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The University of Utah announced a commitment of $150 million from the Huntsman family on November 4, 2019, to establish the Huntsman Mental Health Institute. The institute is expected to become a nationally recognized leader in research, care, education, and community outreach—and a model for other states to follow.

“All families are impacted by the effects of mental illness. This is the first step in positioning Utah as a national leader in identifying, caring for, and seeking new treatments for families facing the difficult challenges that come with mental health,” said Karen Huntsman. “Our family invites the community to join us in supporting this important work.”

As part of the grant agreement, the university will work closely with the Huntsman family to raise additional funds to support the institute and to increase awareness in the community about mental health.

The gift will provide financial support to the University of Utah Health’s Department of Psychiatry and full-service psychiatric hospital known as UNI (University Neuropsychiatric Institute). In addition, the donation will be used to support mental health services and screenings for the university’s 32,000 students, as well as in rural areas across the state. The funding also will support university research aimed at identifying genetic risks and other factors that cause or contribute to mental illness. The university plans to rename UNI in recognition of this gift, identifying it as the Huntsman Mental Health Institute.

“This grant is the culmination of years of interaction between the Huntsman family and UNI. This is a unique opportunity to bring together an immensely talented university with superb leadership and a philanthropic, generational commitment that we hope will only expand over time,” said Peter R. Huntsman, CEO, Huntsman Foundation. “It is past time to change the stigma and misperceptions about mental health.”

“The Huntsman family has once again stepped forward to lead the way on a serious public health issue,” said University of Utah President Ruth V. Watkins. “We share a dedication to addressing the mental health needs of our campus and the greater community. We are grateful to Karen and her remarkable family for this transformational gift. Together, we will work to increase positive outcomes, destigmatize the perception of mental illness, and enhance the quality of life for families across Utah.”

The university will recruit a new chair of the Department of Psychiatry who will also serve as the CEO of the institute. The search for that leader will be led by Randall J. Olson, chair of the US Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and CEO of the John A. Moran Eye Center. The position will play a vital role in partnering with faculty and community members in using funds to develop a center of excellence in mental health at the university. The chair will also be instrumental in planning a national mental health symposium to be held in Utah next year.

“As we face a nationwide psychiatrist shortage, this gift will allow us to support enhanced training for mental and behavioral health professionals and allow us to reimagine care models to better address mental health needs across the state,” said Michael Good, senior vice president for Health Sciences, CEO of University of Utah Health, and dean of the School of Medicine. “Over the past 30 years, the Department of Psychiatry and UNI have positioned the University of Utah as a regional leader in the treatment and research of mental illness. This historic donation builds on that legacy and provides the resources to scale both our clinical outreach and our research efforts.”

The Huntsman family has a long tradition of funding programs at the university, including the nationally acclaimed Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI), which was established in 1995 with a $100 million donation. The institute now includes a state-of-the-art cancer specialty hospital as well as additional research facilities.

“This commitment in no way diminishes our ongoing financial support to continue to build and promote the Huntsman Cancer Institute,” said Peter Huntsman.

More information about the fundraising initiative is available online at hmhi.utah.edu.
The Scott & Betsy Thornton Foundation Challenges UNP to ‘Think Big’

Over the past few years, Betsy Thornton, of the Scott W. and Betsy D. Thornton Family Foundation, has been talking with the folks at University Neighborhood Partners (UNP) about its emerging work, mainly its education pathways partnerships housed at the UNP Hartland Partnership Center. Betsy's ongoing interest in the center was fueled by stories she's heard from individuals who have been deeply engaged with UNP. These stories have painted the center as a model of starting where people are in their lives, focusing on whole families, and investing in relationships over time to support educational pathways.

After supporting the build-out of a community room in the center in 2017, Betsy encouraged UNP to “think big” about what the organization might need to keep moving its work forward. Then, in April 2018, on Betsy’s recommendation, UNP applied for support from the foundation for the center’s work.

Upon reviewing UNP's initial proposal, Betsy thanked UNP for the time and effort in educating both her and Scott about the center, sharing that, “We are working on our end to educate ourselves... not only on your proposal, but also as to where and who we are as donors, and how we can best make an impact.” The couple then asked UNP if they would be willing to collaborate on the nature of the proposal so that their gift could be truly transformational for UNP.

After active discussions over the next several months between Betsy and Scott, their daughter-in-law Carly Thornton, and representatives from UNP, the couple committed to a three-year gift. The group collaborated on the vision and goals of what would become the Hartland Education Pathways Initiative. The group brainstormed the best way to effectively communicate the initiative and established the following language: “The UNP Hartland Partnership Center is an educational hub and launching point where west side youth and adults can pursue their greatest potential. The goal is for more residents to access higher education and come back to their communities as professionals and leaders. UNP brings university and community groups into the space to build relationships and offer programs in academics, arts, health, social development, professional skills, and leadership development.”

