



Utah State University

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Division of Student Affairs

Departmental Self-Study Report 2015-2016

“The best decision I ever made in my college career was to get involved. The Student Involvement and Leadership Center is the sole reason and purpose for the career I have now. I gained more education from the hands on experience they provided me than I did in the classroom.”

Kaela Lunt
2015

B.S. Family Consumer Human Development
Occupation: Coordinator, Clubs and Organizations at UVU



Student involvement



the hurd



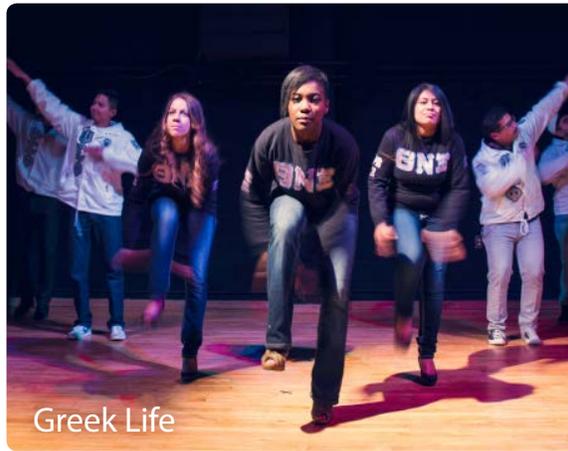
chariot races



end of year bash



Spirit Squad



Greek Life



USUSA officers

The Student Involvement & Leadership Center is the hub of involvement opportunities at USU. The opportunities and programs offered enhance the education experience by challenging and supporting students in a variety of ways. Student involvement develops leaders by coupling classroom learning with practical applications.

more than
100 student activities
& events per year

\$420,000 awarded in
SCHOLARSHIPS & RESEARCH FUNDING

100+
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED EACH YEAR

HURD
one of the
best student sections
in the nation
"ESPN NCAA BUCKET LIST"

100+
student-run
clubs

Student involvement

Ways to Get Involved

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Executive Council
Academic Senate
Student Traditions, Activities &
Arts Board
Graduate Student Representation
Public Relations & Marketing

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sophomore Scholarship
Claude J. and Ruth Ann Christensen
Student Leadership Scholarship
Gary Chambers Endowment
USUSA Student Involvement
Leadership

STUDENT MEDIA

Aggie Radio
The Utah Statesman

SPIRIT SQUAD

Aggiette Dance Team
Cheer Squad
Mascot-Big Blue

FRATERNITIES & SORORITIES

Alpha Chi Omega
Kappa Delta
Theta Nu Xi
Alpha Tau Omega
Delta Sigma Phi
Pi Kappa Alpha
Psi Sigma Phi
Sigma Chi
Sigma Phi Epsilon

STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

usu.edu/clubsandorgs

OTHER PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Aggie B.L.U.E. Leadership
Conference
The HURD
Government Relations Council
President's Cabinet
Legal and Student Advocate
Services
myVoice

Annual Events

Week of Welcome
Day on the Quad
Homecoming Week
The HOWL
Festival of Trees

Mardi Gras
Black and White Jazz Night
Poetry and a Beverage
Lectures
Logan City Limits

Robins Awards
End Of Year Bash
Traditions Week
College Weeks
Big AGG Show

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Available in Alternate Formats

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Student Involvement and Leadership Center*

Adapted from: Weber State and SLCC Program Review Self-Study

I. Mission & History

Mission Statement

The mission of the Utah State University Student Involvement and Leadership Center is to promote involvement and leadership development for all students. We cultivate growth through student organizations and co-curricular programs focused on intentional student learning. We exemplify student empowerment and enhance academic success.

History

The Student Involvement & Leadership Center (SILC) has grown from its core function of supporting student government at USU to now overseeing a number of student groups. The SILC has been located on the third floor of the Taggart Student Center since its construction in the 1970's. While the department has continued to grow and evolve the most recent notable changes are moving the Val R. Christiansen Service Center over to the Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning in 2012 and the addition of the Utah Statesman in 2013.

II. Goals

Review of 2015-2016 goals:

Please see the Program/Services section for organizational goals.

