



UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

2026

General Education Summit

From the System to the Classroom:
Aligning General Education for Student Success

September 24 & 25

Douglas Ballroom

University of Utah Guest House & Conference Center
110 S Fort Douglas Blvd., SLC, UT

Day One

Norm Jones Excellence in General Education Awards Banquet

6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

CHECK-IN AND NETWORKING

6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

DINNER

7:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF FACULTY AWARDS

Day Two

General Program

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Geoffrey Landward, Utah Commissioner of Higher Education

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

OPENING PLENARY: THE VALUE OF SYSTEM AND INSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT

TJ Bliss, USHE Associate Commissioner for Academic and Technical Education, and **Steve Hood**, USHE Assistant Commissioner of Academic Affairs

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

BREAK

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Gen Ed 1010 – **Leigh Shaw**, Director of General Education and Undergraduate Studies at Weber State University, and **Michael Young**, Associate Dean of General Education, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Honors at Salt Lake Community College
- Institutional Showcase – Utah State University
- Institutional Showcase – Southern Utah University

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

KEYNOTE: THE VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN UTAH

Natalie Gochmour, Associate Dean in the David Eccles School of Business and Director of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Institutional Showcase – Utah Valley University
- Institutional Showcase – University of Utah
- Disentangling Learning Outcomes –
Harrison Kleiner, Vice Provost for General Education and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Utah State University, and **Camille Thomas**, Assistant Provost and Professor of Kinesiology at Southern Utah University

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

BREAK

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CLOSING PLENARY: THE YEAR AHEAD IN GENERAL EDUCATION

General Education Council Members

4:00 p.m.

WRAP UP AND ADJOURNMENT

