



Utah Valley University | January 26, 2023 State of the University

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Transcript

Transcript

0:08

foreign

0:21

[Music]

0:42

[Music]

0:49

thank you [Music]

0:59

[Music]

1:09

foreign [Music]

1:27

[Music]

1:42

[Music] foreign [Music]

2:08

[Music]

2:17

[Music]

2:24

foreign [Music]

2:45

[Music]

3:09

thank you [Music]

3:49

thank you [Music]

4:11

thank you foreign

4:18

[Applause] [Music]

4:36

[Applause] [Music]

4:41

false

4:52

thank you [Music]

5:00

[Music]

5:08

[Music]

5:18

foreign

5:24

[Music] [Applause] [Music]

5:58

thank you

6:12

[Music]

6:24

foreign [Music]

6:46

[Music]

7:04

[Music]

7:10

falling down to me too quiet so you don't need to I thought I'd make it out

7:16

alive [Music]

7:35

[Music]

7:43
I'm fat
7:51
[Music]
8:00
[Music]
8:09
me [Music]
8:25
me [Music]
8:51
soon baby [Music]
9:05
the stories [Music]
10:34
um
10:44
slowly
10:52
[Music]
11:24
thank you [Music]
11:54
[Music]
12:17
thank you
12:23
[Music]
12:33
foreign [Music]
13:12
[Music]
13:21
[Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause]
13:30
[Music] thank you
13:36
foreign [Music]
14:17
[Applause] [Music]
14:33
[Music]
14:45
[Music]
14:51
foreign [Music]

15:01

and Scott have pledged 25 million dollars

15:11

[Music]

15:17

look I'm paying for UVU

15:25

[Music]

15:33

[Music] [Applause] [Music]

15:42

what a night for the Wolverines [Applause]

15:54

all right well good afternoon everybody thank you all for coming I want to invite you all to take your seats and

16:00

make room for extra guests uh we are expecting a full house today so if you see some empty seats just come on uh

16:06

close to the front uh well welcome to Utah Valley University's 2023 state of

16:11

the University address my name is Lexi Soto I am the current student body president and we have the amazing

16:16

opportunity to hear from our awesome president taminas today thank you

16:23

um basically just today we're going to go over you've used awesome accomplishments and hear about future plans for success

16:29

success is actually a language our president is a very well versed in uh she was appointed the seventh President

16:35

of Utah Valley University in 2018 born in a farming Village in the Philippines Providence of Iloilo when she's only two

16:42

years old she moved to the city slums of Iloilo with her family and her siblings because her parents were in search of

16:48

better educational opportunities her search of Education led her to the United States where she graduated sonkom

16:55

laude now I'll be honest I had to look that word up while I was memorizing president's resume it's basically Latin

17:01

for she was the best student to ever exist as she got her bachelor's degree

17:07

um in international relations and Russian literature from BYU don't worry

17:12

you're such an awesome President we forgave you for that one and also got her master's degree from

17:18

Harvard in Soviet studies and got her PhD from MIT in political science

17:25

before UVU president was an executive at Microsoft where she led corporate

17:30

external and legal Affairs in Southeast Asia and also as a vice dean of research at

17:36

the Lee Khan youth School of Public Policy the National University of Singapore she also worked in philanthropy and ventral capital in New

17:43

York City and is now a perm a permanent member of the Council of foreign

17:49

relations she's even an author of Russian nationalism since 1856 the ideology and

17:55

making of foreign relations and other many Publications her and her husband Jeff have three awesome kids and if she

18:00

ever has any free time she is always running dancing and traveling so join me

18:06

in giving a warm welcome to president astrotamines

18:12

foreign

18:17

I can't believe she memorized my bio we should just make her in Latin summa

18:23

laude right now so thank you all for being here it's

18:29

wonderful to see the faces of colleagues friends uh donors supporters advisors

18:34

trustees I am so grateful that you've chosen to spend a little bit of your time today to be with us here at UVU I

18:42

also want to thank all of my colleagues who made today possible including the luncheon earlier today with our all

18:48

Advisory board members so would you just give a quick Round of Applause to

18:53

everybody here at UVU who made today possible

18:58

yes special thank you to audio visual and marketing and Communications and welcome

19:05

to the people who've joined us virtually today we had an awesome 2022. do you

19:11

remember where you were on December 7 2022 do you remember

19:17

I remember where I was and I had exactly two of these in my hands in a sea of

19:23

Thirteen thousand cougar fans and that was a lot of fun two years in a row you

19:28

know an absolutely free-flowing amount of of dopamine that evening and and I

19:34

want to begin with this because I want to set the tone this is Utah Valley University we're green we are in awe of

19:42

what we have we're in awe of life and opportunities and we celebrate and we're not afraid we're not afraid to compete

19:48

we're not afraid to do great things for ourselves and the people who depend on

19:55

us um it's always about people when I first started the job and and people ask would

20:01

ask me what keeps you awake at night and my answer was always people it's also the thing that keeps me up and going

20:07

because it's also the people who do the greatest things and on this slide you'll see a lot of new leaders at UVU from a new vice

20:15

president Dean's new associate vice presidents but this is not only the level of leadership that matters I think

20:22

what is really critical at UVU is that each of us whatever our positions are we

20:27

take our opportunities and and responsibilities seriously and we serve but I am so grateful for the people that

