



Utah Valley University | 2024 State of the University

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## Transcript

### Transcript

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16:03  
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16:23  
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17:13  
[Applause] [Music]  
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e [Applause]  
17:32  
[Music] I the pleasure of announcing the  
17:38  
Huntsman Cancer Institute Utah Valley University Health  
17:45  
[Music] collaborative the total race this  
17:52  
evening is \$664,900  
17:59

[Music]

18:09

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

18:25

[Music]

18:41

[Music]

19:08

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

19:23

[Music]

19:30

[Music]

19:42

[Music]

19:58

[Music]

20:22

hello everybody and welcome to state of the University we're so excited that you're here and what a great fall

20:27

semester we have um so many great things my name is Zach Whitlock I currently the

20:32

student body president here at ubu I'm a junior thank I'm a junior from studying

20:40

personal financial planning and business management I'm from Highland Utah and uh

20:45

it is my pleasure I'm just one of 44,000 students who is lucky to have President

20:51

their University president and it is my honor today to introduce her before she comes up and get CL St University um so

20:59

president sinina was born in a PO Village in the Philippines and she was able to learn how some some words

21:06

through torn up dictionary where then she then went to a a Catholic school and

21:11

started getting more education eventually through hard work in determination she was able to graduate s

21:17

from uiu graduate from Harvard and MIT before she was the University president

21:23

here she was an exec for Microsoft since since president SAS has

21:29

been here at Val University she has embodied the spirit of a wolverine she

21:34

has inspired students to work hard and to shoot through the Stars to be the first the people that they they can

21:41

become through hard work and determination in displ she's a champion for students and she fights for us and

21:48

for our opportunities and she gives back through uh her participation on board

21:55

different boards across the country she's constantly at our games with our pom poms and supporting all of our

22:00

athletic teams and she she's even come to our dance parties and danced on stage

22:06

with the Utah Valley Student Association she's amazing and we are the luckiest University to have her as our president

22:13

and uh I I personally have been touched by her and her willingness to fight for

22:19

me and I owe so much to her um and so I'm grateful for the opportunity I have

22:25

to introduce her and without any more I just let's give it up for president

22:30

SZ thank you [Applause]

22:38

sir thank you Zach let's give Zach a round of

22:45

applause UV USA so um welcome to the state of the

22:51

University happy New Year it's still January 2024 and for those of you

22:56

celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year happy year of the dragon gongxi fatai February

23:04

[Applause] 10 I want to begin with a big thank you

23:10

thank you to The Faculty staff and students of UVU thank you to my cabinet

23:16

the events team that put this together today uh the team of advancement that got all of our advisers here in our

23:23

boards and thank you to our community our donors the story UVU is not the

23:29

story of one person or five people or 10 it is the story of all of us and that's

23:34

what I find most inspiring and most compelling Andrew Carnegie in 1901 sold

23:42

carnegi steel to John Pier Pont Morgan for about \$480 million and became the

23:47

richest man in the world he spent the last two decades of his life as a philanthropist supporting science and

23:54

education as well as libraries around the world he said that upon no Foundation but that

24:00

of popular education can man erect the structure of an enduring

24:07

civilization this is the basis of all stability and underlies all

24:13

progress when I think about the phrase popular education I think about Utah Valley University a Young University

24:20

that has scale we're only 15 years old we're still an adolescent with all of

24:25

our tempered tantrums and drum [Laughter] we are deeply rooted in Utah County and

24:31

we're proud of that but designed to serve the whole state we've issued a

24:37

very powerful invitation to people come as you are UVU has a place for you we

24:44

don't care what your life professional academic experience was if you want to better yourself you want to improve your

24:51

lot in life come to UVU and try college and we will help you this invitation is

24:59

so powerful that today UVU educates the most number of uton if you see that

25:05

green bar that shows UVU and the second green bar there's a gigantic difference

25:10

between first and second place one of every four Utah students who choose a

25:18

Utah system of higher education institution chooses UVU and one and three of every four Utah

25:26

County students who choose a Yushi uh institution also chooses UVU so unlike

25:33

the rest of the country where people are encountering big problems in enrollment

25:38

we are still growing and that is really testimony to the experience that students are having here at UVU our

25:45

students are having great success this is what they look like

25:50

44,6 53 students in the fall and this includes 15,000 high school students who

25:57

are taking concurrent enrollment courses at UVU for \$5 per credit hour their

26:03

confidence grows in their ability to tackle college courses and we hope that many of them of course will go to

26:09

college and choose UVU interestingly with this very big enrollment you can see that 78% this year are employed they

26:17

work while going to school and that requires a lot of grit a lot of Courage a lot of hard work 25% are employed

