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Deneece G. Huftalin

President, Salt Lake Community College



Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin is the eighth president of Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), inaugurated in September 2014. A visionary leader and an unyielding advocate for accessible and quality education, she has dedicated her career of over three decades to making college accessible to all. Dr. Huftalin's leadership and forward-thinking approach have guided Utah's most diverse higher education institution through remarkable growth and transformation.

Upon appointment as president, Dr. Huftalin led an institution-wide strategic planning process resulting in a new mission, vision, values, and goals for the College. Driving this effort was her commitment to the democratization of higher education and her firm belief that it should be available to all. As a result, SLCC has led on many endeavors that promote college access, including:

- Creating the SLCC Promise program, which covers students' tuition and fees when federal grants fall short.
- Developing a robust Open Educational Resources initiative, which has saved SLCC students a staggering \$24 million in textbook costs since 2014.
- Activating and significantly growing SLCC's high-school outreach program, the Partnership for Accessing College Education (PACE) Scholarship Program, and more recently, middle-school outreach programs.
- Restoring a Prison Education Program at the Utah State Correctional Facility.
- Reducing access and opportunity gaps for immigrants by opening the College's Dream Center.
- Re-branding and growing Salt Lake Technical College at SLCC, which specializes in affordable, short-term training for students wanting to quickly launch prosperous careers.

Dr. Huftalin also prioritizes geographic accessibility to higher education. SLCC boasts nine locations throughout Salt Lake County, and as president she advocated for the opening of SLCC's West Valley Center and worked with government officials and industry leaders to build the Westpointe Workforce Training & Education Center. Dr. Huftalin also forged a dynamic partnership with the University of Utah to open the Juniper Building at the College's new Herriman Campus, a unique collaboration

allowing students to earn associate degrees from SLCC and then continue their studies at the U, all at the same location.

Before joining SLCC in 1992, Dr. Huftalin held roles at William Rainey Harper College, Northwestern University, the University of Utah, Stanford University, and the Institute for Shipboard Education. Prior to becoming the College's president, she served in various capacities at SLCC including director of academic and career advising, dean of students, vice president of student services, and interim president.

Dr. Huftalin holds national service positions on the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Salt Lake City Branch Board of Directors and the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Steering Committee. She also previously served as a commissioner and executive committee member for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

Over the years, Dr. Huftalin has been widely recognized for her leadership acumen and commitment to students, receiving the Salt Lake Chamber's ATHENA Leadership Award, the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) regional and national President Awards, and the American Association of University Women's Salt Lake City Branch's Distinguished Woman of the Year award. She was also named a Distinguished Alumna of the University of Utah in 2016.

Dr. Huftalin holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah, a master's degree from UCLA, and a doctorate in Education, Leadership, and Policy from the University of Utah. She and her husband, Tim, are the parents of two sons, Max and Eli. She enjoys hiking and exploring the mountains of Utah, boating, traveling, and spending time in her beautiful backyard with family and friends.

Nubia Peña

Senior Advisor on Equity and Opportunity to Governor Cox
and Director for the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs

Ms. Nubia Peña is the Senior Advisor on Equity and Opportunity to Governor Cox and the Director for the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs where their mission is to promote an inclusive climate for Utah's growing diverse community through training, outreach, youth leadership development, and policy and research efforts.



Ms. Peña is immensely grateful for the extensive experience acquired during the past 20 years working as a community organizer, partner, and policy advocate for underrepresented populations. She has the great opportunity to facilitate dialogues amongst local and national leaders on complex topics of inclusion and justice working to create access for historically underserved communities. Ms. Peña is a proud former member of the zealous team at the Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys where she advocated for youth rights during detention and delinquency proceedings. She is certified by the National Juvenile Defender Center as a Juvenile Training Immersion Program facilitator. In addition, Ms. Peña is a national consultant dedicated to bringing awareness to intersections of trauma and the School-to-Prison Pipeline, an epidemic that targets our most vulnerable youth by streamlining them into the juvenile justice system. She also served as adjunct faculty at the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law.

Ms. Peña has actively sought to bring awareness to issues of interpersonal and community violence through her professional endeavors and personal faith-based initiatives. She has a decade of experience assisting survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and violent crimes as a Law Enforcement Victim Advocate. Ms. Peña served as the Training and Prevention Education Specialist at the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA) for over a decade where she developed trainings on Youth Advocacy for Trafficked Survivors, Social Justice in Prevention Efforts, and Sexual Harassment in the #MeToo Era. During the unprecedented pandemic, Ms. Peña was assigned by Governor Gary R. Herbert to oversee the Multicultural Advisory Committee of Utah's COVID-19 Response in partnership with Byron Russell and Ze Min Xiao. The Committee of frontline and state agency leaders worked within existing frameworks to amplify efforts to alleviate the growing disparities in food security, housing and social services, economic sustainability, communications, language accessibility, digital equity, and health access. The model has been nationally and locally uplifted as an example of culturally responsive cross-sector collaboration. Ms. Peña received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah S.J.

Quinney College of Law in May 2016. During that year, she was selected as one of 25 law students in the nation to be recognized and highlighted for her social justice activism in the National Jurist, a leading news source in legal education. She was also selected as the recipient of the National Juvenile Justice Network 2019 Emerging Leader Award due to her longstanding commitment to youth rights, empowerment, and leadership development. Ms. Peña was named in Utah Business Magazine's 2020 40 Under 40 award recipients, recognized among the 2020 Heroes for Utah Philanthropy Day, selected as Sundance Film Festival 2021 Women's Leadership Celebration honorees and awarded the Utah Business Magazine's Living Color recognition for service in driving equity and inclusion in the state. In 2022, she was named the recipient of the Utah Minority Bar Association (UMBA) Jimi Mitsunaga Excellence in the Law Award for significantly contributing to and promoting the provision of legal services to underserved communities, excelling in the practice of law, and contributing to UMBA's mission of inclusive social impact. Most recently, Ms. Peña was named the recipient of YWCA's 2023 Outstanding Achievement Award and she was also selected as a 2023 Presidential Leaders Scholars, a national development experience that hones leadership capabilities through interactions with former U.S. Presidents, key administration officials, world-renowned academics, and business and civic leaders.