20:35

I get to work with every single day here at UVU thank you for choosing UVU

20:41

talking about great people you may have heard the sad news could you could you could we cry for just 10 seconds

20:48

take out your handkerchief let let the morning begin because

20:54

um Linda Macon announced her retirement and much as you know I wanted to hang on

20:59

to her skirts and say stay Linda stay and there's that Meme we had in cabinet

21:04

listen Linda listen uh 42 years at Utah Valley University certainly a big loss

21:11

to us but we have to respect Linda's Journey it is with great gratitude that
21:17
we see Linda off and in my first semester as president I knew Linda was a
21:22
Class Act because you know I came as Edna modes darling and there's Linda
21:31
and we had such a good time and that was just the second month of my presidency so so Linda
you're here we we will have
21:38
many more opportunities to celebrate Linda she has made such a huge difference in this
institution and we
21:45
can't kid ourselves the story of UVU is is the story of Linda
21:50
we are living in very uncertain and rather difficult and unpredictable times in higher education
21:58
um these statistics I've shown this many times four million fewer students in 2022 than there
were in 20 2012. and the
22:06
United States is about to hit a certain cliff in demographics in 2027 where
22:11
College age enrollment is predicted to go down even more this predates covid
22:17
and the impact of covet probably will exacerbate this Dynamic 579 institutions
22:22
have closed both public and private since 2017 and fewer than a third of adults say that their
college degree was
22:31
worth the cost I call this the era of devaluation of higher education and it's
22:36
the very opposite of what happened after World War II when America was just on
22:42
the cusp of taking off and higher ed was everything everybody wanted to go to college
22:47
as if that wasn't enough we are also living at a time when everybody wants to eat our lunch I'm
like why can't they
22:54
leave us alone why can't Google stop grow with Google uh you know they're offering six-month
certifications at low
23:01
cost 39 a month and they're they're saying we will treat this as the
23:06
equivalent of a bachelor's degree so you have this new entrance their their tech companies and
they're disrupting
23:12
everything we're doing and have you all heard or used chat GPT

23:18

next time you need a romantic marriage proposal just give it a prompt chat GPT write me a marriage proposal in

23:26

the style of Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice actually Darcy's first proposal was

23:33

horrible so don't use that one it's the second proposal that that's much better so we are being disrupted left and right

23:40

and and what are we to do I truly think of it as a Brave New World

23:46

and it comes with a dark side and the light side you know on the bright side there are just amazing opportunities so

23:51

if you think of Professor Michael sandel at Harvard his course on Justice if you enrolled at Harvard you'd have to pay a

23:58

lot of money for your tuition but now his course of justice has been watched the whole course by over three and a

24:04

half million people around the world and the first uh uh the first segment there

24:10

on Justice first episode when is murder moral

24:16

watch by 35 million people so ethics Philosophy from one of the best Minds in

24:21

the world you've got that and our very own Professor Greg Jackson if you haven't listened to history that doesn't

24:27

suck he now has 600 000 regular listeners and

24:33

16 million total downloads from around the world 8 million just in the past

24:38

year so this is what technology does slow slow slow slow that it takes off and that's what we can do with education

24:44

that's what's happening the the the the things that are within reach are truly truly remarkable

24:51

so I see disruption as a university president I see it as opportunity I see

24:57

it as nothing to fear I mean you should get we should get a little nervous but not too nervous we should be a little afraid but not too afraid we should see

25:04

it as an opportunity and I think if you've lived enough decades as I have

25:09

if there are any young students this might not be so obvious yet but you know you live through those ups and downs and

25:15

disruption and as long as you're not afraid and you see the resources that you have it actually becomes a great

25:21

opportunity for you this whole change uh setting in higher

25:26

education is an opportunity for UVU because our DNA carries exactly those

25:32

characteristics that make us strong from our founding in 1941 we have been

25:37

focused on the workforce we've been focused on people on concrete people who

25:43

want to do concrete things and we've been very focused on including

25:48

there are Scholars today studying the impact of regional public institutions that's us so you think of UVU or Utah

25:56

Tech the former Dixie State or Weber State we are Regional institutions and if you see that quote that what we do is

26:03

we help access we help upward Mobility we make education more accessible to all

26:10

and we help well-being Regional and National well-being I think what we do

26:17

really is kind of where the rubber hits the road um another strength I think for UVU

26:23

right now that makes me very bullish about the future is that we are very sharp and clear on our vision we have

26:30

embraced this mission that we are we are a community college embedded in a teaching University and that model I

26:38

think is very strong for the 21st century because you could scale it and your associate degree seeking students

26:45

can get their bachelor's degrees without having to navigate an entirely different

26:50

institution different processes different bureaucracies if we did everything that we say we're

26:56

gonna do if you do it all correctly the vision happens and and look at the

27:02

vision and this slide that we will be we will be students First Choice period

27:07

period we will be students first choice because if you want to go to Harvard you could get prepared for that here if you

27:14

want a certificate that's all you want you could do it here at UVU I mentioned the scorecard on this slide because it's

27:20

important that we measure what we do that we have metrics and those are not perfect you iterate those but we are

27:26

honest enough with ourselves that we're looking at the things that we are doing I'm also bullish because for four almost