26:25

full-time and note that 30 37% this number always hovers between 37 and 38%

26:31

are first generation first in their families attempting College seeking to

26:37

change their own trajectories in the trajectory of the people who will follow

26:43

after them 20% also are students of color and we basically now have

26:48

equivalency of the population of color and the students of color attending

26:55

UVU Student Success is a very real real thing between 2015 and 2020 the

27:01

retention rate that is students who persist from first to second year in

27:07

fouryear public institutions in America like UVU actually went down from 62% to

27:14

59% that same number went for UVU went from 63% to

27:20

66% and today we have the highest ever retention rate in our history at

27:26

70% [Applause] so thank you students for making us look

27:35

good in addition to retention students are completing in my first state of the

27:40

university in January of 2019 we put out a numerical goal that

27:46

our iPads that's a federal number our iPads 8-year completion measure which

27:52

stood at about 35 36 when I arrived would be at 45% it's only

27:59

2024 that goal was for 2025 and we've already surpassed that goal with our

28:05

8-year outcomes measure at 46% in

28:12

[Applause]

28:18

2024 there is another number it's a number used by the Utah system of higher education and that doesn't measure eight

28:24

years it measures 1.5% time to completion that number is 39.6% for us

28:31

that's also growing and we are very focused on continuing to raise that number so that eventually we hit 50 60%

28:40

and that will be a wonderful outcome for the University and our students what does student completion look like the

28:47

class of 2023 looked like this so you can see over 88,500 graduates and it is

28:53

remarkable that 33% were first generation students and I really would

28:59

like you to imagine specific individuals you know you can tell who the first

29:04

generation students are particularly when we were doing graduation in the parking lots because that would be where

29:10

they bring entire trucks of relatives to cheer them on and the father driving the

29:16

vehicle usually would have tears streaming down his face you can see the age range there from 16 to 69 every

29:24

number tells the story of a person and every number tells the story of a

29:30

family of course when our students graduate we want we don't want them sitting around at home we want them to

29:36

be participating in the labor force and becoming part of Utah's Workforce and

29:41

part of the economic engine that makes this state so Dynamic what does that look like one of the ways that we

29:47

measure our attainment is by looking at the percentage of awards and degrees

29:53

that UVU produces that belong to what the state of Youth UT calls four and

29:58

five star jobs these are high demand or high paying jobs or both and you could

30:05

see that every year we're at about 70% and higher with a very ambitious goal to

30:11

hit 79% by 2027 so this includes graduates in

30:16

health care in engineering and also in the Visual and Performing



30:22

Arts and you've heard me say this many times before when I go to the legislature I like to remind our

30:28

lawmakers that UVU students are the taxpayers they are the families of Utah

30:35

they are the voters of Utah they are the workers of Utah because 77% of our

30:40

alumni are still here 10 years out and that is a remarkable number I would

30:47

actually um Hazard that no other university would have these statistics of 77% staying here 10 years out the

30:54

class of 2021 uh this is another illustration of our relevance to the workforce you could see that 87% are

31:02

employed and 83% are employed here in Utah with a majority of these graduates

31:08

being employed in their field of study so even the philosophers are

31:13

employed actually philosophers are the smartest people I would employ them in a heartbeat because my secret dream is to

31:21

be a philosopher and theologian when I grew up grow up um we recently did a

31:26

study conducted by the reputation economy advisers we commissioned this and they found that UVU alumni were more

31:34

willing to hire UVU graduates than alumni of other universities were willing to hire their own graduates so I

31:42

think this is a data point that underlines the quality of the graduates who go out there to participate in the

31:49

economy of Utah um I want to now for remembering

31:54

what cbeam stands for it's the center for Imaging and and biof

32:02

photonics experiments advancing

32:08

medicine I was like couldn't the professor and students have chosen like

32:13

a shorter name but this group of students working with Professor Hart are developing

32:20

non-invasive technology imaging technology in order to detect cancer in

32:26

its early stages and also to detect metastatic cancer so this is just an

32:31

exciting opportunity these are not PhD students and they get to be involved in something like this in exercise science

32:39

one of the more popular majors at UVU our students are marrying theory and practice so they're working with our

32:46

division of people and culture and I believe that's you Dean horns standing on a scale I hope you were happy with

32:52

your weight that day and these students do do initial analysis and assessment of

33:01

employees at UVU and then they design a bespoke exercise program so that that

33:06

employee can become healthier so not only are they learning but they're also

33:11

helping individual employees and they're helping UVU develop an overall culture

33:17

of Fitness and Wellness and that's a good reminder you know because it's January we just went through Thanksgiving

