

2024



# CONFERENCE

INNOVATIONS IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT:  
STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN A CHANGING  
LANDSCAPE



**FRIDAY MAY 17, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY WASATCH CAMPUS

3111 COLLEGE WAY, HEBER CITY, UT 84032

# LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR **KEYNOTE**



Dr. Brad L. Mortensen became the 13th president of Weber State University on January 1, 2019 with a call to action for the Weber State family to “Become louder and prouder about Weber State University.” Brad joined Weber State in 2004 as assistant vice president for auxiliary and support services, and served as vice president of university advancement from 2007 through 2018.

Prior to coming to Weber State, his professional endeavors included the Utah System of Higher Education, Utah governor’s office, Arizona legislature and two policy fellowships.

In October 2021, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ Governing Board appointed President Mortensen to a two-year term, noting that his insights and leadership in Hispanic higher education will be invaluable. His leadership has Weber State on the path to becoming an Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution by Fall 2025.

Brad earned an associate’s degree from Ricks College, bachelor’s degree from Utah State University, a master’s degree from Syracuse University and a doctoral degree from the University of Utah.

Originally from Lyman, Idaho, Brad and his wife Camille (a 2021 WSU alumna) are the parents of four children, including two who graduated from Weber State, and another who is currently attending as a traditional and early college student.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## WELCOME

8:30am - 10:20am

### CHECK-IN & BREAKFAST

8:30am - 9:00am – Room 202

### WELCOME

9:00am – Room 202

### KEYNOTE – DR. BRAD MORTENSEN

9:10am - 10:20am – Room 202

Dr. Brad Mortensen is the current president of Weber State University. His topic will center around "Do I Really Want to Be an Architect?"

## 1ST SESSION

10:30am - 11:20am

### THE OTHER SIDE OF "RETENTION": MAKING STUDENT LEARNING STICK

GREG NIELSEN (WSU) – ROOM 220

Albert Einstein stated, "Education is that which remains, after (one) has forgotten everything that (they) learned in school." As career development professionals, we are educators first and foremost – and whether we are acting in the role of career counselors, workshop facilitators, mentors, and/or classroom teachers, success depends on our ability to make student's learning "stick." With all the talk about "retention" in higher education these days, it is easy to forget that our true legacy lies not just in improved graduation rates, but in the knowledge/skills that our students retain and apply throughout their lives. Come explore the secrets of how our brains achieve "deep learning" as unlocked by modern neuroscience and applied to career development. This interactive presentation will highlight innovative, research-based strategies for helping our students (and ourselves) learn more effectively and retain what they have learned. As a bonus, we will view the first image ever created of a memory forming in the human brain ("like wow!")

### USING HANDSHAKE EXPERIENCES FOR YOUR STUDENTS' EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

LISA HEISKELL & TRISHA JENSEN (WESTMINSTER) – ROOM 227

Learn how Westminster University has migrated internships/experiential learning to the Handshake Experiences tool. We will walk you through how to use Handshake Experiences to centralize and quantify internships/experiential learning at your school. Hear the pros/cons we've discovered and future plans for development.

## 1ST SESSION CONTINUED

10:30am - 11:20am

### ● THE SUPER POWERS IN NEURODIVERSITY AND OTHER DISABILITIES AND HOW TO HELP JOB SEEKERS AIM THEM FOR CAREER SUCCESS

TONY JEWKES, ANDREA MERRIMAN & TYLER BRIGGS (BYU)  
– ROOM 228

People with disabilities make up the largest minority group in the nation. And in the changing landscape of employment where individuals with disabilities (visible and invisible) are entering the workforce in greater numbers, learn about the "super powers" of neurodiversity and other disabilities and how to help people with disabilities achieve career success.

### ● EMPOWER CAMPUS WITH CAREER READINESS SKILLS

ASHA STAPLEY (UTU) – ROOM 229

Many employers say that recent college graduate employees lack the professional skills needed to succeed in the workplace. Join us in a workshop to discuss the professional skills employers want to see and how to encourage campus-wide integration in conversations and curriculum. Come prepared to assess how you are already integrating career readiness verbiage and bring your ideas and current practices to share in the conversation.