27:34

four and a half years now I think that the values we have articulated have served us very well we are open

27:40

admission we accept all students here so we have to work and live with exceptional care we have to be

27:46

exceptionally accountable for our time and resources and we will we we are

27:51

achieving and we will continue to achieve exceptional results um I want to spend the rest of my state

27:58

of the University today talking about uvu's action commitments and these are three words include engage and Achieve

28:05

these three words align with our values our vision and Mission so even though there's sort of a lot of a salad words

28:12

they all re they all Echo one another so the first thing we measure ourselves on

28:17

is include and you see that we are still very successful in terms of scaling the

28:24

inclusion of students when you see enrollment going down in the rest of the country Utah is an exception to that our

28:31

head count continues to grow and I want to emphasize that our student body is unique 82 percent work while going to

28:39

school 38 percent are first generation first in their families to seek a college degree and 19 are students of

28:47

color nearly 30 percent are 25 years and older it's really an amazing and a

28:53

fascinating group of students to work with and you'll notice that a third of the bachelor's degrees in in this

29:00

University are also in science technology engineering and math this is a slide that we are very proud of that

29:07

we have crossed that divide in opening the doors of higher education to the

29:12

people of color in our service region so we are at 19 students of color today when you go look more deeply into this a

29:20

good case studies our Latino initiative which started in 2007 Kyle Reyes I

29:25

believe started this and if you look at that as a Latino enrollment and Latino

29:31

attainment that is truly remarkable we aspire to be a Hispanic serving

29:37

institution as our Hispanic enrollment grows and you see the 400 percent in

29:42

enrollment followed by over a thousand percent increase in completion in graduation and the specialized efforts

29:50

like Latino scientists of Tomorrow Latino Business Leaders of Tomorrow and so on that is making a big difference

29:58

um we welcome the brightest students here the brightest students 4.0 gpas uh

30:05

very high act and SAT scores and we give them very challenging opportunities and

30:11

we support them and I know our faculty member in charge of this is on sabbatical Kate McPherson this year I

30:18

think it's Leslie Simon who is leading honors program but you can come to UVU and you can go to any of the top

30:24

graduate schools in the country in the UK in Ireland we do that every year

30:31

we also welcome those who are seeking Career and Technical education CTE and

30:38

the largest uh bar in this graph that you see that represents UVU Utah Tech

30:44

University and Weber State University you see how powerful we are in delivering the Career and Technical

30:50

education that the state of Utah needs I also want to point out that UVU as a

30:56

dual Mission institution both community college and university it is so important that we continue to support

31:02

students who are seeking an associate's degree and again here I think the growth has been incredible and that shows that

31:10

we are true to our mission we are delivering our mission in terms of inclusion we have a clear

31:15
appreciation for neurodiversity um I don't know if Jane Carlson is here

31:21

but our Center for Autism is making a huge difference in this community not

31:26

only for students on the Spectrum who want to go ahead and pursue a degree and they need special support Wolverines

31:33

elevated we have them here but we provide a lot of support to people on

31:38

the Spectrum in transition as well as the family supporting them our Outreach impacts thousands of people in our

31:46

community we have many success centers and I'm pleased to report that all of these are

31:53

working well we continue to ask for data every year my cabinet knows that I am

31:59

not a fan of anyone feeling sorry for me or for UVU or feeling sorry for underrepresented populations or

32:06

marginalized people feeling sorry is the tip of the iceberg that is the beginning the nuns who

32:12

educated me in the Philippines when I was in the slump they certainly felt very sorry for me and then the next day

32:18

they taught me how to read teaching me how to read and understand the difference between a 0 and 100 was a

32:26

miracle and so that's what we need here at UVU whichever group of people we're trying to help is to use our resources

32:32

to help them succeed we have our veteran Success Center first generation Success

32:37

Center our Multicultural student services everybody working hard to support our students and I'm just

32:43

highlighting here our women's Success Center because they do such a great job every year and I believe seven I believe

32:49

the retention rate for women who Avail of programming in the women's Success

32:55

Center that they retain at 17 Rachel is nodding her head 17 percent higher and
33:01
the scholarships that they raise at this single luncheon every year is is a remarkable achievement
in terms of
33:07
engage our second action commitment to engage engage means that we teach our
33:13
students in an engaging way and and it also means we engage with industry in
33:18
the community because we are not in an ivory power or in a bubble one of the
33:23
things that's very important to my presidency is project-based learning that's why we created the
UVU innovation
33:30
academy one of the theories that I have is when it's an open is when you run an open
33:36
admission institution and you have people at such varying levels of preparation aptitude you
know passion
33:43
you have to kind of communicate with them where they are and this is we do this through
project-based learning one
33:50
of the important initiatives is called e2i excellence and Innovation and our
33:56
students work on projects they have clients I'm just putting two examples here one is box heads
which is a new way
34:04
to be a fan so you buy a little box that's up there and it has a face of your favorite sports athlete
and then
34:11
they gave you statistics in in real time and so our students get to work with rev
34:16
road which is an incubator in Provo another project that our students are working on is paramify
and this one is a
34:22
little more top secret but it has to do with automation support for government
34:27
documentation of security procedures so our students
34:33
um they basically learned to interact to plan to manage a project to learn the
34:38
culture of work to show up to fail to admit you failed and then to pick up where you left off and
try again another
34:46
another thing that we are doing uh that's Project based related
34:51

is accelerate this is our summer bridge program that targets incoming freshmen

34:58

and at-risk incoming sophomores so you see that we have just the past summer

35:04

over 200 students have taken advantage of these programs and we are able to retain them at a better rate because we