Meisha Lerato Robinson

National Director, Students for Dignity Campaign



Meisha Lerato is a multifaceted soulpreneur. She who lives love as her name connotes, truly exemplifies her purpose of using her works to magnify love, while tapping into her light as a tool of liberation.

As the Founder and Chief Executive of Hope at I Am We Are, Meisha has created a South Africa and US registered nonprofit that focuses on empowering Black youth with the mindset and skills necessary to become self-sufficient adults. Its vision is a world where all youth are socially engaged, globally aware, and economically free.

After completing her ontological coaching training at Ideal Global Coaching, Meisha founded Highest Truth. Highest Truth provides transformational coaching and impacts the lives of countless people across the globe by helping them remove the ‘mud’ or socialization that prevents them from knowing and actualizing their truth.

Continuing in her quest to live love, Meisha is a Co-Founder of UNITE, an initiative to heal the divisiveness in America. She currently is the National Director for the Students for Dignity Movement, where she is leading a national campaign to engage university students in the power of dignity as a tool to ease division in American politics and culture.

As a vessel of love, Meisha serves as the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager at Inspira and Enthuse Marketing agencies. She leads an employee-led taskforce and leadership steering committee in challenging any shortcomings of the agencies’ culture in embracing diversity, tackling biases and eliminating obstacles to inclusion.

Meisha has a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in marketing from New York University Leonard N. Stern School of Business, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and over a decade of marketing and strategy experience. Meisha has a unique way of connecting with people from diverse backgrounds. She has served in Benin, West Africa as a Small Enterprise Development Advisor in the U.S. Peace Corps, a Marketing and Community Events Manager supporting Special Olympics South Africa through Peace Corps Response, and Communications Director of the National Peace Corps Association. A life fueled by curiosity about

other cultures has even led Meisha to travel to over 50 countries and visit the one Ancient and seven Modern Wonders of the World.

Meisha believes love is the most powerful tool to ultimately bring liberation to all people and reconnect humans to our humanity.

Geoffrey Landward

Interim Commissioner of Higher Education, Utah System of
Higher Education



Geoffrey Landward is the Interim Commissioner of Higher Education. He previously served as deputy commissioner and secretary to the Utah Board of Higher Education. In addition to over a decade of public policy work, he has extensive executive leadership experience and 20 years of legal expertise in administrative law, education law, and employment law. He is a graduate of the J. Reuben Clark Law School.

Geoffrey also engages in freelance writing and editing. He recently started using only one space after periods, which has had astonishingly little impact on his life.

He is married—to an attorney no less—and has four oppressed children. Three cats live in his house, who mistakenly believe they can pay rent with dead mice and unending looks of disdain.

Dr. Juone Kadiri

Vice President for Institutional Equity, Inclusion and Transformation, Salt Lake Community College



Dr. Juone Kadiri is the Vice President of Equity, Inclusion, and Transformation at Salt Lake Community College. In this role, she leads efforts to promote inclusivity in both educational and professional settings. Dr. Kadiri is characterized by her qualities of courage, collaboration, innovation, strategic thinking, and storytelling, making her an innovative leader.

Dr. Kadiri has worked with government agencies, offering assessment and service evaluations. Her extensive experience in the field of education has been directed towards enhancing student success. She is a staunch advocate for ensuring that all voices are not only represented but also heard and served effectively.

Dr. Kadiri's educational journey includes a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a master's degree in social work from The University of Georgia, and a Doctor of Philosophy in African Studies from Howard University. She has also served as a mentor for SisterMentors and holds leadership roles in the National Association of Black Storytellers and Nubian Storytellers of Utah.

Dr. Jose Enriquez

CEO & Founder of Latinos in Action



Dr. Jose Enriquez is an immigrant who was born in El Salvador and grew up in East L.A. He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the national Latinos In Action education program headquartered in Sandy, Utah. Latinos In Action was awarded the White House's Bright Spot Award for Hispanic Education in 2015. Prior to his current role, Dr. Enriquez was a Division I college wrestler and two- time NCAA qualifier. His experience in education includes 11 years of service in school districts in Alpine and Provo, Utah, where he served as an assistant principal and Spanish teacher. He is also a former coordinator of Title III and Special Programs at the Utah State Office of Education.

Dr. Enriquez is also the Founding President of the Utah affiliate of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS). He was appointed as a commissioner on volunteerism by the Utah Commission on Volunteers in 2010, and as a governor-appointed commissioner to the Office of Multicultural Affairs in 2012. He holds a PhD in educational leadership, a master's in educational leadership, and a Bachelor's degree, all from Brigham Young University.

Currently Jose serves on the following Boards of Directors: San Francisco Fed Reserve Bank SLC Branch, United Way of Salt Lake, Intermountain Community Care Foundation, and Salt Lake Community College Foundation.

Dr. Tasha Toy

Assistant Vice President & Senior Diversity & Inclusion Officer,
Utah Tech University



Dr. Tasha Toy is the Assistant Vice President & Senior Equity & Inclusion Officer at Utah Tech University.

Her extensive background in higher education, spanning over two decades, includes over a decade devoted primarily to diversity and inclusion efforts at the institutional level. Notable accomplishments include her tenure as Director of Multicultural and International Student Programs at Berry College in Georgia, where she developed multicultural and international training workshops, crafted comprehensive strategic plans, and managed successful multicultural retention and graduation programs.

Dr. Toy is an active member of Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and has consistently demonstrated a commitment to student development throughout her career. She holds a bachelor's degree in history, with a concentration in African American studies, and a Master of Education in Instructional Technology, with a focus on African-American history from North Carolina Central University. Her academic journey culminated in a doctorate in higher education administration - research and policy from Seton Hall University.

Dr. Toy plays a crucial role for the Utah Tech University campus life and community. She collaborates closely with senior administrators to spearhead campus-wide diversity initiatives and raise awareness in accordance with the university's strategic plan. Additionally, Dr. Toy plays a crucial role in educating the campus community about essential multicultural and diversity issues affecting students, faculty, and staff.