33:24

Christmas and uh there's a lot we need to repent

33:29

of in biology Professor uh Eric Doan one of my favorite professors and Professor

33:36

Colleen uh Huff have worked with their students to genetically engineer algae

33:41

so that it can absorb nitrogen and phosphorus and this algae then can be

33:46

used to help prevent the formation of toxic algae blooms in Utah Lake and

33:52

these students had the opportunity to go to Paris who wouldn't want to go to Paris

33:57

uh to participate in this jambur uh of genetically engineered machine that's

34:03

what they call it the grand jambur that involved 6,000 students from 66

34:08

countries in 400 teams and they got to share their research on different panels

34:14

and make friends and create new networks and they also had to produce a website and a brochure so I think it's fantastic

34:21

that our science students not only did their science but also designed a website and a brochure so they're picking

34:28

up extra skills pioneering uh two years ago we launched it was very difficult we  
34:34

launch our physician assistant program there were 600 completed applications  
34:39

for 32 spots and the first cohort is graduating in May so give them a big  
34:45

round of [Applause] applause Dean Cheryl Hanowitz and  
34:53

Associate D Su Jackson are here I'm sure they're very pleased with this and we  
34:58

hope to be able to expand this program because these are the people who will help deliver Health  
Care to thousands of

35:05

people down the road in another area at UVU the Center for Autism we also have our own  
Pioneers

35:13

we have a program called Wolverines Elevated we started with a cohort of 10 students who are in  
the autism spectrum

35:20

and at UVU they can receive an award uh in integrated college and community

35:26

studies they are taught skills like self-advocacy which is so important for

35:32

uh people on the Spectrum and one of our students Peter Fish Vosnos I haven't met

35:38

Peter I'll have to ask about the fish at some point in time he was one of 10 students invited for  
advocacy training

35:45

in Washington DC he also met with legislators you see him here with Senator Mitt Romney and  
on top of that

35:52

Peter presented a poster at the conference there that is that was all about the difficulties and  
opportunities

36:00

for people with intellectual disabilities in raising funding for their college studies so I look  
forward

36:06

to seeing the first four graduates and we are hoping that with additional funding we can carry on  
with this

36:12

program and eventually have 10 to 12 students every single year for a cohort of 36 over three  
years getting their

36:20

degrees here at UVU and also helping these students make their way in the world and live very

36:27

life our students win many competitions um if you know you may get tired of

36:33

financial planning because they always win first place what is wrong with no

36:39

they always win first place and these first two teams on the left one is a case study competition sponsored by the

36:46

International Association of registered financial consultants and then next to

36:51

them another the knowledge Bowl uh sponsored by the AFC p e um there was

36:57

even a year when first second and third place were all UVU students and then the

37:03

ethics Bowl this is a tough contest I think it last about a week where you given tough tough social political

37:09

problems to debate and to discuss and our students won the regional competition at Utah State University and

37:16

we'll be going next month February to Cincinnati for the national competition

37:21

and then here our Hospitality management students this final uh pi here won a

37:28

marketing study sponsored by the restaurant and hotel uh Institute and

37:34

they won second place nationally in the United States went to the global competition and won third place so kudos

37:41

to our students and the faculty who mentored them because at the end of the

37:50

day we we are a very competitive University we are the underdog we have a

37:55

big chip on our our shoulders and so we go and compete and test ourselves and

38:01

show the world yes we can be as good as you even better so our our student

38:07

athletes they have a wonderful uh track record over the years we've had 25 whack

38:12

championships since we became division one and 18 Coach of the Year honors but just this past year with a 92%

38:20

graduation rate an overall GPA of 3.48 for our student athletes and remember

38:26

these are students who have to practice hours and hours and hours and go on the

38:31

road and still do their homework submit their papers take their exams our women's soccer team was again whack

38:37

Champion that's three times in Four Seasons and our CrossCountry team oh

38:43

please please

38:49

applaud our cross country team finished 23rd in the country and we are an

38:54

athletic program with with a budget of \$17 million that's one of the lower

39:01

budgets in the entire country and and you see that uh they

39:06

also won The Wack Championship so I feel that our student athletes they are groups that truly deserve support they

39:14

show us what hard work is what competition is and kind of going into the arena and not sitting in an armchair

39:19

and saying yes I'm going to go out I'm going to do hard things and I'm going to do well so congratulations to all of

39:25

them and their coach es um faculty and staff if you're faculty and staff please

39:31

raise your hand let's please give them a round of

39:42

applause every day at UVU we get to do exciting things and hard things and we

39:47

succeed by bringing our best selves here every single day I was recently

39:52

delighted and surprised to hear that through the efforts of our faculty UVU

39:58

is number one in the state of Utah for S stem grants from the National Science

40:05

Foundation 67% of all estem grants from NSF is at

40:14

UVU and what these grants are 60% must go to students for

40:19

scholarships 18% must go to students for scholarly work and very little go to

40:26

faculty and yet this is our faculty working so hard to bring the stem grants to Utah and you could see that 149