35:12

are speaking to their passion and their own capacity to do once you help somebody know that they can do something

35:19

related to something interesting and that they are passionate about it makes higher education come alive it makes

35:26

higher education so relevant and exciting um again in our Latino initiative we

35:33

were selected last year by Dominion Energy and I want to thank Dean Danny horns who's here and very much a leader

35:39

of this we are leading six other universities and all of the Outreach that I mentioned earlier Latino

35:45

scientists of tomorrow and so on and this is a three-year program where we

35:50

will be basically educating and training and mentoring Latino leaders and we are

35:57

very proud of this as a result of what we're doing here we were the only University given an award by the

36:03

Hispanic Association of colleges and universities in the past year and you see calories by the way a UVU cavalryas

36:11

has to be in every presentation that that's that's uh that's a rule that I just learned about this year and so so

36:19

there he is I've done the requisite thing I'm I'm good

36:26

um in terms of engaging we also have to think about the Next Generation and we continue to power up UVU prep this is a

36:33

three summer commitment three years for where for six weeks Rising seventh eighth and ninth graders come to UVU and

36:41

they listen to lectures about science they have rocket battles you know they have no rocket rocket bottle contests

36:49

let me say that properly and then they have field trips every Friday my son was

36:55

one of them this Summer he had such a wonderful time and then they they they talk to people like me who've had

37:01

careers in Tech so we could tell them what it's like and get them excited

37:06

um our Outreach to the younger grades is in part successful because of a very strong partnership called The k-16

37:13

Alliance where we work with about six seven K-12 superintendents as well as

37:19

President Clay Christensen of Mountainland Technical College we now have 13 14 articulations with mtech that

37:27

basically means that when someone takes classes at the technical college they can seamlessly transfer to an academic

37:35

and degree program at Utah Valley University we we reach out to far beyond well not

37:42

just Utah but the world you see former Governor Huntsman there uh this was at our China Challenge Summit in June 2022

37:50

attended by a thousand two hundred people and was as good as any conference

37:55

that Washington DC or New York would put together on China given the caliber of the participants we had 121 media

38:03

mentions of this conference around the world reaching approximately 60 million

38:08

people and that's Utah Valley University in the middle there Utah Valley Chamber Curtis Blair he's here this is the

38:16

prosperity and growth Summit that we sponsor we co-sponsor every year and we

38:22

had about 300 people come and it was great to do this in person since we are post covid and this is sort of what we

38:30

hope to be a flagship event every year there will be one million people more in

38:36

Utah County and that is a great blessing and a great curse if we're not careful and so getting the great minds and the

38:44

leader leaders and decision makers and young people our very own Lexi Soto was a star of this conference because she

38:51

talked about higher education but this is part of a University's responsibilities to be a Brain Trust and

38:58

convene people to think about our greatest challenges and opportunities as a community on the far right that is a

39:05

slide of the sdg sustainable development goals the first academic conference on

39:10

the United Nations sustainable development goals happened here in Utah Valley University

thank you to Dr

39:17

baldomero Lago and Dr Brown for their leadership we had about 1300 participants from all around the world I

39:24

see this as the world coming to UVU and UVU going out to the world about 76

39:30

papers were written they now live permanently online are some of the best thinking on the sustainable development

39:36

goals we also as you know every year we do presidential lectures to expose our students to ideas to expose our students

39:44

to Excellence and we had David Pogue here he's a tech expert it's sort of you know tech for idiots and what's the

39:51

biggest thing happening there he's a five-time Emmy Award winner and the author or co-author of about a hundred

39:57

books and then in the second half of the year we had Dr Eleazar Edelman who's a professor at MIT as well as a professor

40:05

at Harvard Medical School he runs the biomedical engineering center at the

40:12

Harvard MIT biomedical engineering center and the MIT Institute for mechanical engineering medical

40:18

engineering and Science and he talked about medicine technology engineering

40:23

and translation how do things go from concept to invention bits and pieces

40:28

here and there to finally delivering a therapeutic at the bedside of a patient and and the the bad news is it sometimes

40:37

it can take hundreds of years but hopefully we're getting better and better at that at connecting the dots so

40:42

that Therapeutics could be delivered more quickly to the people who need them um for engagement our Center for

40:49

constitutional studies is great at that we have the Civic um ctli

40:55

Civic thought thank you Justin Jones Civic thought and Leadership initiative

41:02

funded by the legislature we are training hundreds of teachers and reaching I believe tens of thousands of

41:08

students we've also done a survey on the Civic knowledge of utahns and we did not

41:14

really get a passing grade for the most part but but you know understanding is the beginning of wisdom once you

41:20

understand what your problem is we can teach and train the picture of the two students there that's a they were at

41:27

Oxford University two UVU students at one of the foremost conferences on

41:34

the constitution on this planet and two UVU students representing they're part

41:39

of the quill project which is partnered with Oxford University they talked about their original research digging up every

