

**Women's Success Center & Wee Care Center  
Annual Report 2018-19**

***Graduating Women, Transforming Lives.***

**Responsibilities**

The Women's Success Center (WSC) was established in 2011 to address low retention and graduation rates of female students at UVU. Our mandate is to recruit, retain, and graduate female students. At the Women's Success Center, we work to remove barriers on the path to graduation, designing data-informed student programs to recruit, retain, and graduate our students. Our services are designed for women and available to individuals of any gender identity, ability, age, or life phase. Education is the gateway to a better future. Women with a college degree experience a dramatically better quality of life in three important areas: personal growth, family life, and positive impact in the community. We work to inspire and support more women to reach their potential and contribute their talents and abilities throughout the world.

**Data-designed Services:**

- Community —educate the community and influencers in student's lives about the value of a degree. That education is invaluable in women's lives, in their families, and for their communities
- Scholarships—addressing financial barriers for students in need; WSC hosts UVU's most successful scholarship fundraising event annually, the Women's Scholarship Luncheon, securing funds for annual and endowed scholarships
- Start up support —helping students with college admissions, FAFSA, and scholarship applications
- Success coaching —holistic approach to challenges facing current and prospective students
- Women of UVU —building a positive and supportive community, providing service opportunities, and networking
- Women Lead —leadership development, mentoring, service opportunities for the next generation of leaders
- Workshops —skill-building education on navigating major life transitions, developing professionalism, successful parenting strategies, and how to access FAFSA and scholarship resources
- Wee Care Center —affordable, accessible; quality childcare for students

Our team is a combination of 13 full-time employees, 1 embedded full-time employee, 1 embedded part-time employee and roughly 22 part-time employees (PT number changes depending on the time of year).

## **2018 - 2019 Journey:**

At the end of the 2018 - 2019 academic year, we incorporated UVU's Turning Point program and staff into the WSC. With this transition, we are happy to provide comprehensive service to community members and students navigating life transitions, pursuing their education and completing their degree.

We also secured additional space, which we will occupy in 2020. With this new space, we will be able to locate our growing team in one area to better serve the student body and meet the diverse needs of UVU's community. Our next task is to secure funds to renovate the space and increase operational efficiency allowing us to better serve our clients.

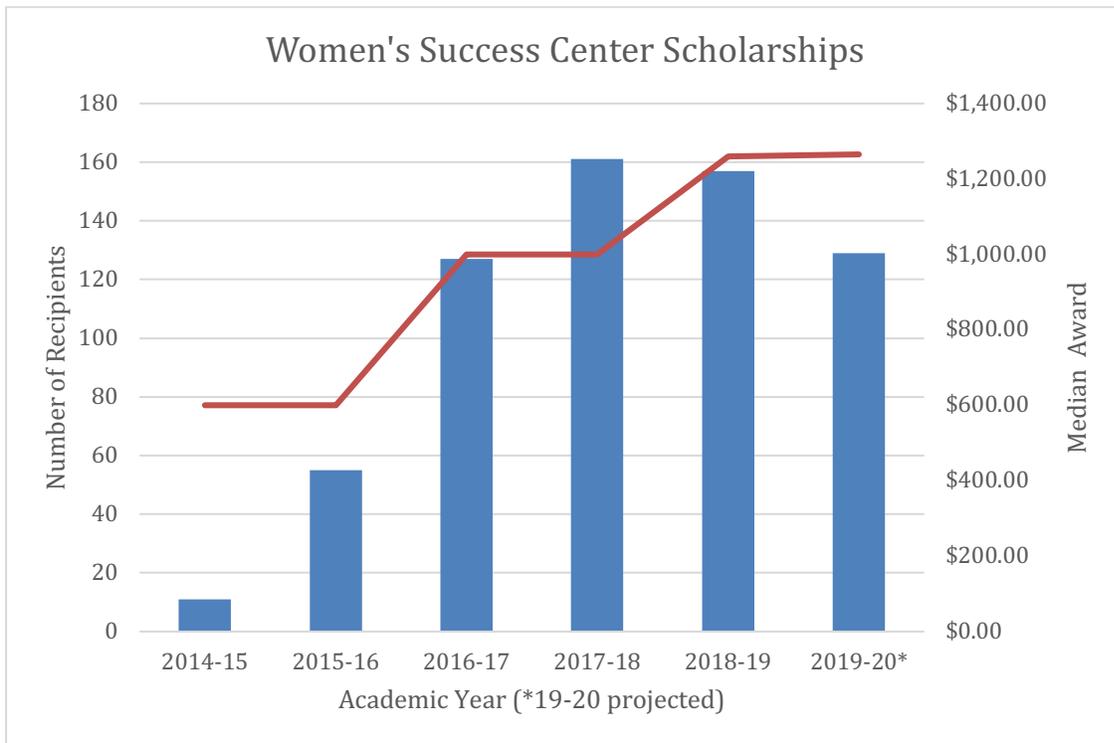
## **Highlights:**

- 91% of WSC scholarship recipients who have not yet graduated are enrolled for the 2019-20 academic year.
- Served 275 families and 475 children through the Wee Care Center
- CCAMPIS grant secured for \$825,000 to support operations of Wee Care
- 157 scholarships awarded
- Completed a successful Service Break trip to Seattle, WA where 20 students engaged with multiple business and nonprofit leaders to explore hands-on philanthropic work and behind-the-scenes management including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Days for Girls, and a refugee support network
- WSC scholarship recipients retain and persist at rates 17% higher than matched peers.
- 20 students in the year-long Women Lead cohort
- 187 students attended WSC skill-building workshops (FAFSA, scholarship essay writing, interview skills, etc.)
- 189 Women of UVU members
- 450 attendees of student activities
- 475 female hygiene kits built with donated materials, created by 196 student and community volunteers
- 528 students engaged in general services at the main Women's Success Center office
- 521 prospective students served through Turning Point
- 752 presentations, workshops, booths, and collaborative meetings to build community engagement

### Scholarship Support Program

Women are more likely than men to drop out of school due to financial concerns. By providing scholarships, we address the number one reason women leave school. Pairing financial support with a scholarship support program, these students launch into successful academic careers.

When we look at students on scholarship through the Women's Success Center, of those who did not graduate 91% are reenrolled for the upcoming school year. What we are doing works!



### **Student Success Story**

Claudia Hales and her daughter Clarissa Hales are both students at UVU and engaged members of the Women of UVU. Though Claudia put her education on hold when she immigrated to America from Guatemala and raised her family, she always knew she would return to school to complete her degree, “I am a full-time mother of four fun, bubbly and intelligent children. After seventeen years raising such a fun family, I decided to come back to school and pursue one of my life dreams to be a teacher.”

Through her mother’s influence, Clarissa found her passion for earning her degree and using it to make the world a better place, “My mom taught me there is nothing worth more than education. It is priceless. It is basically the only thing that has real value in the world.”

Both women encourage others to gain the education they need for their dreams.

“I would like to tell people that anything is possible,” Claudia Hales said. “If I can do it, they can do it. Just focus and set goals. You dream it, you can achieve it.”