40:34

lowincome students have benefited from the scholarship in order to pursue their studies in science technology

40:41

engineering and math our Center for constitutional studies director Dr Michael Matthew

40:48

Brogden is here raise your hand um just go ahead and  
40:55  
applaud CCS our Center for constitutional  
41:01  
studies received a \$350,000 Grant from the national  
41:06  
archives for their project called Constitution making in the shadow of dis  
41:11  
Union if you know history the years on this slide are some of the most bitter  
41:16  
years in America with massive disputes over federalism and slavery culminating  
41:22  
in a civil war and this funding will go towards studying and digitizing all the  
41:28  
original material material related to the writing of the Constitutions of  
41:33  
seven states so CCS together with Oxford University in  
41:38  
the quill project has been digitizing all original Source materials related to  
41:44  
federal and state constitutions any serious scholar of the  
41:50  
American constitutional Tradition now and going forward we'll have to look at  
41:55  
these materials that is the kind of contribution we are making to scholarship in the United States  
and in  
42:02  
the world for that matter because of our outstanding faculty our design school you saw this  
42:08  
on the Highlight Reel earlier was voted top design school in the United States  
42:13  
and I looked at this list Brigham Young University Boston University Georg toown  
42:20  
University Parson School of Design in New York City Rhode Island School design  
42:26  
risty one of the top in the world and Yale and Utah Valley  
42:35  
[Applause] University and also the graduates of our  
42:41  
design uh graphic design program have gone on to work at Disney ESPN  
42:48  
Nickelodeon uh new skin qual Trix Scott Smith you are here qual Trix and uh  
42:56  
Adobe and other other great companies uh congratulations to hospitality management here at the  
43:02  
Woodburry School of Business voted top 10 uh uh degree by Forbes and this

43:08

degree is also the second most affordable degree in Hospitality management the top 10 ranking comes from

43:15

several criteria including affordability retention completion the overall student

43:23

experience and accreditation and with our uh student ambassadors I

43:30

know a few are here today this is in advancement and development our student ambassador program received the Gold

43:37

Award from the Council on advancement and support of Education case for their

43:43

work in targeted constituency engagement you are all aware that you views in the

43:48

middle of a comprehensive fundraising campaign called Evergreen the energy the

43:54

friendliness and the Sunshine of all of these ambassadors make a big difference

43:59

for our success in fundraising um Kudos also CH vice

44:04

president Christina bom and her team in digital transformation because of their work we have uh had Innovations like TA

44:12

in a box a a TA teaching assistant that's AI based that can answer questions 24 hours a day 7 days a week

44:20

it never gets tired you cannot ask it out on a date um and this is pioneered

44:26

in a large class in biology and we hope that we could extend this to more classes we have also participated in the

44:33

National conversation to make people more aware of deep fakes and other

44:38

threats in cyber security and finally we have given all of our staff faculty and

44:44

faculty here access to AI Technologies at the professional level so that we can

44:49

begin using AI to improve the things that we do at UVU whether that is teaching or student support or advising

44:57

and everything else um AI of course is the buzzword um there is no doubt that

45:02

AI will change everything it will change the way we work live play learn and we don't even

45:11

understand what is going to do to us and so I want to thank the faculty and staff at UVU who have joined our Uvu AI task

45:18

force and the work frame is compressed because things are moving so fast and we need to understand as well as we can

45:26

what the implications are and we can begin to put steps in place to leverage

45:32

AI and also make our community aware of the risks that may be

45:37

involved finally a word of thanks to our advisers

45:46

yes these are advisors who have received Regional and National recognition for

45:53

the work they do starting with a first year advising Center all the way to all the schools and colleges because they

45:59

help our students navigate all aspects especially the academic aspect of the

46:05

student experience so that students can retain and succeed at this University we also continue to be

46:12

focused in our impact on community and Industry in fact I think this is so critical to universities today that we

46:19

are not seen to be sitting in Ivory Towers but we are where the community is we are where industry is um thank you

46:26

Curtis Blair where are you and the UTA Valley Chamber there's Curtis

46:33

for our partnership this is I believe the third year running for the growth

46:38

and prosperity Summit and in 2022 we had 250 participants in 2023 we had 400 we

46:45

intend this Summit to be the go-to place for any anyone wanting to understand the

46:51

opportunities and challenges in Utah County because there will be a million more people in this County by the year

46:59

2065 one of every three new residents of Utah will be here and one of every four

47:04

new jobs will also be here in Utah County um thank you to associate provos

47:09

Tammy Clark sitting here in the front row for helping us put together a job CEO Council this is now up and running

47:18



this these 11 corporations have committed to partner with us number one on understanding what the skills and