Yudi Lewis

Executive Director of Hispanic-Serving Initiatives at Weber State University



Yudi Vargas Lewis serves as the inaugural Executive Director of Hispanic-Serving Initiatives at Weber State University. As part of her efforts, she will lead Weber State to achieve its strategic goal of increasing the number of full-time Latino student enrollment to 15% by the 2025-2026 academic year.

Vargas Lewis was one of 25 fellows nationwide to be selected for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 2021-22 Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo, where she was recognized for her work in recruiting and retaining Hispanic students. She is a 2019 fellow of the UC Berkeley Executive Leadership Academy.

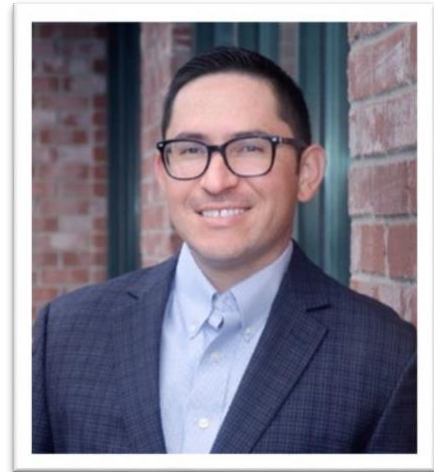
Before joining Weber State, Lewis spent 25 years at Utah Valley University in Orem, where she held progressively responsible roles, culminating with serving as program director for Latino Initiative in Multicultural Student Services (2009-2022). In that role, she helped increase UVU's Latino enrollment by 361% and graduation headcount by 724% (Fall 2007-Fall 2019). She fundraised over one million dollars in grants and donations.

Yudi's work has garnered state and national recognition, including the Pete Suazo Social Justice Award (2013), the Tonauac Award from the Federation of United Mexicans in Utah (2016), Utah's 40 Over 40 (2023), Utah Business Magazine's Living Color Award (2023), and Excelencia in Education program finalist (2013, 2015). In 2015, the Latino Initiative she led was selected as a Bright Spot for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. During 2022, the Latino Initiative's work was instrumental in Utah Valley University receiving the Hispanic Association of Colleges and University's Member Institution award.

As a first-generation high school and college graduate, Lewis holds two Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Management and in Behavioral Science (Psychology), a master's in business administration, and she is currently a doctoral candidate (ABD) in the Educational Leadership and Policy Program at the University of Utah. Lewis is an acclaimed presenter at national and international conferences. Yudi co-led a tuition-free Latino Scientists of Tomorrow program, which has been replicated at six schools nationwide.

Tranquilino "Kino" Hurtado

Executive Director of Hispanic-Serving Initiatives at Weber State University



Tranquilino "Kino" Hurtado is a passionate and dedicated higher education professional serving as the Director of Hispanic Serving Initiatives at Salt Lake Community College, where he is committed to advancing equity and inclusivity for Hispanic/Latinx students within higher education. Kino holds a bachelor's degree in economics, a master's degree in counseling and is currently pursuing a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy at the U of U. With a strong background in education, diversity, and higher education research, Kino has become a driving force behind the college's mission to become a model HSI in the state of Utah. His dedication extends beyond the confines of the campus, as he actively participates in regional and national organizations focused on Hispanic/Latinx education, sharing his expertise and best practices with a broader audience. Kino is originally from New Mexico where he grew up on a ranch. During his free time, Kino can often be found enjoying Utah's world-class outdoor recreation activities with his wife Jessica and three dogs, Dozer, Diesel, and Bentley.

James R. Taggart

President, Ogden-Weber Technical College

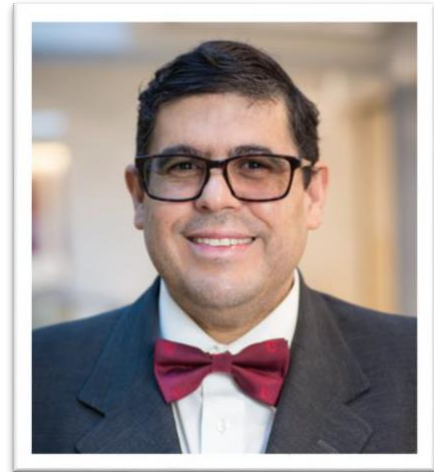


James R. Taggart has served as the president of Ogden-Weber Technical College (OTECH) since 2017. He has over twenty-eight years of experience as a technical educator and leader at the college. He began his career as a health sciences instructor and held subsequent positions in program development, institutional effectiveness, vice president for student services, and vice president for instructional services. President Taggart holds a bachelor's degree in health training and promotion from Weber State University and a master's degree in instructional technology from Utah State University.

An active member of local, state, and national organizations, President Taggart sits on the boards for the Utah Defense Alliance, Northern Utah Chamber Coalition, and the Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as a commissioner for the Council on Occupational Education (COE).

José E. Rodríguez

Associate Vice President for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at University of Utah Health



José E. Rodríguez, MD, FAAFP, is the Associate Vice President (AVP) for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (HEDI) at University of Utah Health. He has served as Interim Associate Vice President since August 2018. Rodríguez is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and has extensive background in diversity work in the health care arena. In addition to his HEDI position, he is a Family Physician and Associate Medical Director at U of U Health's Redwood Health Center.

Prior to joining the faculty at the U, Rodríguez co-chaired the Council on Diversity and Inclusion and co-directed the Center for Underrepresented Minorities (URM) in Academic Medicine at Florida State University College of Medicine. He is an accomplished academic, publishing numerous articles on the importance of underrepresented minorities in academic medicine. Rodríguez received his MD degree at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City and his BA at Brigham Young University.

Paul Hacking

President, Tooele Technical College

Paul Hacking is passionate about technical education. His passion has grown while having the honor of being the President of Tooele Technical College since 2017 and previously the President of the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College for 8 years. To date, he has worked at an executive level in various educational positions for 28 years including supporting the creation of a unique world-class air quality research team with USU that is housed at the Bingham Energy Research Building in Vernal. President Hacking believes that all students can learn and that each should be met where they are and encouraged to meet their educational objectives. He believes that the two most important tasks that educational leaders do are to hire the right people and support their success, and second - to make sure key stakeholders understand our story, and especially why each person's success in that story should be celebrated.



