



Office of Undergraduate Studies

Native Outreach and College Access

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

2024-25 Annual Report

In the Office Of Native Outreach and College Access we connect University resources and services to K-12 schools, particularly those in In the rural Utah. We guide students to career and college pathways and support them along the way.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

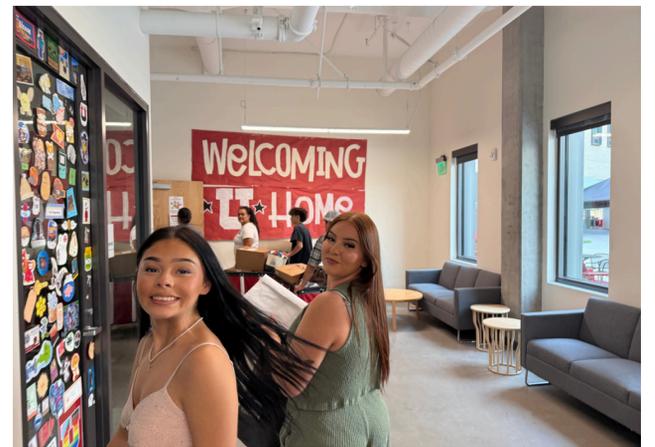
We work to guide students to colleges throughout Utah

Students Guided to Colleges: NOCA supported students pursuing higher education across the region:

- 2 students at the University of Utah
- 2 at Utah Valley University
- 1 at Weber State University
- 1 at Fort Lewis College
- 1 at USU Blanding
- 3 at USU Uintah Basin

Supportive Guidance for Students at the U of U: 140 appointments were conducted supporting current U of U students.

Storytelling Camp: : Hosted 84 students from the Uintah Basin and Southeastern Utah at the 9th annual camp. Programming featured Indigenous-led workshops in photography, video, mural making, podcasting, 3-D printing, and animation. New this year, a “Career Cafe” involving over 24 employers allowed students the opportunity to hold honest conversations with professionals about career choices.



“You have college experiences while sharing your culture with the people here.”

A Storytelling Camper

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

We work in collaboration with schools, we listen to what they need and create programming and when appropriate, connect them to departments and resources at the U.



Eagle View Elementary Partnership: In its third year, this collaboration between Eagle View Elementary, the Ute Tribe Education Department, and the University's College of Education hosted a family fair for hundreds of students and community members to celebrate family, language, and community. The partnership also supports efforts around truancy, student mental health, and staff training.

Uintah Middle School Mural Making Project: The College of Fine Arts led an eight-week project in which 30 Uintah Middle School students created a mural, now displayed in the school's Native student classroom.

Student Celebrations: NOCA and the College of Fine Arts co-led a Storytelling Workshop for Eagle View's eighth graders, culminating in a graduation showcase of projects from 23 students.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We work to establish meaningful and reciprocal connections between the Ute Indian Tribe and the University of Utah.



Bear Dance: 32 University faculty, staff, and students attended the Bear Dance & Reservation tour.

Swoop: 100's of families enjoyed interacting with Swoop at the tribe's third annual "Trunk or Treat" at the Pow Wow Grounds.

Adventures: NOCA coordinated a rafting trip through Dinosaur National Monument for 23 new students from Uintah River High School, offering a memorable start to their school year and introducing a pathway for interested students to train as river guides.



DATA:

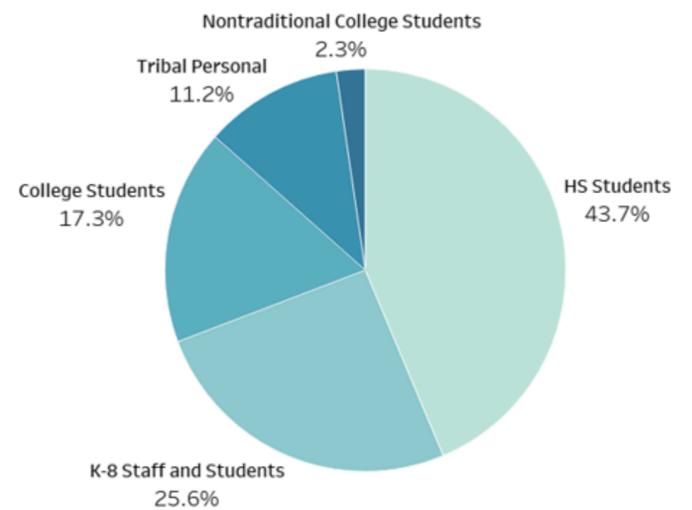
Assistance Provided

Issues Addressed	% of Total Time	Issues Addressed	
K-12 College Access	38.5%	K-12 College Access	38.5%
College Student Support	28.3%	College Student Support	28.3%
College Applications	18.2%	College Applications	18.2%
Onboarding College Process	15.0%	Onboarding College Process	15.0%