47:24

competencies are that are missing in when they interview candidates for positions in their companies number two

47:31

we will try to do what we can in terms of internships for students externships

47:36

for faculty so that faculty in the Summers can enrich what they know about the world of work and bring that

47:43

knowledge back to inform what they teach in the classroom and we're also offering a concered service for the employees of

47:49

this companies that may want to finish their degrees or pursue a new degree at

47:54

UVU um part of our service to the community is bringing great speakers to this campus and inviting not only

48:01

students faculty and staff but members of the community to come and join us so we brought here Martha Nas bomb as I

48:08

said earlier I have a secret desire to be a philosopher and theologian and Martha nasom is one of the top 10 living

48:16

philosophers today she gave a very compelling and thought-provoking lecture

48:21

on the rights of nonhuman animals and it was interesting for the hunters in the

48:26

audience to have a dialogue with Professor Nas bomb on top of this just

48:32

this month she published an article in The Chronicle of Higher Education that

48:38

praised UVU without us asking for this this was amazing to one of the top philosophers in the world talk about

48:45

Utah Valley University in the vein that she does in this article in The Chronicle of Higher Ed um we also

48:53

brought Daryl Jones here he's the basis of The Rolling Stones since 1993 and there we screened a film about

49:01

Daryl made by my friend Eric Hamburg Daryl had a great story to tell about growing up in Chicago going to a church

49:09

event where there was a band student band that played and he realized this is my calling in life  
I'm going to be a

49:14

musician and at the tender age of 20 or 21 he played for Miles Davis played for

49:20

Madonna played for uh Peter Gabriel and of course his longest stint has been with the Rolling  
Stones what I loved

49:27

most was how he talked about his mother and father the rules they had at home a loving kind  
compassionate supportive

49:34

ambitious family and one of the rules was because they had a brother you can never have a fist  
fight so that's a good

49:40

rule we also employ that here at UVU our next Presidential lecturer this spring will be uh my  
friend and

49:48

colleague at Carnegie corporations board Marty Baron he's the former editor and chief of the  
Boston Globe and of the The

49:55

Washington Post and if you've seen the Oscar winning film Spotlight that is his

50:01

story about being in the Boston Globe and uncovering uh child sexual abuse in

50:07

the Catholic church and the cover up by the church and he's recently written a book called  
Collision of power so please

50:14

come and attend Marty Baron's lecture in March um facilities are an important

50:19

part of a Young University a 15-year-old University we've not been around 175

50:25

years years building buildings and I remember when I arrived and a lot of people were telling me  
don't build Taj

50:32

mahals and I thought there isn't a Taj Mahal on campus and um and I had to

50:37

explain that as a young and growing University we still need new facilities so the latest to join  
our family of new

50:44

buildings are the Young Living Alumni Center here on the bottom left which finally allows all of  
our alumni and

50:51

advancement staff to work together in one building instead of five different houses there's also  
the new UVU art

50:58

museum at Lake Mount And if you haven't been I urge you to go it's the only House museum in Utah it is extremely

51:06

elegant and extremely inspiring and I want I like talking about this bridge to

51:11

everywhere because we asked Frank young you know how many people are using this bridge in January nearly 29,000 people

51:19

walked across this bridge the busiest day was January 9 with 1,9 100 students

51:26

using this bridge 1,900 cars off the road so this is

51:32

[Applause] amazing and we have remodeled our Lehi

51:39

uh our second building in Lehi uh and our dental hygiene students respiratory

51:45

therapy students paramedics and EMT as well as the Police Academy when everything is completed will be at this

51:52

building and they're closer to American Fork and other places where uh students can take their classes in

51:59

Lehi um Scott and Karen Smith you're here we finally broke ground on the new engineering and Technology Building the

52:05

Scott M Smith College of Engineering and technology and I'd like to cite the statistic that for engineering Majors

52:13

the ideal space is 120 square feet per major our square footage was

52:19

11.2 Square fet so this is going to be a game Cher for us you can see the

52:25

building Rising on the Southeastern edge of campus and I like to see that I like

52:31

to say that our students deserve these kinds of spaces even this Hall that we

52:36

are in today in the kellerer business building this is new and the students come in they're inspired and they feel

52:43

worthy they feel more worthy of an outstanding student experience um how many of you are aware

52:49

that UVU owns 225 acres in Vineyard yes we

52:56

do we're not selling it either I'm sorry for the property developers this is

53:02

property that we will develop uh in partnership with a private sector and

53:08

the first uh uh partnership that we have announced here is a partnership with the Huntsman Cancer Institute you may have

53:15

read that they received 48 Acres as a donation from Woodburry and Flagship and

53:21

they'll be building a hospital in Vineyard but before that fa face is built uh they donated a million dollars