Next Year (2016-2017):

1. We will sustain a safe environment where all students are welcome and respected.
2. We will improve and progress the academic success of student leaders, measured by completion and GPA.
3. We will provide co-curricular opportunities, trainings, programs, and events focused on diversity, inclusion, social justice, sexual harassment, Title IX, etc.
4. We will be fiscally responsible in handling student fees with transparency.

III. Programs/Services

Programs

A variety of programs and co-curricular activities exist within the SILC that complement and extend the learning and developmental experiences available to students at USU. More than 300 student-run organizations exist within the SILC that provide development, service-learning opportunities, and activities for students. Some of the larger organizations and programs are highlighted below:

- ***The Utah State University Student Association (USUSA)*** is established by the authority granted by the Utah State University Board of Trustees, as established by the Utah State Legislature and extended through the President of the University to govern and establish rights to all students within its membership. USUSA establishes representative authority through elected and

appointed officers and grants legislative power to officers. The student association is comprised of the following officer bodies with a summary of their duties:

- **USUSA Executive Council** consists of eleven officers, nine elected and two appointed. The council has legislative authority to enact resolutions and bills, establish committees, appropriate and approve student activity fee money, propose amendments, establish election rules and bylaws, and represent the student body. Officers also sit on various institutional committees. Each officer oversees multiple committees and councils who serve students and programs such as student events, organizations, clubs, student fee board and other programs and services established by students.
- **USUSA Regional Campuses Executive Council** consists of seven elected officers who have legislative authority and representation of USU's Regional Campuses.
- **USUSA Regional Campuses Regional Councils** consist of elected representatives from each of USU's Regional Campuses and service region.
- **USUSA Academic Senate** is a legislative branch of USUSA comprised of eleven student officers that work to enhance the quality of academic life for students at USU through legislation, representation to administration, programming, and research funding. Students from each college are represented by a senator elected by students from that college. During the school year, the Academic Senate meets weekly. Officers also sit on various institutional, college and departmental committees.
- **USUSA Hearing Board** consists of seven student members of the hearing board pool appointed by the USUSA President and approved by the USUSA Executive Council. The Hearing Board interprets the USUSA Constitution and bylaws as well as hears and rules on charges of candidate and officer misconduct. The hearing board is advised and housed in the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.
- **Fraternity & Sorority Community** consists of ten individual chapters, seven fraternities and three sororities. The chapters are overseen by two governing councils, the Inter-fraternity Council and the College Panhellenic Council. The community strives for achievement in the areas of service, leadership, campus involvement, academics and growth.
- **Spirit Squad** is comprised of 30 students making up the Co-ed Cheer Squad, the Aggiettes Dance Team, and the school mascot, Big Blue. Members cheer and perform at sporting events, alumni events, recruiting events, and community and service activities.
- **Student Media** consists of multiple student-run media organizations including the *Utah Statesman* newspaper, Aggie Radio 92.3 KBLU low-power FM radio station, sales and marketing team and multiple digital and specialty magazine and print products.