41:46

memo every news article minutes of meetings related to the 13th 14th and

41:53

15th amendments which basically ended slavery gave citizenship to blacks and

41:59

gave blacks the right to vote I couldn't have been prouder and the senior Scholars who were there told me the best

42:05

presentations because it was so full of detail and passion as they dug up these

42:10

documents how these things made them feel the letters of black people the documents so I'm so proud of them these

42:17

are the examples of engaged learning that I think are amazing at this University

42:24

the center for social impact here at UVU led by summer Valentin professor John

42:30

Westover you can just look at the numbers but this year they were given the NASPA Award of Excellence NASPA is

42:37

the association of student affairs professionals so this is all Service Learning integrated in courses as well

42:44

as in real projects and the more the students do this the higher they uh the

42:50

likelihood that they will complete their degrees our Arts of course are flourishing I was just talking to Karen

42:56

Smith earlier about missing Jessica Voss last night the voice of alphaba in in

43:02

Wicked but whether you're going to hear our student choirs or seeing our student dancers it's just amazing what happens

43:10

at the Noida Center for the Performing Arts I am a big believer that we should all be engaged in this there's something

43:16

about the Arts that feed the spirit and help us to discover and nurture the

43:23

better side of our natures and so I'm so proud of what we are doing in the Arts

43:28

um finally let me talk about our last action commitment which is to achieve to actually get results that are measured

43:34

out there in the real world and on which our funding um depends in large part uh so results

43:41

let me just play this video of Neha Sohail one of our students

43:53

[Music]

44:00

[Music]

44:10

foreign got into a medical school I think I was

44:17

one of the very first people she texted because I had written a letter of recommendation for her I had noticed her

44:23

in basketball and noticed that her family uh who's from uh who's from

44:28

Pakistan would come and show up so I'd talk to her parents and she had injuries and you know so many things that she had

44:34

to overcome and this is amazing this is really at the end of the day this is what achieve means is that we impact the

44:42

student whose life unfolds now in a very different way because they're able to see that path towards the dreams that

44:49

they've been dreaming all along this just in just really this morning look at our retention rate we are now at 68 this

44:58

is very very good can we just give this a round of applause

45:08

and you will see these next numbers are remarkable the number of graduates from

45:14

UVU 6410 in 2020 8729 in 2021 11

45:22

000 let me just go back to that 11 743 in 2022 and we did this with covet

45:29

this is the University that never stopped and we even did commencement on the parking lots parents were so

45:36

grateful for that because they needed a ritual they needed something to celebrate that moment and we managed it

45:42

without a covet Breakout by having cars drive through our completion measure remember we are

45:50

open admission and we are open admission your classrooms are very complex because students are at all different levels of

45:55

preparation this is an excellent number right here this is an iPad's number it's

46:01

a federal number that measures all students all degrees over an eight-year

46:06

period our goal is to be at 45 percent by 2025 and that will be a stellar

46:13

achievement for UVU above and beyond the completion numbers completion numbers

46:18

are great if you're Harvard because you accept five percent of the five percent you charge them 65 000 a year and what I

46:26

like to say is your completion better be 95 percent we are the exact opposite for

46:31

that and hitting this number of 45 is so exciting for me um but more important you go beyond that

46:37

and you look at what UVU is achieving in terms of four and five star job

46:43

credentialing in the state of Utah those jobs are classified by the Department of Workforce Services we have overtaken

46:50

everyone except the University of Utah and as a value proposition the cost of a

46:56

full-time equivalent UVU is about four thousand dollars less than the cost of a full-time equivalent in the state of

47:03

Utah our students continue to compete and they continue to achieve so every

47:09

financial planning national competition in this country is won by UVU students so kudos to our financial planning

47:16

faculty and students so we do well we do well with money and

47:24

we have our money Success Center at the Woodbury School of Business where any citizen of our area could come for

47:29

counseling for financial counseling we do money we also do cooking American culinary Federation on the lower left

47:37

there with our top with our students winning the top prize in in Suites and

47:43

savory and I think some of us sampled that earlier this was a very fancy French names to what they do but you

47:50

know I won't say them today our ballroom dance team won two gold medals at

47:55

Blackpool in England uh that's that's called like the World Cup of ballroom dancing

48:01

Messi couldn't do what they do so and then Regional ethics Bowl you know

48:07

this is a I think two-week contest where you're given this very very thorny ethical questions and then you have to

48:14

argue and research and our students have done very well here in in the region

48:20

skillsusa something that I continue to brag about every year because what can you do you're in the top five every year

48:25

for the last 21 years and again this year we had we brought home more gold medals than any other uh University or

48:34

college in the country our professors work very closely to Mentor our students in these competitions ranging from

48:41

Collision Repair to putting together a business plan or leadership so this is

48:46

just uh just a remarkable achievement year after year for UVU of course Athletics you all know that I uh that

48:54

have super power pom-poms uh proven again last Saturday when we beat Grand Canyon University in Phoenix Arizona

49:03

so and I'll just mention a couple things Evelyn cam boy may be one of the fastest