Constituents Served

Constituent Type	# of Constituents Served	% of Total Constituents Served
HS Students	227	43.7%
K-8 Staff and Students	133	25.6%
College Students	90	17.3%
Tribal Personal	58	11.2%
Nontraditional College Students	12	2.3%
Grand Total	520	100.0%

Constituents Served by Type



Bridger's Story

Bridger first came to Storytelling Camp just weeks after losing his mother during his sophomore year of high school. Encouraged by his dad to find something that might lift his spirits, he found comfort and connection in the camp community

He returned the following summer, more confident and at ease, and later began preparing for college. Bridger, his dad, and I, would meet at Ute Crossing, a restaurant on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, to work through the application process (and enjoy a few cheeseburgers).

Those efforts paid off, Bridger is now a first-year student at Weber State. He and his dad attended Utah Football's Ute Proud game this fall, and they shared with us how grateful they are for the support NOCA offered. "He would never have found his way to college without your help," Bridger's dad shared. Seeing him there, smiling, grounded, and embracing college life, was a meaningful reminder of how far he's come and why we do this work.

Martha Macomber



Our work remains grounded in relationships, responsive to community priorities, and committed to creating systemic change that expands educational opportunities for the youth of the Uintah Basin and Southeastern Utah and their families.

Each of you has played a vital part in making this work possible.

Rachel Aho
Jareth Archer
Angie Atkinson
Chelsea Armstrong
Liz Baldwin
Kayla Bacon
Tashina Barber
Britta Berkey
Cynthia Benally
Annie Burbidge Ream
Tamar Castillo
Ataya Cesspooch
Erika Church
Misty Cly
Ranee Cly
Jansen Cuch
Zaisha Dashee
Denise DeCoite
Drew Dennison
Anne Dibble
Kyri John Ungatavinekent Duncan
Donna Eldridge
Samantha Eldridge
Danielle Enders
Rachel Ernst
Monica Ferguson
TJ Ferrill
Aaron Fischer
Alison Flanders
Jazmin Nicole Gallegos
Ashley Glenn
Cloee Hackford
Cursetine Harvey
Greg Hatch
Chase Hagood
Liz Hasty
Robbie Helling
Samantha Holiday
Whitney Holt
Kerri Hopkins

Chat Illapperuma
Brandon Johnson
Holly Johnson
Michelle Judd
Brian Johnsrud
Kayla Kidd
Paul Kohn
Elizabeth Kronk Warner
Frankie Santos Laanan
Tony Lam
Liz Leckie
Joaquin Lopezhuertas
John Marfield
Nakisha Mart
Lori McDonald
Danielle Moriondo
Maria Mullahi
Julius Myore
Lindsay Nelson
Lisa Nemelka
Wanda Pillow
Walita Ranger
Liz Root
Rebecca Roper
Kevellin Sanders
Sarah Sandoval
Tony Sams
Greg Smoak
Suzy Shurtliff
Sarah Shreeves
Davor Simunovic
Jerry Stott
Lauren Joy Swidnicki
Jon Thomas
Kyle Todecheene
Julia Vincent
Connor Warner
Rebecca Walsh
Natawnee Weidner
Dawn Weston
Ronee K. Wopsock Pawwinee



Kyle Todecheene, education coordinator in SE Utah with Angie Atkinson from the U of U office of admissions at Mounment Valley High School.



Thank you to the Marriott Llibrary for hosting 100+ of us for a week of Storytelling Camp.



During the Career Cafe organized by U Career Success 26 professionals answered questions of students about careers. Pictured here is Law Professor, John C. Ruple with Storytelling campers at the cafe.

Special Thanks To

ADOBE'S Indigenous and First Nations Employee Network for your generous financial support of storytelling camp.

The Center for Native Excellence and Tribal Engagement for our continued partnership.

Martha Macomber, Director
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