53:28

to US to begin having our students do clinicals and volunteering opportunities

53:33

at their facility in Salt Lake City um money money money you all know

53:39

how much I love Abba we can just sing that song right now money money

53:45

money yes I stay up all night every night thinking about money you know how much is the legislature going to give

53:51

UVU this year Financial Health is so important important and that's not to say that we don't have resources we do

53:59

and one of the best things that we've done um I think this year is reshaping our planning B budget and assessment

54:07

conversations these are open conversations about the budget that anyone at UVU can attend so instead of

54:14

asking for money we've shifted that conversation to how do you use the money

54:19

you already have how do you reallocate your resources to higher value added

54:25

uses and I want to thank uh vice president G mortson for being a partner

54:30

on this on top of that of course we've worked very very hard to continue to raise funding for our students and the

54:37

operations of this University our our scholarship ball uh raised a record 871

54:43

th000 historical never before done and I didn't even have to do a Bollywood

54:52

dance um this this is a an inspiring event every single year with our

54:58

Culinary Arts students catering be beautifully prepared delicious you know

55:04

Michelin quality food for 750 people and they do it with Flare and Grace and our

55:10

community turns out to support and all of these dollars go to our presidential Scholars we also completed please Round

55:18

of Applause to advancement we [Applause]

55:24

completed this was an initiative I announced in

55:31

October 2018 it was my second month in the presidency I knew nothing and

55:38

somebody said just mention you're were going to raise 15 million just mentioned that and it's on record I I said it

55:45

we're going to raise 15 million and we did it and this is a combination of private donations federal grants and we

55:52

have these resources to help our first generation St students when I arrived our endowment was 54 million and I was

56:00

coming from Singapore I was on the board of Singapore American School a K12 school and our endowment there was about

56:06

280 million and I saw this endowment and I nearly cried and I and but don't cry

56:12

we're not going to cry we're going to laugh today because the endowment is now \$100

56:23

million this is only the beginning an endowment is what allows you to innovate

56:28

an endowment is what helps you think creatively an endowment is what helps fill gaps on rainy days when you don't

56:36

have the enrollment or the tuition or the funding from the legislature so this is extremely important and I'm in the

56:43

final few slides now looking forward we know that as we create more opportunity for more students there are costs

56:50

associated with that whether that's TA in a box cyber security or renewal of

56:56

our software licenses modernizing our classrooms we are looking at a nearly 300% increase in the costs and so we

57:04

have to keep this in mind and think about how we raise more funding so that the quality of the experience at UVU

57:11

goes up not down the cost of instruction is something that we're also very focused on when you educate in the

57:18

humanities and social sciences thank you to to the College of humanities and social sciences you can educate somebody

57:25

in behavioral SC science it's it's about it's less than 3,000 a year per

57:30

full-time equivalent you go to nursing and Engineering that's 14,000 a year per

57:36

full-time equivalent you go to physician assistant that's 21,000 so all of these costs of instruction we take that into

57:43

account we're not afraid of these challenges we simply think that we need to be more clever in using our resources

57:49

and then be even more effective in raising new funding um finally the state of higher

57:57

education if you read the news do you get depressed about the state of higher

58:03

education if you see what's being featured on television or in the internet it is the massive devaluation

58:10

of the value of higher education very different from America in the post Cold War period when everything was about

58:18

education there's a loss of trust and what inspires me is that we at UVU you

58:25

are not in this situation and the reason for that is we have a very clear Vision

58:30

to become the University of choice for every kind of student whatever their

58:37

experience or background is for every student to succeed here get an education

58:43

and succeed in work in life that vision is very clear our values have proven to

58:48

be solid exceptional care exceptional accountability and exceptional results

58:54

the these values have helped me make the easy the medium and the toughest

58:59

decisions at this University they have driven the The Faculty feedback uh retention tenure promotion

59:07

decisions employee feedback it's made us a stronger and a better community and

59:13

finally what makes us strong is we actually measure what we do include engage achieve there are all sorts of

59:19

numbers and metrics associated with these action commitments and to close CL my state of

59:25 the University uh this month January I've had the privilege of being reminded

59:31

of why I myself I'm here at Utah Valley University this is my sixth year my team

59:39

uh got the opportunity to bring about 30 donors trust and trustees to the

59:45

Philippines and Singapore earlier this month by the way you will see that Kyle

59:51

Reyes is on this slide because the UVU all powerpoint points must include a picture of Kyle

59:59

Reyes this is my father's Village and these are our guests going down the

1:00:05

little pathway and this is the limousine in the village and Kyle is almost

1:00:10

literally where the Hut was where I was born I was born early morning my mother

1:00:16

said on August 8th the Midwife being the half blind man next

1:00:21

door so we visited my father's Village saw my Beginnings again we visited the

1:00:27

slums where I grew up and you'll notice the houses on stilts are still there but

1:00:32

not the bamboo and not the grass roofs because everything today is made of tin and concrete and I had a chance to speak