49:10

women ever she became our first All-American in cross country and also

49:15

led the team to our first NCAA competition Brady McKinley and golf has

49:20

done what no other golfer I guess here has done before which is to win three

49:26

back-to-back uh uh golfing championships and then of course our women's soccer

49:32

team were the whack Champions this year I was actually at the BYU soccer field

49:38

when they beat number 13. BYU then we lost the BYU in NCAA but that's okay

49:44

it's just it's just an amazing I'm Amazed by these students because you know what they do is not just this

49:49

hardcore competition but working really hard academically if you look at their

49:55

completion rates if you look at their gpas and so to me as a someone much

50:01

older than the student athletes they are a source of inspiration they are a source of you know reminding me grit

50:08

figure out where you have to put the tired I'm tired I have to figure it out just like they figure it out if they can

50:14

figure it out so could I um outstanding faculty this year that celebrate our faculty with their

50:20

sabbaticals the newly tenured faculty and those who got rank promotion to full

50:26

professors so these are faculty who excel in teaching scholarship and

50:31

service and we are so grateful to them we had our inaugural black academic

50:37

excellence awards and this year it was awarded to Professor Diane McAdams Jones if you know Diane you know she's a force

50:44

of Nature and she came to the award actually I think she literally had a queen's cape and um Diane I

50:53

understand went to Tuskegee she's one of our most outstanding faculty members

50:58

she's been known for her work with our police and race relations and being a very strong mentor to our nursing

51:04

students so we congratulate Professor Diane McAdams Jones she's also our inaugural one of our inaugural faculty

51:11

fellows for Equity inclusion and diversity and one more faculty story I

51:17

love this one Professor Dan Fairbanks I think that that Dan personifies

51:23

creativity that you know goes on and on and on and on You Know Dan is a

51:29

geneticist and this father of genetics but he also gave a lecture at this Mendel Fest shrift in the Czech Republic

51:36

and then he was asked to paint the portrait of Mandel and Mendel's two sisters and then his wife was also our

51:43

professor professor Donna Fairbanks is a outstanding violinist got to play in The

51:50

14th Century Abbey of Saint Thomas or where Mendel did his experiments and

51:56

where you know the composer yanacek was also there at the time as a teenager I

52:01

just find this such an inspiring story in that in Academia our greatest blessing is to continue creating that we

52:10

never stop that we never stop and we keep going and so I just think that Dan had the most outstanding year and so we

52:16

congratulate him let him know that he inspires us our Woodbury School of Business Smart Lab one for the sixth

52:23

consecutive Revere best of State award in their work on neural marketing using Biometrics I understand we have two

52:30

professors who mentor and Lead this lab they have a few staff members and students who are involved in engaged

52:37

learning with them I'm gonna pivot for a couple of minutes on fundraising the 32nd annual president

52:45

scholarship ball raised over half a million purely for our presidential Scholars so all scholarships and at that

52:52

ball we also announced our inaugural comprehensive campaign that's the reason

52:58

this cravat here exists this is the the design for Forever Green and and we've

53:06

never done this before but that's why we're that's why we're here we try to do things that have never been done before

53:12

and it scares us a little bit we announced a 350 million race and this

53:18

this campaign will impact every department and every Division and every college and school at this University

53:24

our quiet period goes back to 2018 so we've raised close to 180 million now so

53:31

don't be shy if you have another 120 million we are here or 170 my math is

53:38

not so good but we are are so excited about this we're all getting training on how to do this better from the Deans to

53:44

our student athletes and to all of us this is truly a community effort I want

53:50

to acknowledge Scott and Karen Smith Scott is our trustee Their donation actually to me is also kind of breaking

53:57

down a wall for UVU because you you you send a message out that you believe in

54:03

the mission of this University and what it is doing as a result of Their donation we were able to go to the

54:08

legislature and get the 80 million for the new building the Scott M Smith building and the college is also named

54:16

after Scott College of Engineering and technology and we hope to break ground in the spring for this building that we

54:23

so badly need because right now our seniors in engineering do their Capstone in a warehouse that we've rented on 8th

54:29

South but that is the Wolverine way if we have to rent a warehouse and paint it green that's okay we'll do it

54:37

as long as it's green um you may have heard in the news about this donation from UCCU a long-term

54:43

partner of UVU we will build a world-class soccer stadium at this University it will change the game for

54:50

student athletes and hopefully allow us to host things like NCAA championships here at UVU
54:57

there's a short video that I'll play on this

55:37

I want to thank Jared something our Athletics director and Matt Potts because they did work hard to bring this

55:45

particular donation to fruition we would like to thank the Larry H and Gail Miller foundation for their three

55:52

million donation to UVU for our Center of constitutional studies and that endows the position of director we also

55:59

would like to thank Governor Gary Herbert who's here thank you governor for the work you do having raised 5.4

56:06

million so far for the Herbert Institute that houses all of our public policy

56:11

internship programs it also brings speakers to campus like Timothy Shriver

56:16

who came here and talked about healing divides in America and is sponsoring

56:21

research on elections as well as conservation in u Utah so thank you Governor Herbert

56:27

we recently came across some rankings that that we should be very proud of Third Way a think tank that looks at

56:34

economic Mobility ranked us in the top 20 percent of U.S colleges in terms of the difference that we make in the