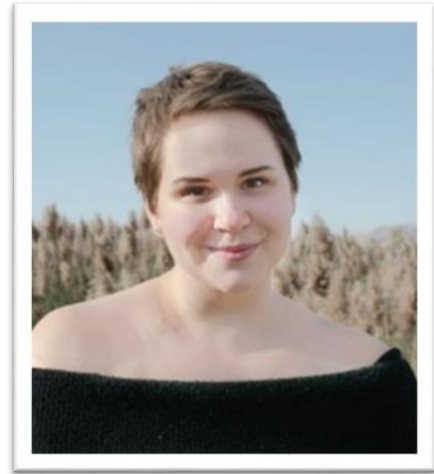
Kim Herrera

Director of Student Services and Counseling, Tooele Technical
College



Marianna Henry

Success & ADHD Coach, Educator

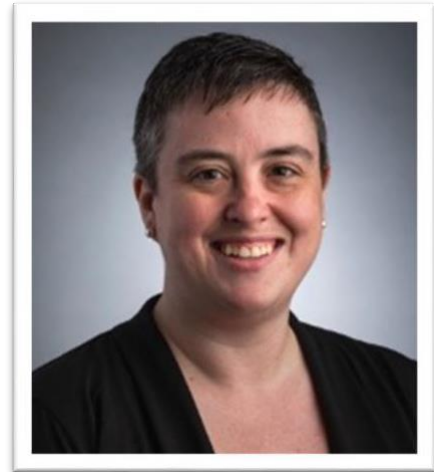


Marianna Henry is a first-generation, bilingual, Polish-American originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. She moved to Utah in 2008 for her partner's career opportunity and worked in student-facing staff and faculty positions at UVU for 14 years. Her work in higher ed introduced her to the world of coaching, which also prompted her to found MH Success Coaching in 2020. Marianna has a particular interest in partnering with ADHD clients, as well as researching, educating, and training around neurodiversity and neuroequality.

Marianna is an ICF Associate Certified Coach, Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach, and Higher Ed Trainer for JST Coaching & Training. As a volunteer, she served on the UWHEN UVU Chapter Board from 2019-2023, most recently as Chapter President, and joined the ICF High Country Chapter Board as President-Elect in 2023. She is also a co-lead for the Neuroequality Impact Team within the statewide Bolder Way Forward initiative. Marianna holds a Master of Professional Studies in Social Entrepreneurship. Her dream is to start an ADHD collective non-profit of like-minded and trained providers to serve as a one-stop-shop for ADHD support in the state.

Kristen Nuesmeyer

Director of Academic Standards & Certified Coach (ADHD, Strengths), Utah Valley University



Kristen Nuesmeyer (She/Her) is the Director of Academic Standards at Utah Valley University where she focuses programing on strengths-based, holistic academic coaching for student support. She has spent the last 19 years working in higher education in various roles including admissions, retention, advising, and academic coaching. She works to retain and graduate a talented and diverse student body through developing, implementing and evaluating student support initiatives. She goes beyond the numbers to see students as individuals, creating strengths-based programs and advocating for policies that support each student's distinctive story and enable them to graduate— and make a difference in the world.

Kristen started working specifically with neurodiverse students in 2014 and became a certified ADHD coach in 2020.

She holds a master's degree in student development administration from Seattle University and has always loved working in education. She currently lives just outside Salt Lake City, Utah, and enjoys spending time with her husband, son, and two dogs.

Richard Gonzalez

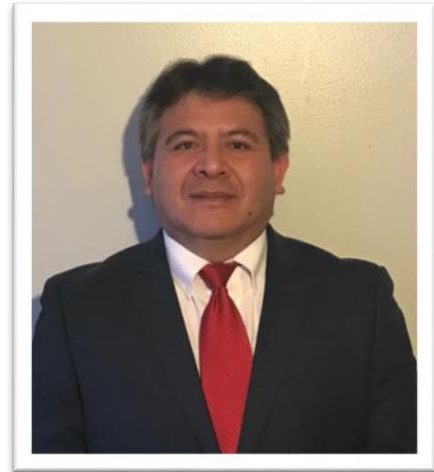
Assistant Commissioner for Access, Utah System of Higher Education



With a Doctorate from the University of Utah and an MBA from Utah State University, Gonzalez has dedicated his career to higher education. Currently, he proudly serves as the Assistant Commissioner for Access at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, working to make education accessible to all. When he is not in the office, he can be found in the great outdoors, fueling his love for camping and perfecting his yard. But his true joy is grilling carne asada with family and friends, savoring those moments that truly matter.

Fernando A. Montano

Director of Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer,
Snow College



Fernando is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at Snow College. He enjoys serving students from different worldviews and cultures; his main priority is the success of the Snow College students. Aside from his job responsibilities, he is currently serving as a board member of the Sanpete Valley Hospital in Mt. Pleasant, Utah. He is also involved in several community organizations, such as the Sub for Santa Program, the Sanpete County Interfaith Council, and the Catholic Church. Fernando was ordained a Deacon for the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City in 2017 and is currently serving the catholic communities of St. Jude's in Ephraim, Gunnison, and Richfield. Fernando graduated from Snow College in 2001 with an Associate of Arts degree, he received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Brigham Young University in 2004, and more recently he received a master's degree in Higher Education Leadership in 2021 from Utah Valley University. Life has not been easy for Fernando, back in 1998 he suffers from a physical paralysis that put him in a hospital bed for almost two years. With lots of physical therapy and a strong determination to walk again, he was able to retire his wheelchair and live a normal life again. Fernando is married to Hiraís N. Montano, and they have four children and four grandchildren. He and his family reside in Moroni, Utah.