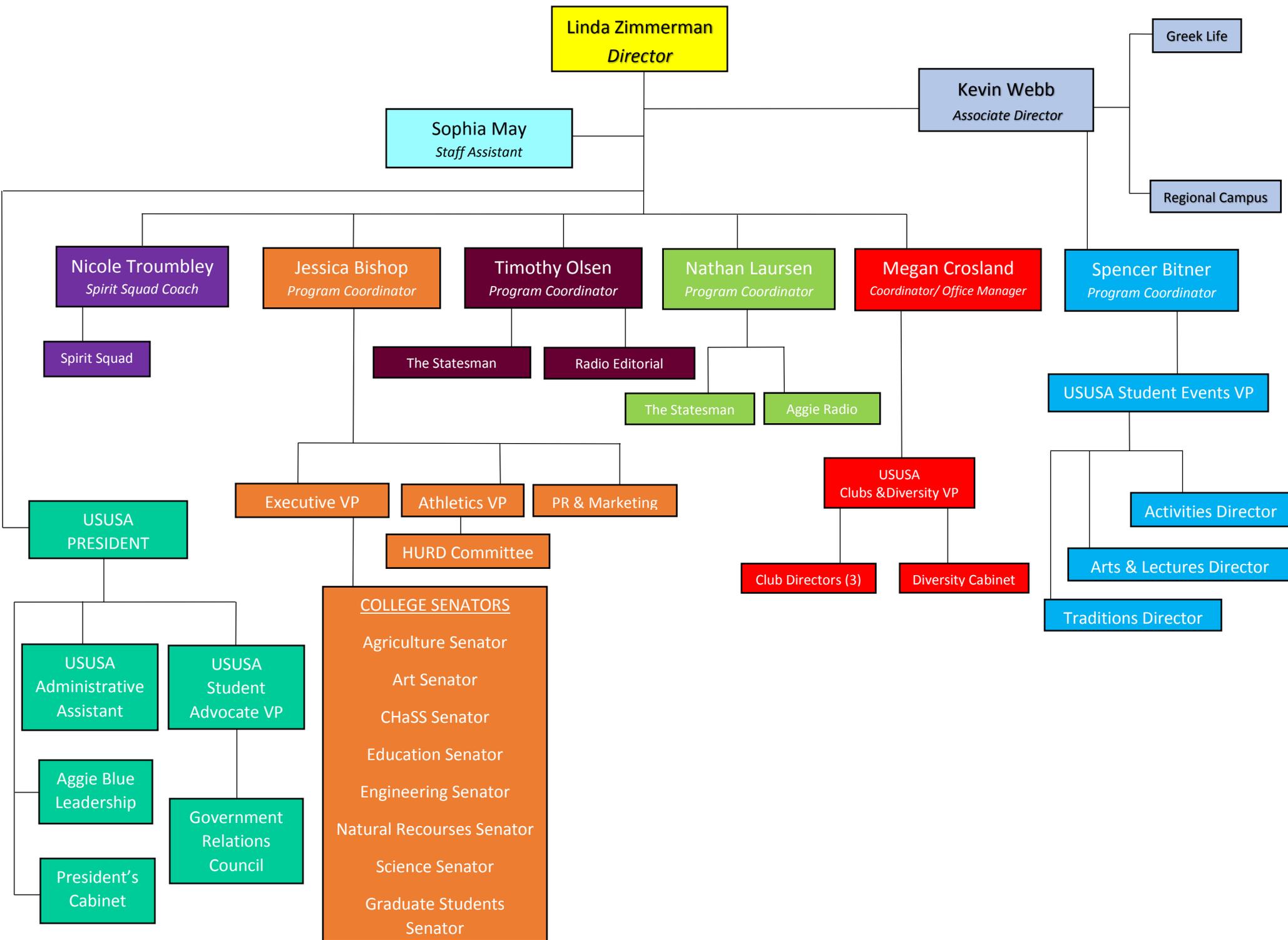
IV. Staffing & Training/Development

Training and staff development is provided at the university, division, and departmental level. Each staff member is given the option to attend a personal development conference of their choice every two years. Staff are encouraged to take active and or leadership roles in campus, state, regional, and national associations and committees.

Training and development occur in weekly staff meetings, yearly retreats, performance reviews, mandatory employee training sessions, divisional meetings, and national conferences and summits. Along with the university human resources department, the division has a committee that is focused on assessment and staff development and has created trainings on critical topics that are given multiple times per year. The SILC department has also assigned assessment and staff development as a responsibility of certain staff members. Below is a list of most of the topics or organizations that are used for staff development and trainings.

Trainings	Organizations/Conferences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)</i> • <i>Sexual Harassment Prevention</i> • <i>Media Relations/Social Media</i> • <i>Americans with Disabilities</i> • <i>Veterans Affairs</i> • <i>Suicide Prevention (QPR)</i> • <i>Institutional Review Board</i> • <i>Purchasing and Procurement Policies</i> • <i>Violence in the Workplace</i> • <i>Open Meeting Laws</i> • <i>Mini bus defensive driving course</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah Professionals in Student Involvement and Leadership (UPSIL) • National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) • NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education • College Media Business and Advertising Managers • College Media Association • Associated Collegiate Press • The American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators Certification • Fraternity and sorority organizations

Staff members are encouraged to participate in the programs offered by the university such as academic classes, wellness programs, and certification programs as well.