56:40

economic mobility of a person I also call that the American dream the chance

56:45

that someone can go up from the lowest uh you know layer of income to the top

56:52

layer of income our business school and Dean Bob Allen is here our new Dean

56:57

welcome again to UVU this is a ranking of all the eight public Business Schools

57:02

in Utah and our programs were ranked number one by the center for education and the workforce at Georgetown

57:08

University and this is another one thank you to Linda Macon for finding this this is a

57:14

ranking of most valuable programs around the country per state and and almost all

57:19

these programs are in nursing and engineering and here's UVU the outlier with our school of aviation generating a

57:27

massive return on investment and when you multiply that by the number of graduates it is a very impressive number

57:34

so congratulations to the school of aviation we've also been recognized here in the valley by Utah Valley 360 as a

57:42

top economic engine and Forbes ranked as one of the top 10 employers based on a

57:48

survey of 70 000 workers in 25 industry sectors and

57:53

UVU was in the top ten we are loving our partnership with silicon slopes this is more fun than anything I was inducted

58:01

into the Silicon slopes Hall of Fame last year and got to jump into that ball pit in my shiny green sneakers and

58:08

beautiful ball gown and just last week prestigeon at Bennett and I helped bring the closing bell of NASDAQ and we got

58:15

our faces on the giant billboard on Times Square so that was really fun new

58:21

facilities here you've seen them all over the Keller building our second building at Thanksgiving Point the new

58:27

campus store the Fugal Gateway building and our Student Center we now have the best student center I'm told because we

58:33

have 11 junk food Outlets when you are young that is the way to go

58:41

I mean you know Chick-fil-A and Panda Express is just happiness happiness all

58:48

around our Museum in 2023 in our Alumni Center will will come online there have

58:54

been delays because of logistics and Supply chains and we all understand that

58:59

the new Engineering Building hopefully in two years on top of the hill on the south end of Campus will be a game

59:05

changer and I want to close with some words that actually are not for me it's

59:11

from Dr David Wilson the president of Morgan State University a historically

59:16

black college he was here last week as the speaker for Martin Luther King day

59:22

and I met him at Stanford over a year ago and I was so blown away by his story

59:27

that you know I really wanted him to come to UVU and thank you to my colleague Marilyn Meyer we were able to

59:32

bring her here in our African diaspora initiative he grew grew up as the son of

59:38

sharecroppers in Alabama he's like a two-room cabin and they had no running

59:44

water they you his mother used Life Magazine to plaster the walls for

59:50

insulation and that's how young David taught himself to read he could only go to school two or three days a week

59:57

because the other days he had to work the land alongside his father and when he told his father that his teacher said

1:00:03

to him he could go to college his father said no that's not for us we don't do that but years later that was

1:00:10

in seventh grade years later Dr Wilson gets into Tuskegee University in the

1:00:15

morning that he leaves the house this this two-room cabin to go to college his

1:00:21

father in his overall says to him son I know that since you told me years ago that you want to go to college I've been

1:00:28

saving I've been saving everything so I could give you something today as you leave and his father you know takes a

1:00:35

bill out of his pocket puts it in David's hand and David closes his hand on it and as he walks away he opens it

1:00:42

and he sees five dollars and and it was that moment he realized this you know this is a whole new world

1:00:48

he's entering to but the sacredness of the five dollars that his father took years to save

1:00:53

so anyway the story such that he's now so successful and well known when he spoke about Martin Luther King Martin

1:01:00

Luther King's speech I Have a Dream and he said Martin Luther King was not a

1:01:06

dreamer of the descriptive of what is or what was that we know

1:01:11

Martin Luther King was a dreamer of the normative of how the world
1:01:18
ought to be of how life ought to be and so for me UVU is really this is a dream
1:01:26
place of how life ought to be of how things ought to be and we do it through
1:01:32
education which is as exciting as anything in the world I personally believe this is the work of
angels it's
1:01:40
the work of angels who take someone and say what do you want to become
1:01:45
we can help you we will help you and we will do it together thank you so much
1:01:50
thank you again to all of you for your time today
1:02:03
we have 10 minutes for Q a and I I'm happy to answer any questions are there
1:02:10
any questions in in the audience today
1:02:18
is that a good or a bad thing Provost okay one question in the back yes
1:02:25
what hi thanks thanks for this presentation absolutely fantastic over the next 12
1:02:31
months what should we be looking forward to what exciting thing is in the pipeline for UVU
okay over the next 12
1:02:38
months what should we be looking for well the first thing we're going to be looking for is what
the legislation legislature decides in March because it
1:02:46
has an impact on everything compensation medical insurance everything and we are
1:02:52
we are in um in an interesting uh period where the governor has said that tuition
1:02:58
and fees should be frozen so this is this is kind of really really down to earth agenda item but we
ought to be
1:03:05
looking at what the legislature does in March we ought to be looking at
1:03:12
president scholarship ball in October we have some Milestones that we want to hit
1:03:17
we will be looking at the launch of our scorecards the tracking of our
1:03:23
deliverables and metrics become better what else should we be looking for if BYU wants to
continue playing us
1:03:33
we should be looking to to that as well what are your other Everest Mount

1:03:38

Everest highlights Kyle Kings the openings of these

1:03:45

University physically and then continue to to move into Partnerships with all of our various campuses and online work