Fernando's distinguished recognitions include:

- Human Rights Award by USCA — 2015
- Utah Valley University Community Engagement Award — April 2016
- Unsung Hero Award at Snow College — 2019
- NASPA Utah – Outstanding Mid-Level Professional Award — 2019
- Employee of the Semester — 2021

Carmen Alldredge

Director of Disability Services, Southern Utah University



Carmen Alldredge was born in Bolivia and raised in Madrid, Spain, where she studied nursing and resort and hospitality management, hoping, in the future, to work for Saudi Arabian Airlines. Carmen came to the US in 1985 pursuing her English proficiency courses at Weber State University; later on, she met her future husband Troy Alldredge, who changed her trajectory in life and who assured her that Southern Utah University would be a good fit for both of them to finish their education.

Carmen Alldredge studied at Southern Utah University, receiving her bachelor's degree in psychology and languages (Spanish and French); later on, she finished her Master of Public Administration, student affairs emphasis.

At the present time, she is the Director of Disability Services at SUU, serving students coming from different backgrounds and different ways of learning. Carmen is also part of many committees in the state and in the community where she lives. She is a great advocate for individuals with disabilities and the ones who cannot speak for themselves; she loves to be the voice for the Hispanic community in Southern Utah, making connections with SUU and the community to make sure their needs are served.

Isaiah Jones

Senior Director for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Utah State University



Isaiah Jones is the Senior Director for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Utah State University.

Jones previously served as the USU Parent & Family Coordinator for Orientation for four years. Jones is a graduate of USU, graduating with a bachelor's degree in human physiology in 2012 and a master's degree in history. Jones also holds a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame and is currently working on his doctorate degree in applied sciences, technology & education from USU. Jones is a second-generation Aggie as well, with his parents both graduating from USU.

During his time as a student at USU, Jones was also a member of the USU football team. Having seen USU as both a student and an athlete, and then as a staff member.

Cyndie Tracy

Director of Student Affairs, Southwest Technical College

Cyndie Tracy is the Director of Student Affairs at Southwest Technical College. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in Psychology from Utah State University while balancing the responsibilities of being a single, working mother of four.



During her academic journey, Cyndie discovered her passion for working directly with students, particularly those in non-traditional circumstances. Her commitment to education led her to a career with the Iron County School District's Alternative Programs, where she gained invaluable experience in supporting the unique needs of students.

In 2016, Cyndie joined Southwest Technical College, initially as an instructor for a Student Success course and later earned a position as an ADA Coordinator and Academic Advisor within Student Services. In these roles, she witnessed firsthand the challenges students face and recognized the holistic support necessary for their educational success. Cyndie dedicated her efforts to enhancing accessibility and improving retention rates.

In 2022, Cyndie was appointed as the Director of the Student Affairs department at Southwest Technical College. Under her leadership, she successfully established the school's first Student Center, providing students with a hub for resources, connection, study, and relaxation.

Cyndie Tracy's unwavering commitment to student success and her transformative contributions to the educational community make her an invaluable asset to Southwest Technical College and the broader field of student affairs.

Kilo Zamora

Social Change Facilitator | Educator



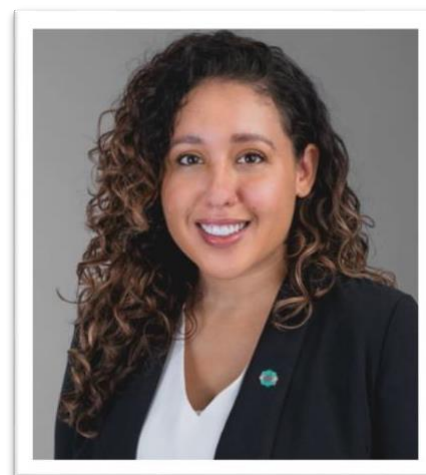
Kilo is known for his skills in creating learning environments for groups to develop themselves and transform their communities. Kilo applies his talents as a community engagement consultant and a teacher in the College of Cultural & Transformation, University of Utah. Recently, he served on Mayor Mendenhall's transition team and as the past chair of the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission. Before his career at the university, he served as the Executive Director of the Inclusion Center.

His awards include the University of Utah's faculty recognition award, School of Social Work's Teacher of the Year, Pete Suazo Social Justice Award, Equality Utah Award, Utah Education Association Award, Utah Martin Luther King Award, Southern Utah University Humanitarian Award, and University of Utah's Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Some of his recent successes are consulting Intermountain Health Care in developing their equity plan, transforming PENN State University's Athletic Department's DEI strategy, developing Weber School District's and Park City's first equity plans, leading University Neighborhood Partners strategic plan process, and is active in passing multiple state and local policies to protect marginalized people.

Laís Martinez

Inaugural Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Utah System of Higher Education



Ms. Martínez began her career in higher education after completing her undergraduate degree as a non-traditional (adult learner) student. This lived experience helps her understand the challenges faced by students as they navigate structural barriers, and it is the reason she is most grateful for her time working directly with first-generation students and their families.

A decade ago, she began her work as a regional enrollment advisor for USU Eastern and Utah Valley University. Ms. Martínez's institutional experience includes work in student affairs, student leadership, and community outreach. In this capacity, she spent much of her time in Latinos in Action, AVID, Gear Up, and TRIO classrooms, where she infused principles of Hip Hop pedagogy and spoken word to create culturally sustaining college readiness workshops for students.

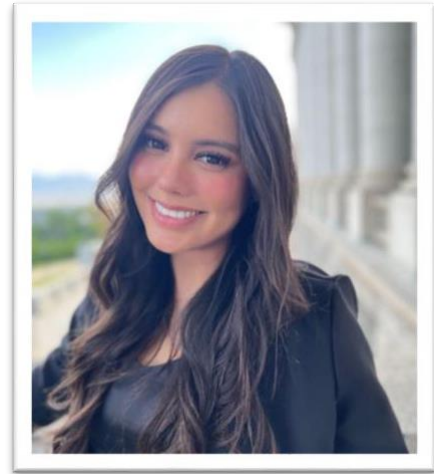
Later, as UVU's Assistant Director for School Community University Partnership, she led the only Spanish GED program in the state, securing grants to provide additional support for immigrant parents and adults to complete their GED. In this role, she also supported an after-school tutoring program for K-6 students as well as planned programming for UVU Prep, a free STEM Summer program for middle and junior high first-generation and underrepresented students.