## 2ND SESSION

11:30am - 12:20pm

### ● ROLLING OUT THE GREEN CARPET | PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

JANALEE CARTER & BRYNN LEAVITT (UVU) – ROOM 220

The UVU Employer Relations and Events & Marketing Teams have developed a recipe for success at recruiting events that result in a "green carpet" experience for both. We will approach this by exploring our Common Goals, Worst Case Scenarios, Problem Solving, Communication, Best Practices, and UVU Strategies for Success! We view employers and students as our guests as if we are hosting a party at home and do our best to elevate their experience on campus. Our innovative approach to events, marketing, and employer relations has resulted in an exceptional experience for our team, our employers, UVU students and other UVU departments, faculty and staff. Our collaboration between the Employer Relations and Events & Marketing Teams has developed over many years and has proven to be valuable as we connect students with employers.

## 2ND SESSION CONTINUED

11:30am - 12:20pm

### ● **AI EMPOWERMENT IN CAREER & GRADUATE SCHOOL SUCCESS: A YEAR IN REVIEW**

SKYLER COOMBS, MICHAEL ELROD (BYU) & SHANE BLOCKER (UTU) – ROOM 227

Join Skyler Coombs and Shane Blocker as they return with insights from a year spent at the forefront of AI in career development. Building upon their presentation on leveraging AI, they will guide you through the advancements, real-world applications, and lessons learned in using AI to empower students' journeys into the job market and graduate school. This session will unravel the transformative impact of AI technologies like ChatGPT, sharing success stories, addressing challenges, and offering a glimpse into the future of career advising. Discover the practicalities of AI integration, navigate through the ethical landscape, and explore strategies to enhance student outcomes. Whether you're an educator, a career advisor, or simply intrigued by AI's potential, this presentation will equip you with valuable insights and actionable strategies for the year ahead and beyond.

### ● **CAREER ACADEMY: PIONEERING CAREER READINESS ACROSS STUDENT AFFAIRS**

MACKENZIE JENKINS & BRANDON STREET (SUU) – ROOM 228

SUU Career Academy is a program we created for on-campus student workers to empower them with the essential skills employers are seeking, ensuring their career readiness upon graduation. This presentation will highlight the strategies and practical tools that have been pivotal in creating the success of this program. Gain insights into the structure and execution of the program and learn how to adapt and implement similar models in your institutions to support students in preparing effectively for life after college and thriving in their future careers.

### ● **BUILDING AN INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR COUNCIL**

JOSEPH BANKS (USU) – ROOM 229

Do you have several internship coordinators on your campus working under different departments, each with their own goals and agendas? Discover the transformative power of a decentralized Internship Coordinator Council (ICC) in elevating experiential learning on your campus. Learn to establish a collaborative platform for idea exchange and develop needed resources to all be on the same page. This session offers practical insights for adapting the ICC model to your institution, fostering a community of engaged internship coordinators committed to enhancing the quality of internship programs.

## LUNCH

12:30pm - 1:20pm

### ● LUNCH, PROGRAMMING AWARDS, & RECOGNITIONS

LISA LAIRD & TRISHA JENSEN –ROOM 202

Enjoy a delicious lunch along with programming awards and recognitions.

## ROUNDTABLE

1:30pm - 2:20pm

### ● UACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROOM 202

### ● OTHER DEPARTMENT LEADERS (DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS/ADMINS)

ROOM 204

### ● INTERNSHIPS/EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

ROOM 220

### ● EMPLOYER OUTREACH

ROOM 227

### ● MARKETING/EVENTS

ROOM 228

### ● CAREER ADVISORS/COUNSELORS /COACHES

ROOM 229

CLOSING

2:30pm

## ● CLOSING REMARKS – ROOM 202

LISA LAIRD, UACE PRESIDENT

TRISHA JENSEN, UACE PRESIDENT ELECT

THANK YOU FOR  
ATTENDING THE 2024  
UACE CONFERENCE!

## RECOGNITION

RETIREE



**Sue  
Stephenson**  
Career Counselor

*21 years at  
Utah Valley University*

# SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR UACE PLANNING COMMITTEE

## CHAIR

TRISHA JENSEN

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LINDSEY BOSLEY

MICHAEL ELROD

LIZ HASTY

LISA LAIRD

BRYNN LEAVITT

HALEY MAHLER

SCOTT MOON

MARTY OVERLY

JULIE POND

MIKE RAY

JERRY ROSS

KEVIN SPRINGER

LEANN WEIBERT

JACOB WILKEY

# THANK YOU

SITE HOSTS MICHAEL SNAPP AND UVU  
CAREER & INTERNSHIP CENTER STAFF

