college-aged population.



Advance sustainability through our actions and operations.



Continue to make safety for students, staff, and faculty in our labs and working environments the highest priority by investing in building and maintaining relationships across campus, facilities improvements, and infrastructure to support the implementation of best practices.



ASSESSMENT

Progress on the Strategic Plan will be monitored through a number of predefined metrics related to student success and outcomes, research productivity and innovation, and impact of our programming.

It will be communicated clearly to stakeholders through a variety of channels, including a dedicated page of the College of Science website and presentations at College Council meetings and annual town halls.





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