When joining the Office of the Commissioner, she first worked managing statewide access and outreach programs like Utah College Application Week (UCAW), where she expanded the program to include an awareness component for elementary and middle school students. She was later promoted as the inaugural Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in 2020. In this role, she has had the unique opportunity to work in collaboration with many higher education, community, government, and business leaders and stakeholders to address systemic change through policy, programming, and funding. Since 2017, she has convened each of the institutional Chief Diversity Officers, providing state strategy for efforts to close attainment disparities and supported the collective creation of the [USHE Equity Lens Framework](#).

Ms. Martínez holds a Master of Education with an emphasis in Education, Culture, and Society from the University of Utah. She approaches her work rooted in the liberating power of education to transform lives.

Xitlalli Villanueva

Inaugural Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Utah System of Higher Education



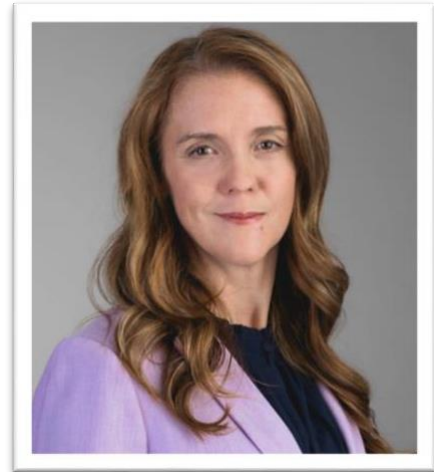
Xitlalli recently graduated from Weber State University with double bachelor's degrees in medical microbiology and sociology, minoring in chemistry along with an applied associate degree in chemistry technician. During her academic journey, she actively engaged in numerous research projects, earning the distinction of a Weber State University Office of Undergraduate Research Fellow. Xitlalli showcased her research findings at local, state, and national conferences, securing multiple grants to support her work.

Her passion for student involvement is evident through her various leadership roles, including serving as the College of Science Senator, Pre-Med Cohort President, and VP of Diversity and Unity. In her role as VP, she made significant contributions by participating in several committees, including her role as Co-Chair of the WSU President's EDI Advisory Council. Notably, Xitlalli was the first Latina Student Board member appointed to serve on the Utah Board of Higher Education.

Hailing from Idaho, Xitlalli maintains a deep appreciation for the rural charm and cherished jerky recipes of her upbringing. She proudly carries her family's Mexican heritage, staying true to her ancestors' legacy by demonstrating a steadfast commitment to education. Xitlalli currently serves as a Student Success and Opportunity Coordinator at the Utah System of Higher Education's Office of the Commissioner.

Cary Mayne

Chief Economist, Utah System of Higher Education



Carrie Mayne is the Chief Economist. Formerly, Mayne was the Chief Economist and Director of Workforce Research and Analysis at Utah's Department of Workforce Services, where she was employed for 14 years. She and her staff produced a wide array of tools to aid the public in understanding the state's workforce. Mayne is a member of the Utah Economic Council and the Governor's Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Utah and is working toward completing her doctorate in the same field. Her areas of expertise include labor economics, econometrics, and statistics.

Kyle A. Reyes

Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Utah Valley University



Dr. Kyle A. Reyes currently serves as Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Utah Valley University. Before this role, he spent five years as V.P. of Student Affairs, and from 2014-2017, Dr. Reyes served as UVU's Senior Diversity & Inclusion Officer and led the development and implementation of UVU's nationally recognized Strategic Inclusion Plan consisting of nearly 40 initiatives focused on making UVU a more inclusive campus. He has been at UVU for 20 years in various offices and programs: TRIO Upward Bound, GEAR UP, Multicultural Student Services, Student Success & Retention, the School of Education, and the Office of the President.

Dr. Reyes is also a tenured Associate Professor of Education at UVU and has taught courses in Multicultural Education, Family & Community Partnerships, and Arts-based Integration. His research focuses on arts-based student empowerment; leadership for equity and access; and institution-wide inclusion and diversity strategic planning.

Kyle has consulted with and presented to organizations in 28 states and Canada in various sectors, including K-12 education, higher education, business, community task forces, and faith groups. He has given more than 600 presentations over the past 17 years on issues of equity, humanity, diversity, inclusion, art, cultural competence, voice, identity, multiculturalism, and leadership. He is currently wrapping up his first book, a 5-year project entitled *Lenses of Humanity: Changing How We View the World to Show Up Better for the World*.

Dr. Reyes serves on the boards of Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education and Tech Moms. He is the past president of the Utah chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education and was the co-chair of the College Access Network for the Utah System of Higher Education. Kyle has also served on the Utah Governor's Multicultural Commission and the boards for American Indian Services and the United Way of Utah County.

Dr. Reyes has received a number of awards, including the Exemplary Educator for Diversity Award from the National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME); Inclusion Cultivates Excellence Award from CUPA-HR; UVU's Board of Trustees Award; Utah Valley Magazine's Top 40 Under 40; and the top 50 Diversity Executives in the Nation from Diversity MBA Magazine. Kyle received his Ph.D. in

Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah and was the recipient of the Bennion Morgan Fellowship.

Most importantly, Kyle and his wife, Michele, have seven children and deliberately try to build their cultural heritages (Hawaiian, Navajo, Filipino, Japanese) into their family learning and engagement.

Ciriac Alvarez Valle

Senior Policy Analyst, Voices for Utah Children

Ciriac joined Voices for Utah Children in 2018. Ciriac is a proud immigrant who is passionate about immigrant rights, education, and public health. She is a community organizer, poet, and writer. Ciriac graduated with a B.S. in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Utah. She was born in Cuernavaca Morelos, Mexico and grew up in Salt Lake City. She has plans to continue her education by obtaining a J.D. in the near future.



