Christy Glass, professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology, is known by her colleagues as a scholar activist who works tirelessly to promote diversity and inclusion in our institution and our community. Her efforts in creating the Center for Intersectional Gender Studies and Research (CIGSR) have been an outstanding example of transparent, engaged, and inclusive leadership, where she is always asking, “Who is missing from the table?” In the past year, the CIGSR has funded a class of six research fellows and five teaching fellows who represent a variety of disciplines, genders and ethnic groups.

Glass is committed to diversity in hiring and engaged in extensive research of best practices to recruit and hire faculty from underrepresented and marginalized groups. She has chaired four searches within the sociology program that have resulted in the hiring of five international and/or scholars of color into tenure-track positions, diversifying the department and contributing to the overall increase of diverse faculty at USU.

And after hiring, Glass understands that retention is critical for making diversity a fixed feature of an institution. She is a strong supporter of women, people of color, immigrants and others underrepresented at the university. She nominates diverse scholars for awards, recommends them for task forces and committees, and supports visa applications. Glass’s dedication to seeking out best practices and evidence-based innovations in diversity efforts is shown in her own work as a search committee chair, promotion and tenure committee chair/member, teacher, mentor and director of the CIGSR, and member of USU’s Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, along with her work to get these practices institutionalized within USU.