1:00:40

to my neighbors my Playmates who are still there in the slums we visited the

1:00:46

Catholic school that educated me this beautiful Angelic nun was the nun who

1:00:52

found my family in in uh 1969 1970 and

1:00:59

there she is today the the death of gratitude that I owe these nuns cannot be summarized in

1:01:06

words and of course most special to me was we went to my mother's island garas

1:01:12

island went to her Village and my family had built a library in honor of my

1:01:17

mother who passed away last year and we went we cut the ribbon we went inside

1:01:23

this Library and these kids were squealing with delight this building this library is

1:01:30

the most beautiful building in the whole village and we're going to fill it with books and as I looked at their CH these

1:01:37

children's faces I saw myself I saw my mother who never went to college but was

1:01:44

a very very smart woman it was simply the lack of opportunity that prevented

1:01:50

her from becoming more uh than she became came but I looked at this and I

1:01:57

thought this is why I am at UVU because the faces of these students they're Philippino yes but these are also the

1:02:04

faces of every student that walks in the hallways of UVU that fills out the FAFSA

1:02:11

forms that applies for any program at this University and I think about the

1:02:17

words of Andrew Cari what we are doing together as a community as Andrew carnegi said in

1:02:24

popular education or public education it is the basis of

1:02:30

stability it is the basis of all progress it is the basis of

1:02:36

civilization it is difficult it is hard but it is so worth doing so with all my

1:02:42

heart it's January 2024 I want to thank all of you for

1:02:48

being on this journey and for helping build the story of this remarkable institution that is Utah Valley

1:02:55

University we're in the business of hope we're in the business of dreams and nothing really honestly can be more

1:03:02

exciting than that except perhaps dancing to Taylor Swift music so on that note thank you again let's give all of

1:03:09

us a lot a round of applause thank

1:03:23

you

1:03:31

w we have 10 minutes for questions if anybody has

1:03:40

questions do we have microphones as well if there's a there are microphones so if

1:03:46

anybody has a question please raise your hand right there

1:03:53

please



1:04:03

maybe yes hi president thank you so much for the summary of all the great things

1:04:10

happening here at UVU um I would be interested in knowing what are you most

1:04:15

excited about for the next 11 months of this year well maybe the next 24 months

1:04:20

we have to complete Evergreen \$350 million that we have to raise I am very

1:04:26

excited about that and um somebody else earlier asked me that question what are

1:04:32

you most excited about and so that's one of the biggest things on my radar screen

1:04:37

as president of this University and then of course not losing our momentum on

1:04:43

retention and completion I think that is really really critical I am also very

1:04:49

very excited to finish my book I went on sabbatical last summer for 10 weeks weeks

1:04:55

and completed about six chapters of a memoir The Good the Bad and the Ugly is

1:05:00

all in there and um it's been very very difficult to eek out any paragraph since

1:05:07

I returned to UVU but I have to keep believing that I can finish this project

1:05:13

I'm three chapter short so I I look forward to that because in many ways it's even not even

publishing it

1:05:20

that matters to me I feel like if I leave that behind my kids will read it but it's been an important moment in my

1:05:26

life personally to look back and and see I mean you saw my The Village the slumps

1:05:32

you know just to see what a life can be because I've been helped by so many

1:05:38

people so I want to emphasize that that um I don't believe in being self-made at all I mean I think all of us were fed by

1:05:46

our parents so nobody is really self-made it is it is in the connection

1:05:51

of human beings in helping one another and not thinking of ourselves better than anybody else but really saying I

1:05:59

see you as a person I see you and what can you become you have to ask that

1:06:05

question and then we can help you become that so hopefully I finish my book

1:06:10

because if not something's got to give this job or that book

1:06:17

Cynthia you talk about what you're most excited about thank you for sharing that

1:06:22

I'd like to know what is the biggest obstacle that you feel that you have right now and how can our community at

1:06:31

large not just the member the people here the donors the board members the community at large how can we uh help

1:06:39

yes I think the single there are probably two challenges today that are big for UVU and all educ all

1:06:45

institutions of higher education the first one is what I talked about the devaluation of higher education to me

1:06:53

the saddest thing about that is that the people who will believe that will tend to be poorer people also because those

1:06:59

who are educated actually want their children to be educated and will'll do everything to educate their children I

1:07:06

belong to that demographic my husband is here Jeff talk Jeff and I will do everything to make sure our kids are

1:07:12

educated and so those who believe they don't need an education I mean that's tough because all the data shows us that