Linda Zimmerman
Director

Sophia May
Staff Assistant

Kevin Webb
Associate Director

Greek Life

Regional Campus

Nicole Troumbley
Spirit Squad Coach

Jessica Bishop
Program Coordinator

Timothy Olsen
Program Coordinator

Nathan Laursen
Program Coordinator

Megan Crosland
Coordinator/ Office Manager

Spencer Bitner
Program Coordinator

Spirit Squad

The Statesman

Radio Editorial

The Statesman

Aggie Radio

USUSA Student Events VP

USUSA PRESIDENT

Executive VP

Athletics VP

PR & Marketing

USUSA Clubs & Diversity VP

Club Directors (3)

Diversity Cabinet

Activities Director

Arts & Lectures Director

Traditions Director

COLLEGE SENATORS
 Agriculture Senator
 Art Senator
 CHaSS Senator
 Education Senator
 Engineering Senator
 Natural Resources Senator
 Science Senator
 Graduate Students Senator

USUSA Administrative Assistant

USUSA Student Advocate VP

Aggie Blue Leadership

Government Relations Council

President's Cabinet

V. Budget Narrative

SILC receives funding sources from Student Fees and E&G funds as well as tickets sales, registrations and media advertisements. SILC receives \$35.95 per full time equivalent (FTE) each semester from student fees. USUSA oversees \$31.85 per FTE and the Statesman oversees \$4.10 per FTE. These funds are used for student events, USUSA individual officer's budgets, Spirit Squad, Greek Life, International Student and Multi-Cultural support, Clubs and Organizations, scholarships, Academic Opportunity fund, Statesman printing and production, student employees, interns and all personnel salaries. We receive E&G funding to support Classroom Improvements, Academic Opportunity, Graduate Research and Project Awards, Graduate Enhancement Awards, Sophomore Enhancement Scholarships, Campus Radio support and scholarships that support our Spirit Squad, USUSA officers and Statesman students.

FY15

	Salary	Wages	Benefits	Operating	Grand Total
Sum of Amount	\$ 296,321.32	\$ 109,668.50	\$132,367.83	\$ 2,044,874.64	\$ 2,583,232.29

Above figures were provided by the Division of Student Affairs, Business Service Department

VI. Facilities & Technology/Equipment

Facilities

The main office for the Student Involvement and Leadership Center is located on the third floor of the Taggart Student Center (TSC) in room 326. The main office suite includes private office space for the director and four staff members. In addition, the SILC and USUSA officers have storage space on the TSC third floor as well as in the basement of the Military Science Building. The USUSA President and Vice Presidents have private offices and the Senators share office space. The student media program includes an open work space environment for student employees, a conference room, one private office for a professional staff member and a broadcast and recording studio. The USU Spirit Squad has a private coach's office, three team locker rooms and a storage space in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum.

Technology and Major Equipment

Each professional staff member is supplied with a desktop computer. Each student worker and all the USUSA officers also have a dedicated desktop computer. The Student Media and the Spirit Squad have several shared computers. Professional staff members are expected to have a mobile phone.

A brief summary of current major equipment:

Desktop computers	Tablets/Mobile	Projectors	Servers	Fax machine
Laptop computers	LPFM broadcast equipment (mixing board, modulation monitor, transmitter, antenna. Etc.)	Sound system (speakers, stands, etc.)	Job rocker and tailgater speakers	Office copier and printer combos
ATV Mule	Golf cart and trailer	Cameras and lenses (DSLR, GoPro, etc.)	Big Blue mini motorcycle	Television monitors

**A full list of equipment and inventory is available and used to make purchases on a rotation and needs basis.*

VII. Ethical Considerations and Professional Practices

All staff in the Student Involvement and Leadership Center adhere to the ethical and professional guidelines and policies in the **Utah State University Policy Manual** (<https://hr.usu.edu/policies/>) and ethical code of conduct (https://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty/professional_conduct/code_of_conduct/), as well as additional policies and procedures of **the Division of Student Affairs**, the USU Student Code of Conduct and the USUSA Constitution, Charters and Bylaws.

As a Student Affairs department, SILC also uses the professional competencies and standards of the **National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)** <https://www.naspa.org/about/student-affairs>.

Professional staff in SILC have also adopted and adhere to the ethical standards of different organizations in their individual areas of expertise such as:

- College Media Association Code of Ethical Behavior: http://www.collegemedia.org/about_cma/code_of_ethics/
- The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics <http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>
- The American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators Certification: <http://aacca.org/>

VIII. Completion/Retention

The programs and organizations in the SILC support student success by offering co-curricular activities for students of all majors and interests. Students are retained through entertaining and informative programming, while those actively involved receive training and experience to practice the knowledge

learned in their academic programs. Participation develops student portfolios, skills, and experience that is critical for job and internship placement. Many academic departments at USU use the programs for internship credit opportunities.