1:03:51

with academics so yeah we have a rhythm every year you know legislative session

1:03:56

retention tenure and promotion the end of the school year the beginning of the

1:04:02

school year and so I think for us just making sure that every year

1:04:08

we look with great honesty what we are accomplishing and where our

1:04:14

challenges are that we we continue to be smart about it creative about it and

1:04:20

really sustaining the spirit of of you know I call it awe and creativity I

1:04:26

think that is so necessary we have new leaders there's a lot of expectations and strategy and you have to remember

1:04:32

what I said at the beginning that this is not an easy time for higher education

1:04:38

that is what keeps me up at night we don't understand the entire impact of covid or where Public Funding is going

1:04:45

to go but at the same time when you look around you here at UVU you realize we have a lot to work with and that's why

1:04:52

we get up every morning saying what amazing things can I go you know and do today with my pom-poms

1:05:00

and and I think that's it that's that's the day-to-day delivery that's so important

1:05:07

yes please know our resources are so precious for Education here in Utah what is your

1:05:14

relationship with other states institutions other universities yes absolutely so I'm a member of the

1:05:21

Council of presidents it's actually a very solid group of leaders and and it's

1:05:27

now six Technical College president you know eight Technical College presidents and eight presidents of higher education

1:05:33

so we we it's it's not uh it's not at all unusual for us to share insights

1:05:40

with one another we just jointly put together you know a proposal for online

1:05:46

education in the Utah system of higher education we are working right now on

1:05:52

things like shared services and really being practical about that and making sure that these are things that can

1:05:58

truly be shared and that will land and um and then there are other things that

1:06:03

are probably you know bigger and more creative that we are considering it as a

1:06:08

means of collaboration with the other institutions but I cannot talk about them publicly yet so and

we all Lobby

1:06:16

the legislature together there's a little bit of the competitive dynamic as well and that's that's normal because

1:06:22

you compete for resources and so each year you know you have to show that your performance metrics are there we all are

1:06:29

obligated to deliver these performance metrics and and I think there's many opportunities where we're able to share

1:06:35

best practices with one another yes Tim

1:06:49

um but you know my answer to that would be yes so so there there's an option of course where you say you know open

1:06:55

enrollment is too complicated why don't we simply become selective but I think by becoming selective you are now in a

1:07:04

different playground altogether where you are competing with other selective institutions and then those who get

1:07:11

excluded are actually the ones that need it the most and so you know when I think about uvu's model I actually think about

1:07:18

Clayton christensen's innovators dilemma meaning that all segments of a market

1:07:23

need to be served so the harvards of the world and the stanfords could serve that particular super Elite segment and it

1:07:30

just goes all the way down and where we are serving which is more inclusive of

1:07:35

neurodiversity of different Paths of Life of different ages of a person when

1:07:40

they want to go to school I just think that's so much more exciting because you actually can cut across markets and then

1:07:48

um I know my academic make colleagues in like the word product but I'm going to use it your product and belongs to your

1:07:54

competition gets better and better and better and then and then that just you you are

1:07:59

suddenly gaining more more market share and when I say market share I'm talking about people who want to improve their

1:08:07

lives you know I'm talking about people who say I want to try I like that phrase

1:08:12

I want to try I don't even know if I can do Algebra I want to try

1:08:18

who wants to help me and that's and UVU says Hey us we want to help you

1:08:24

so the answer is yes if you would like to stay open admission yes Rusty Paul Thompson

1:08:35

the future of online instruction at UVU is brilliant and uh covet in a way

1:08:40

expedited some of these processes that were already ongoing and I don't know if my numbers are totally accurate but I

1:08:46

believe 49 of our students are hybrid they are taking face to face and they

1:08:51

are taking online and they retain better and complete better because they're doing online and face to face that makes

1:08:59

sense when you think that 82 percent of the students work we have about 42 or 44

1:09:05

truly purely online programs right now and we hope to expand that to 66 in a

1:09:11

few years my own daughter just graduated from UVU in December but she lives in Asheville North Carolina with a degree

1:09:18

in family science when we look at the Utah system of higher education as a

1:09:23

whole 49 of all students are taking at least one online course so online is

1:09:30

already quite broadly used it also in many ways online I think

1:09:37

diminishes the the the pressure on space on buildings but it still means that you

1:09:42

still need buildings that are really specialized and for our faculty I have to say that faculty have done an

1:09:48

outstanding job during covid over 80 percent of our tenure track are tenured

1:09:54

and tenure track faculty are certified to teach online so they've done the training about close to 50 of

1:10:00

non-tenured Faculty have also been certified for online education the challenging online today is actually how

1:10:08

to truly digitally transform the classroom and what I mean by that is making the online experience as

1:10:15

compelling as engaging if not more so than your face to face I think that

1:10:21

really where that is really where this whole online has to go it's not a simple matter of I'm going to record myself and

1:10:28

I'm going to call it online because a lot of that becomes very static passive and boring and it's not going to get

1:10:34

students to engage as much as they need to engage but so it's well on its way and I think it's it's only going to grow

1:10:44

any other questions all right if not thank you so much again

1:10:50

this is the community that we depend on all of you thank you so much for being here [Applause]

1:11:13

[Music]

1:11:36

[Applause] foreign [Music] [Applause] [Music]

1:11:43

foreign [Music] [Applause]

1:11:50

[Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause]

1:11:56

[Music]