Crescencio López is an assistant professor in the USU Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies department in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, who is dedicated to making intercultural connections between his students and the broader Logan community while promoting inclusion and diversity in everything he does.

While we usually receive a single nomination per nominee, Dr. López was independently nominated by both a student and a colleague. His student nominator may have said it best when she wrote, “When I describe the immense impact he has had in my life, I know that I am speaking for many individuals. He has brought positive change to the university and he is bridging the gap between Latinos and others outside of our culture to come together through cultural celebrations and creative arts. Today, he is a mentor, a friend, an intellectual, an advocate, a community leader – an individual I aspire to be like in the future.”

In the classroom, López provides a variety of opportunities for his students to engage with the Cache Valley Latino community by reading stories in Spanish to Latino children at the Logan Public Library and Bear River Charter School. In his culture classes, students are asked to interview Latinos living in Cache Valley in order to develop personal connections of the subject matter. His course also includes a service component where free translation services are offered to non-profit organizations and public offices in Cache County.

As an innovator and inspirer, López created the Utah State University Latinx Creative Society in 2015 in order to teach undergraduate Latinx students to embrace their cultural heritage through literary and media art such as poetry, short story, documentary and filmmaking. At Utah State University, he has served as an advisor and mentor to the USU Spanish Club, the USU Latinx Student Union, and Aggie Dreamers United. López serves as a key member of Logan City Public Library, where, because of his involvement, the library started a Spanish children’s story hour, created a Latino Advisory Committee and purchased more Spanish language children’s books. He was also instrumental in the creation and implementation of a series of driver’s education classes particularly for the Latino and refugee communities in Cache Valley.