Student officers, workers, and leaders are given academic scholarships, stipends or wages depending on the program. Each program has a minimum number of credits and GPA requirements the student must meet in order to maintain their scholarships, stipends or wages.

SILC programs enhance the quality of academic life for students at Utah State University by awarding scholarships and research funding to a variety of students through programs such as: Sophomore Scholarship, Graduate Enhancement Scholarship, Graduate Research Award, and the Academic Opportunity Fund.

Multiple professional staff members teach the USU 2160 Student Applied Leadership Training course.

IX. Assessment & Evaluation

Extensive data is collected about students who participate in the different programs and services in the SILC. An archive of the data is preserved. Comparisons are made using reports and data available from the USU Office of Analysis, Assessment, and Accreditation.

Programs and activities are evaluated using formative and summative assessment methods throughout the year and at the end of each academic year. Each program is responsible for their own methods of assessment, evaluation and collection of data with help from the department, division, and institutional committees and resources.

The department is working to improve the focus of programs to create and measure learning outcomes with an emphasis on academic success, recruitment, persistence and completion. The SILC office has implemented a plan for increased guidance and methods from the department to the individual programs and organizations.

X. Conclusion

The department of Student Involvement and Leadership Center is continuously assessing its operations, programs and student learning outcomes. We work hard to ensure that we provide hands-on, high quality co-curricular experiences for our students. We continue to improve our programs and serve our students and community. SILC is proud that we have been able to respond to the evolving needs of students while continuing to provide opportunities to develop themselves for purposeful, gratifying, and productive lives.

Appendices:

Appendix A Anecdotal Successes

Appendix A: Anecdotal Success

Students say...



Jacob Scott

Major: Communication; Hospitality and Tourism minor

Graduation: 2015

Current Position: Catering Sales Manager at The Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT

"I owe much of my success to USUSA and to the individuals who advised and directed me in my time as an officer. My advisors, members of the Cache Valley community, and business partners whom I interacted with taught me valuable workplace skills which readied me for the real world. Managing students, a monthly budget, and various meetings taught me to stay organized and how to efficiently multitask on top of keeping up with my studies and attempting to have a social life. Ultimately it was the people I met as a USUSA officer who connected me with The Grand America Hotel whom I currently work for. I have never been happier or felt more successful in the role I am in now and I owe it all to the wonderful people and values which USUSA holds. Go Aggies!"



Karson Kalian

Major: Nutrition Science

Graduation: 2013

Current Position: Medical School

"During my time at Utah State, I don't think there was a more fulfilling time than when I was volunteering for USUSA. During my freshman year I had always wanted to get involved but I didn't know quite how I could do that. During my sophomore year I tried doing things by myself with no luck. Towards the end of the year I was introduced to USUSA through the Athletics VP. I joined the Athletics and Campus Recreation Committee, and was able to start reaching out to more students to get their opinions on events and activities and how we could improve their campus interaction. During my time at USU I was also able to hold positions such as HURD president and was elected to be the Athletics Vice President. I was able to learn many different skills through my involvement, such as leadership, team building and cooperation. The opportunities given to me in USUSA help me every day and for this I am super grateful. I loved being a part of the student body and helping them have a better student life. I miss it and hope that the current student body gets to have similar opportunities when they become a part of USUSA as well."



Mariah Hansen

Major: Elementary Education
Expected Graduation: 2018

“Freshman year of college is an overwhelming year full of big changes. You have more freedom and more responsibility than ever before. However, for me, Freshman year was the best year of my life because I had the opportunity to be a member of the Spirit Squad. I represented the university, so I was expected to make good decisions and have good grades. We made goals as a squad to maintain a 3.0 GPA, and because of these goals I was motivated to work hard in my classes, as to not let my team down. I made so many close friends, and felt accepted into a family. I had many opportunities to get involved with the school and community. Cheering and dancing at games allowed me to see the energy and passion of the students here at Utah State and motivated me to replicate it. My favorite memory of Freshman year came from being a member of the Spirit Squad. During spring break we had the opportunity to travel down to Las Vegas for the Mountain West basketball championship. While in Vegas we attended a service project put on by The Goody Two Shoes Foundation. We got to give brand new shoes to elementary aged kids. They were so excited and grateful to get receive these shoes and seeing their excitement changed my perspective and inspired me to do all I can to help others.”