Brenda Santoyo

Dream Center Manager, Salt Lake Community College

Brenda Santoyo is an SLCC alumnus, and the College has been a home away from home for her for several years now. She recently completed her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy with an emphasis in Student Affairs at the University of Utah. As a daughter of Mexican undocumented immigrants, she has always strived to serve the individual needs of her beloved community. Brenda's drive and passion for the field stem from her background in serving undocumented students initially enrolled in the Bridge to Success and Bruin Scholars programs through the office for Orientation & Student Success. In her time at the College, she has played a role in launching the Bruin Dreams scholarship program, maintaining the Undocumented Student Ally Training, upholding the charge of the Undocumented Student Resource Committee, and managing SLCC's Dream Center, the second in the state of Utah, now as the inaugural Manager.



Rose Salamanca

Dream Center Director, University of Utah

Rosa Salamanca was born and raised in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States at the age of 16. She has extensive leadership experience in higher education and community organizations serving undocumented students and their families. Rosa is an experienced research professional, program creator and grant writer.

She finds joy in trees, bodies of water, camping, and therapy. She loves cooking for her family and friends, dancing cumbias and going on adventures with her dog Luna.



Maria Caballero

Director of Admissions, Ogden-Weber Technical College

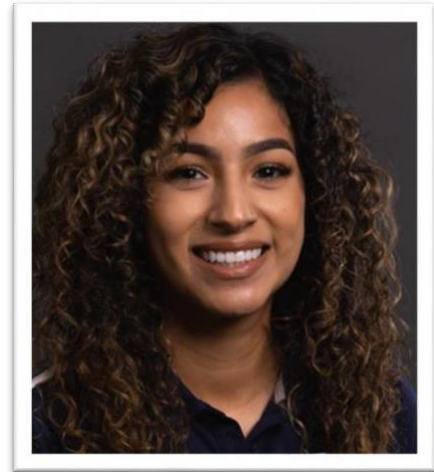
Maria Caballero was born in Mexico and came to the United States when she was very young. She has dedicated 17 years to student affairs, covering areas such as ADA, admissions, contract and proposal management, and DEI, among others.



Her upbringing was in Ogden, Utah, where she completed her education at Ogden High School before pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration at Weber State. She is happily married with two children and a furry companion. Additionally, her husband, Manuel, and she are proud owners of a construction business that seeks to continue to grow.

Brenda Medrano

Latinx/Undocumented DACA Student Coordinator, Utah Tech University



Brenda Medrano, a first-generation Latina, graduated from Utah Tech University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Communication. Her professional career is dedicated to helping underserved communities. She returned to Utah Tech in November 2021 as the Latinx/Undocumented DACA Student Coordinator in the Center for Inclusion & Belonging. Brenda's commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity is further evident through her active participation on several campus committees, including Utah Tech's Professional Development Committee, the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access Committee, and the Steering Committee. In addition, she is the advisor for the Student Organization of Latinos (SOL) on campus. Brenda's dedication earned her nominations and awards, including the 2022 Dixie Awards nomination in the Distinguished Staff Member - Rising Star category and the 2022 Dixie State University TRiO Trailblazer Award. Most recently, she was recognized as Staff of the Month for August 2023. Brenda is passionate about supporting students in ways that mirror the support she received during her own educational journey.

Katie Mazzie

Director of Student-Centered Initiatives, Utah System of Higher Education



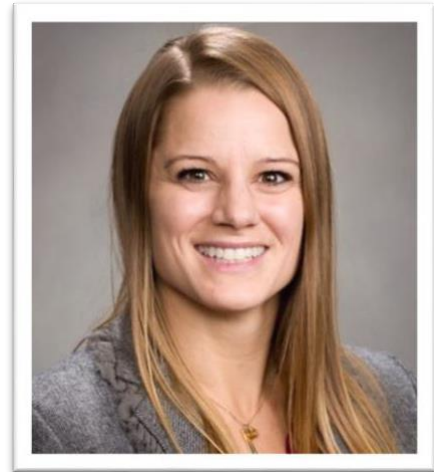
Katie Mazzie serves as the Director of Student-Centered Initiatives at the Utah System of Higher Education. As a first-generation college student, she earned her Bachelor of History and Political Science and Master of Public Administration from the University of Utah. Her career has centered around empowering students by improving access and equity in higher education. Her current work focuses on elevating student voices in decision-making processes and advancing collaborative, systemic strategies that promote the wellbeing of students in Utah.

Jenn Gibson

Student Success Manager, Mountainland Technical College

Jenn presently serves as a Student Success Manager at Mountainland Technical College, where she has dedicated more than 17 years of her career, taking on diverse roles, including Career Placement Specialist and Data Specialist.

She pursued her education at Boise State University and also earned her Certified Nurse Assistant certification through Mountainland Technical College.



Amber McGuire

CARE Hub Director, Utah Valley University

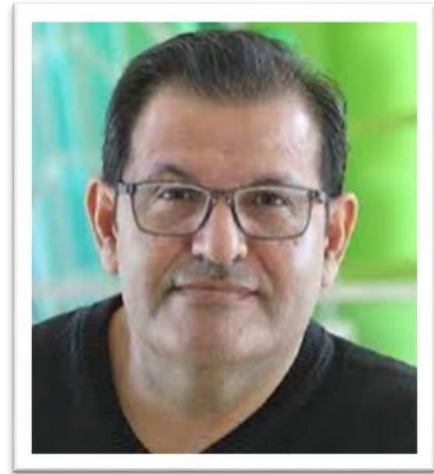
Amber McGuire is the inaugural director of Utah Valley University's CARE Hub, a basic needs center for students facing food, housing, safety, and health insecurities. She has been working with underserved populations for a decade and has been in higher education for over 8 years. She has a master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education and is currently a third-year Ph.D. student in St. Thomas University's Ethical Leadership program. Her dissertation research focuses on Trauma-Informed Care and followership.



Rene Zepeda

Basic Needs Coordinator, Salt Lake Community College

Rene Zepeda is a bilingual/bicultural Spanish speaker and is a first-generation student, having studied Social Work at Salt Lake Community College, Film/Media and currently Ethnic Studies at the University of Utah. He has worked in social services in Utah since 1997, has over 20 years of experience in case management with an emphasis on homelessness prevention, medical care coordination, case management for HIV+ Spanish speakers, community organizing, and helped pilot the first Shelter Diversion Program in Utah.