1:07:19

longevity of Life uh lifetime earnings Civic uh part participation all of those

1:07:25

are helped by higher education so that's the biggest challenge how can everybody help I think we all need to tell the

1:07:31

stories of education and why it is important um that's that's why I write a

1:07:37

lot of these op ads in order to somehow the voices extolling education have got

1:07:43

to become louder than the voices saying you don't need education anymore and when we think about geopolitical or

1:07:49

gloeconomic competition with China Singapore the middle income countries of Asia they're all putting their money in

1:07:56

education it's it's a knowledge competition out there the the Second Challenge I think biggest challenge

1:08:02

remains funding that's the number one reason that

1:08:07

people stop out it's funding that's the number one reason that's why I tease you

1:08:12

know UV USA president Zach Whitlock Zach I'll help you go out there become a billionaire and you better donate a

1:08:19

building so Zach signed on this dotted line he hasn't signed yet um so funding

1:08:26

you know I said earlier the cost of innovation the cost of instruction and I think we need at UVU

1:08:34

uh not only help in fundraising but we need help in even reconfiguring what we

1:08:39

do those on the outside give us feedback how can we do what we do better with AI

1:08:45

there are many ways people will consume their education many new ways that they will consume their education and so if

1:08:52

universities I lose you know the Monopoly and credentialing that we have had for a long time what do our

1:08:59

credentials look like so feedback from the community is always very much appreciated and you know please hire our

1:09:07

students please talk to our Deans our department chairs talk to me in my cabinet we're very open to feedback and

1:09:14

I think that's what allows us to become better every year uh in the back

1:09:22

yes is that please give her a round of applause Kat

1:09:29

Hickman Kat Hickman is a star alumna of UVU she got three undergraduate degrees

1:09:36

here was homeschooled dealt with lack of housing lack of food as a student she's

1:09:42

now a PhD student at MIT in biological

1:09:49

[Applause] oceanography

1:09:56

yes there we go I promise there is a technology in MIT um thank you presidentes for a really inspiring talk

1:10:03

it's gratifying to be a member of this community and I can attest to how much UVU has to offer its students I'm

1:10:09

curious what approach do you see UVU taking in the in the future to make sure  
1:10:14  
that students are equipped to deal with the difficulties and the continually  
1:10:19  
changing dynamics of the world including things like technology geopolitical relations how are  
we making sure that UVU students  
1:10:26  
are prepared for the future whatever that may bring thank you for that question I love the  
question because my  
1:10:32  
single biggest dream here at UVU is Project based learning uh we have our  
1:10:38  
innovation academy led by associate proost Tammy Clark If I Had the resources this innovation  
academy would  
1:10:45  
be Central to the UVU experience why because through the academy we offer  
1:10:51  
Project based learning as a student who's passionate about something must organize a team it  
could be business  
1:10:58  
related it could be philanthropic it could be public sector oriented it could be science we're pretty  
agnostic on the  
1:11:05  
project we we hire project managers to help these teams of students do what  
1:11:10  
they want to do we send some students to Stanford for design thinking and they come back and  
Mentor the students why is  
1:11:18  
this my single biggest dream and we've done this with very limited resources  
1:11:23  
because in working with a team you learn to understand what you're passionate about you learn  
to talk to others you  
1:11:31  
learn to disagree you learn to fail and ask yourself can I bounce back after  
1:11:37  
I've failed you learn to ask for help from Executives in the private sector or  
1:11:42  
your professors or advisors and and so in many ways you begin to experience  
1:11:48  
through a project let's say you work on it for a year or two you begin to experience life as it is  
and work as it  
1:11:56  
is and I think in the coming years with everything going on in the world this  
1:12:01  
type of ability to get to know others to live in discomfort to forgive yourself  
1:12:07

get back up to forgive others and work with them again these are exactly the things that we need as as individuals as

1:12:16

family members as citizens of America and yes so that's that's what I would do we're working on it we're working to to

1:12:24

to build the innovation academy imagine if you will a university

1:12:29

where where 90% of the students have worked on projects very clearly and they go interview for a job and they talk

1:12:35

about the project and what they learned to me that that would be completely uh gamechanging and lifechanging I think we

1:12:42

are actually just on time now so uh is that okay so my my boss in the back is

1:12:50

giving me the thumbs up so again I just want to thank all of you I mean I see so many familiar faces here many of you

1:12:57

have been with me since 2018 uh some of you were in the search committee that

1:13:02

that picked me as president and some of you were on the board so I want to thank you and again thank my colleagues

1:13:10

because every year for me here at UVU has been extremely rewarding and extremely meaningful and really from the

1:13:17

bottom of my heart thank you so

1:13:22

much

1:13:35

[Music]

1:13:52

let

1:13:58

[Music]

1:14:16

[Music]

1:14:25

[Music]