Lexi Howe

Major: Business
Expected Graduation: 2017

“Being an Aggiette, and a member of the Spirit Squad at Utah State University has assisted and benefited me in many ways. In the classroom, it has helped me have a network of friends and peers to study with. It has made me more focused on academics and better at time management, because this program keeps you busy. Being involved on the Spirit Squad has also opened many doors with other activities and groups on campus for which I have become involved in. It has also assisted me in being a well-rounded student/business major and through my Spirit Squad involvement, I obtained the position of Business Ambassador and additional scholarships. The Spirit Squad has given me the confidence and motivation to believe I can do anything that I work hard at. As I look back on college, the Spirit Squad will be the program that I feel I gained the most from and the activity that made me the happiest and kept me at this university all four years. The skills I have learned from being a member of the Spirit Squad such as; teamwork, hard work, dependability, learning quickly, working towards goals, performing for large crowds and serving my community, has helped build a great foundation for my future.”



Brittany Goodsell

Major: Journalism
Graduation: 2009
Current Position: Adjunct Professor,
Communication, Dixie State University
Assistant Digital Editor, The Spectrum, Gannett

“The Utah Statesman offered me a practical journalism skill set that enabled me to get a job at *The Herald Journal* and become a magazine freelancer during the last year of my undergraduate work. I could write, I could design pages and I was familiar with the Adobe Creative Suite because of my hands-on experience during late nights at *The Statesman* office. Even though I took a copy editing class as part of the journalism major, it was *The Statesman* experience that actually taught me the skills I needed to become employable in journalism, in a real and practical sense. I am now a video journalist who works part-time as an adjunct professor, and I encourage my students to work at the college newspaper because it's one of the easiest ways to gain new skills and enter the job market with an advantage over your peers.”



Catherine Bennett

Major: Journalism
Graduation: 2012
Current Position: Regional Communication
Manager, Europe Synergy Worldwide

“I started at *The Statesman* the winter of 2009 as a freshman. As a sophomore, I was hired as the assistant news editor, then worked my way up to news editor and editor in chief my senior year. Many of the positive attributes I have as an employee were solidified during this time. About a year after graduating, I found a job with Synergy Worldwide, a company headquartered in Pleasant Grove, Utah. Here, I am the marketing communications manager over all 13 of the company's European markets. It's an incredibly challenging, often stressful, and fully rewarding job. I use each and every one of the skills I learned in college and earn more money than I ever thought I could with an undergraduate degree. I am convinced that the leadership skills and editing/writing discipline I learned while working with *The Statesman* are the reason I am where I am at today.”



Kyle Milne

Major: Public Relations and Corporate Communication

Graduation: 2010

Current Position: Executive Project Manager for Perfectly Posh

“While I had been involved in student leadership through most of my education, nothing resonated with me the way that joining a fraternity did. Working as a fraternity president challenged me in ways university leadership never did. It took the lessons I had learned and added a level of values based decision making that has helped shape who I've become both personally and professionally. Everyone talks about the fun and the brotherhood, but the most valuable thing I've taken away from joining a fraternity is the wealth of real life experiences I've been able to draw from as my career has evolved. Coming from a smaller chapter I had to wear a lot of hats. It taught me how to multitask and be adaptable to whatever twists and turns were thrown. I use those skills every day and laugh at how frequently I find myself thinking "This is just like that time in my fraternity..." It was by far the best thing I ever did in college.”



Steve Wilcox

Major: International Business and Marketing

Expected Graduation: 2016

“Getting involved at Utah State University has made all the difference in my education. For me, half of the education you receive in college is from extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities. I was fortunate enough to see my education grow tremendously because of the opportunities the involvement office provides its students. I cannot think of another university that provides its students with more opportunities for involvement than USU. Within USU, a student cannot find a more supportive group of individuals and advisors than inside the involvement office. Which makes them the best at what they do in the state of Utah. I am forever grateful for everything these advisors and opportunities have taught me!”