

## President's Report – January 2018

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

1. Mary Beckerle, the CEO and director of the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, has won a prestigious national award given to researchers who add significant new insights to the genetic underpinnings of the disease. The National Cancer Institute on Tuesday, January 9, announced the award, which is named after Alfred G. Knudson, a U.S. physician and geneticist who helped reveal several major genetic mysteries behind cancer.
2. Two University of Utah Department of Communication professors have been included in the Harvard Nieman Lab's 2017 list of most important new research in digital and social media. The inclusion of Professor Shannon McGregor and Professor Avery Holton marks the first time that two University of Utah professors have landed on the list, which selects the Top 10 most influential of the year from hundreds of peer-reviewed national and international articles.
3. The J. Willard Marriott Library and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts at the University of Utah have been awarded a \$500,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant will provide partial funding for a four-year collaborative project that will establish the U as a global resource hub for artists and scholars studying the West and create access to the U's remarkable collections, resources and knowledge. The project entitled "Landscape, Land Art, and the American West: A Joint Research and Engagement Initiative of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and the J. Willard Marriott Library," will transform how the library and museum work together. As leaders in the region for scholarly research, exhibition design and collections care, the library and museum curate extensive – but separate – holdings related to environmental and cultural histories of the Intermountain West. Through this new initiative, these collections will be linked in ways that enable students, faculty and researchers to systematically mine content for innovative learning and teaching.
4. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has awarded a \$2.45 million grant to the University of Utah to develop, pilot, and disseminate a tool to evaluate operational Electronic Health Records systems (EHRs) in ambulatory clinics. The Ambulatory Patient Safety EHR Flight Simulator Tool will enable ambulatory clinics to improve medication safety for their patients. Adverse drug events are the leading cause of ambulatory safety problems, and these events are frequently preventable – many are related to prescribing errors. The frequency and severity of medication safety problems has been a driving force for the adoption of EHRs in both inpatient and ambulatory settings of care. More than 95 percent of hospitals have implemented EHRs.
5. Students in the Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) program at the University of Utah David Eccles School of Business can now tout a top 10 program ranking in the United States. The 2017 *TFE Times* rankings named the Eccles School MSBA program No. 10 in the U.S. The degree launched in late 2016, making 2017 the first year the MSBA program was eligible to receive a ranking. The Eccles School is home to Utah's only business analytics graduate program. Students gain advanced skills in both analytics and management, preparing them to enter the lucrative data industry. The *TFE Times* rankings are based on program average GMAT scores, undergraduate GPAs, admission rates, post-graduation employment rates and average starting salaries.

6. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, the Beehive State is No. 2 in the country in higher education based on graduation rates, educational attainment, low debt at graduation and tuition and fees. Florida was ranked No. 1. Furthermore, Utah's students leave four-year colleges with the smallest debt burden of any state, averaging less than \$19,000 per student, according to the study. Utah is also fourth best in the country in its average cost of tuition and fees for in-state students attending a four-year college.
7. The University of Utah College of Nursing's Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program (GIP) has been recognized as one of the best in the country. The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) named the college's master's program one of 13 "programs of merit" this month. The rating is considered a "stamp of excellence" verifying the program's quality for prospective students and funders, says GIP Director Jackie Eaton. The application process takes two years of evaluation and assessment by AGHE, including "mapping" all gerontology courses. In the end, the College of Nursing's interdisciplinary master's program was recognized for its academic excellence, support from college leadership, and faculty training and rigor, including:
  - Innovative ideas for both program and financial growth
  - A "solid" interdisciplinary gerontology curriculum following AGHE competencies
  - Committed relationships with local communities
  - Required internship hours that exceed AGHE guidelines
  - Outcomes-based assessment of graduates
8. Cindy Burrows has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society. This is one of the most prestigious honors in chemistry, its purpose "to publicly recognize eminent chemists who, through years of application and devotion, have brought to the world developments that enable everyone to live more comfortably and to understand this world better." Medalists are selected by a national jury of eminent chemists from different disciplines, the nominee being a chemist who, because of the preeminence of his/her work in and contribution to pure or applied chemistry, is deemed worthy of special recognition. This award has been given since 1911, and only one previous Utah chemist (Henry Eyring, 1968) has received it.