

## President's Report – December 2016

### Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community

1. The University of Utah, led by the David Eccles School of Business and its Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, is one of the best schools in the country for students who want to launch their own businesses, according to *The Princeton Review*. In a new survey, the University ranked No.15 for graduate education and No.18 for undergraduate education on *The Princeton Review's* lists of the top 25 schools for entrepreneurship studies for 2017.
2. Erin Beeghly, Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, and Paul Rose, Professor of Communication, have been awarded a Daniels Fund Leadership in Ethics Education Award. Dr. Beeghly won for her course BUS 3960, "Topics in Philosophy and Business." Dr. Rose won the award for his course COMM 3505 "Intro Media Business Ethics." The Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative strives to reinforce the value of ethical business and personal conduct. Bill Daniels, a pioneer in cable television, founded and funded this initiative based on his personal values of business ethics and fairness. The Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative principles include: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law, and Viability.
3. The University of Utah is shaping the national conversation on transportation. As part of a multi-university program, the Department of City & Metropolitan Planning in the College of Architecture + Planning has been awarded a five-year, \$15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for research, education and outreach as a program partner of the National Institute for Transportation and Communities program, or NITC. The NITC grant will provide a base minimum of \$850,000 to the U, and the funds will support doctoral student research assistantships, scholarships, student group activities and basic research over the grant's five years.
4. As a teenager just moved to Iowa from war-ravaged Germany in 1950, John M. Opitz, M.D., wanted to study developmental biology, but his "very Prussian" mother insisted he go to medical school instead. The intervening 65 years have shown the wisdom of her insistence. A professor of pediatrics at the University of Utah School of Medicine, Opitz is one of the world's foremost authorities in medical genetics, the discipline dedicated to identifying, treating and understanding human genetic disorders, some so rare that only a handful of people worldwide are known to have them. Now 81 and retired from seeing patients due to his failing eyesight, Opitz has gained another prestigious honor, this one from his birth country. On Dec. 3, 2016, in a ceremony in Salt Lake City, he received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany – also called the Bundesverdienstkreuz (BVK) or Federal Cross of Merit – the only national decoration awarded by the German government. The award recognizes those who have had a profound impact on building the relationships between Germany and other nations. Opitz, who has taught and conducted scholarly work in Germany and other European countries for decades, was nominated for the BVK by two esteemed German physician-colleagues, Christoph Viebahn, of the University of Göttingen, and Jürgen Spranger, emeritus chair of pediatrics at the University of Mainz.