Aaron Weight

President, Uintah Basin Technical College



Aaron K. Weight is the 11th president of Uintah Basin Technical College, joining the college in June of 2014. As a technical engineer, small businessman, educator, and community leader, he has dedicated his career to advancing business, community, and educational opportunities regionally and throughout the state of Utah. As President, he has engaged the college community in a visionary plan to advance UBTech's role as a nationally renowned institution, producing highly qualified workforce prepared graduates. Recent initiatives, such as "A Partner for Every Program" and "Vision 2030" define UBTech's role as an economic development partner in the business community, and align student's technical education experiences, with the current needs and opportunities of industry in the state.

Since the announcement of his first initiative, UBTech has formally partnered with nearly 40 companies and philanthropy minded organizations, to provide college students with scholarship opportunities, and work force alignment.

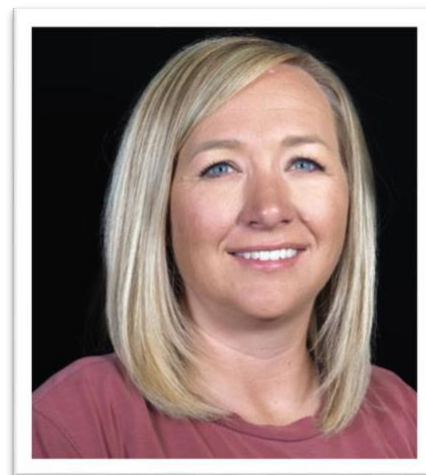
President Weight's vision for UBTech led to the creation of the college's formally recognized cultural motto called "The UBTech Way." Embodying the colleges desire for students, staff, and community members to be Student Centered; Service Oriented; and Connected on Campus and in the Community.

He earned undergraduate degrees, with high honors, in Electric Power Technology, and Energy Management, from Bismarck State College. Continuing to earn a professional certificate, in Distribution Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, and a Master of Science in Management and Leadership degree from Western Governors University.

President Weight has been honored and recognized by numerous organizations for his public service and leadership and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Jenalee Moynier

Chief Diversity Officer and Completion Coordinator, Uintah
Basin Technical College



Jenalee Moynier, a native of Roosevelt, Utah, has a deep-rooted connection to the Uintah Basin, where she was born and raised. She continues to call this picturesque region home as she raises her two beautiful children, alongside her wonderful husband of 15 years. Their love story began in 2003 when they crossed paths at the College of Eastern Utah in Price, Utah, while Jenalee pursued her studies in Criminal Justice.

With a passion for family, the Moynier's spare time is largely devoted to watching their kids play sports. Their shared love for the Uintah Mountains has become a cherished tradition, with hiking, camping, and exploration serving as their favorite pastimes.

Her diverse career journey has seen her in various roles, including working at the Southern Utah Mortuary and serving as a Deputy Probation Officer for the state of Utah. For many years, she dedicated her skills to the K12 education system, focusing on special education, where she specialized in helping students with severe behavior issues. Her efforts were instrumental in fostering positive behavior both inside and outside the classroom, ultimately reintegrating these students into the regular education system.

Currently, Jenalee serves as the Chief Diversity Officer and Completion Coordinator at Uintah Basin Technical College, where she has taken on a leadership role in creating the college's first inclusion and support center. Her strategic work has fostered collaboration among students, staff, and faculty, leading to essential programs and curricula on important topics like Martin Luther King Jr. Day and global and cultural training.

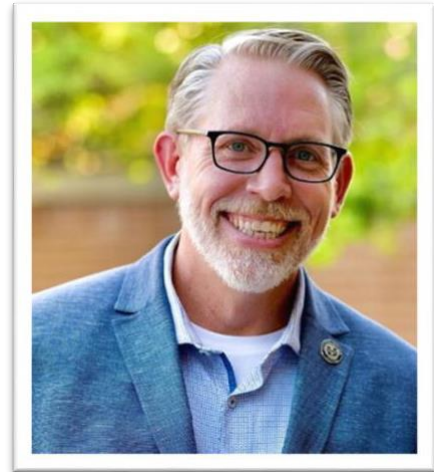
In addition to her institutional leadership, Jenalee extends her influence into broader educational circles. She is an active participant in the statewide Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) network. Over the last two years, she has been instrumental in planning CDO professional development retreats, ensuring that emerging CDOs receive the necessary education and leadership training.

Jenalee's impact isn't confined to the state level alone. In 2021, she played a pivotal role as the only technical college representative in the first cohort of the National Association of System Heads (NASH) Equity Action Collaborative. Her work with the Commissioner's office and NASH led to the development

of the USHE Equity Policy Review Guide, facilitating equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) reviews of Utah Board of Higher Education policies.

Kristian Olsen

Senior Associate Vice President, Utah State University



Kristian Olsen is a Senior Associate Vice President at Utah State University, with a commitment to higher education and a keen focus on serving underserved communities and students. In his current role, he oversees operations for USU in Grand and San Juan Counties, striving to create opportunities for students to flourish and reach their aspirations. Beyond his professional endeavors, Kristian treasures his roles as a husband to Emily and a father to two teenagers. In his free time, he can often be found amidst the captivating canyons of southern Utah, exploring their natural wonders, or enjoying a round of golf on the weekends.

Emma E. Houston

Assistant Vice President of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and
Chief Diversity Officer for the University of Utah



Emma E. Houston serves as the University of Utah's Assistant Vice President of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and she is the Chief Diversity Officer for the Division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, where she provides leadership for university-wide EDI initiatives.

Prior to joining the University of Utah, she was appointed and served for four years as the Director of Diversity Affairs for the Salt Lake County government. With over two decades of transformational development experience, Ms. Houston has demonstrated strong diversity leadership skills, managed and guided diversity councils, and facilitated numerous diversity training programs. Ms. Houston is a well-known community organizer who currently serves on several non-profit boards and is the former chair of the Utah MLK Commission. Emma is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.