Once the language was set, the Hartland Education Pathways Initiative was solidified by the foundation’s pledge of support, which provides:

- $150,000 for year 1 (FY19);
- $100,000 for year 2 (FY20), plus matching funds of $25,000*
- $100,000 for year 3 (FY21), plus matching funds of $25,000*

*The matching funds were offered to leverage with other donors to raise a total of $150,000 per year.

Jennifer Mayer-Glenn, UNP's director and special assistant to the president for Campus-Community Partnerships at the U, shared, “I appreciate the community that is built at the UNP Hartland Partnership Center. I recently heard families from the community talk about feelings of isolation, even in this urban area. I felt proud to know that staff from Hartland’s Youth Center already make home visits to build relationships with the families of the children that participate in the after-school program. Everyone benefits from this experience. Families are invited to participate in other educational opportunities, staff learn from families and use the knowledge to improve programming, and university faculty and researchers engage with and learn from a community coming together. The center is a powerful environment that is changing lives. This would not be possible if it were not for the generous support of the Thornton family. We are so grateful and excited about this gift and its impact on west side communities as a whole.”

GIVING.UTAH.EDU
Three Generous Women,
One Living Learning Village

Work is scheduled to be completed this fall on what is a signature project for the U—a new housing village composed of three residential towers, each named after a remarkable and generous woman in Utah: Gail Miller, Patricia Child, and Heather Kahlert.

Thanks to Heather Kahlert and the Kahlert Foundation, this new housing complex will be known as Kahlert Village.

Kahlert Village is the single-largest building project in the U’s history and will provide state-of-the-art housing for 1,000 students to live, learn, socialize, and flourish as they pursue their intellectual passions.

Data shows that spending just a year living on campus increases successful degree completion by 12 percent, and this project will boost those odds for many more students. Living on campus, particularly during their first year, allows students to have the best start possible and to become rooted in their educational experiences.

THE GAIL MILLER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOWER

The Gail Miller Community Engagement Tower will serve students who are passionate about making a difference in their communities—just as Gail and her family have done throughout Utah. It will ensure more students have access to a higher education, one in which they contribute to and benefit from a culturally and intellectually diverse learning environment.

Envisioned in part as a home for cohorts of Miller Scholars, this residential tower will promote intellectual excellence and a lifelong ethic of service, and foster deep, lasting friendships. The students who will live here will explore what it means to make a positive change in their communities and how to elevate the public discourse around important issues. In other words, they will be following in Gail’s footsteps.
The Patricia W. Child Health and Wellness Tower will be home to students who will have the opportunity to explore a variety of health careers, thanks to a collaboration with University of Utah Health. These fields include pre-medicine, health, pre-pharmacy, nursing, pre-dentistry, occupational health, physical therapy, nutrition, social work, and others. Students who reside here will learn about comprehensive health care, which is so important to Pat, including a focus on healthy living and wellness. Pat was an early graduate of the medical technology program in the U's School of Medicine. She attended school during the day, then studied at night while working at various jobs. She understands firsthand what many of today’s students go through to get a higher education. Pat’s vision will allow these students to be at the center of innovation and advancement in health care and healthy living.

The Heather Kahlert STEM Tower will make technology and STEM education accessible to more people in Utah, including women, students from diverse backgrounds, and athletes. Heather, a U alumna and the executive vice president of the Kahlert Foundation, was the first partner in this project, giving an enthusiastic “yes” as soon as she heard what it entailed. The Kahlert Foundation’s mission is to provide support to improve the quality of life and well-being of the community in areas of health care, youth programs, education, veterans’ organizations, and human services. This is an amazing moment for the university to have three outstanding women stand behind this big idea, this big vision, and be willing to make such a lasting, life-changing difference for our students. These women are not just a dream team; they are dream makers who will shape the lives of thousands of students for years to come.
Recent Major Gifts

We thank the following supporters for their generous gifts committed between August 1, 2019, and January 14, 2020.
Imagine New Heights Campaign Update

OUR GOAL

$2 BILLION

$1,652,717,545

Progress to date (July 1, 2014 – January 24, 2020)

Welcome to Advancement Rakin Hall

Rakin “Rock” Hall joined the University Advancement team as executive director of Foundation Relations on October 1, 2019. Rakin is a higher education professional with over 20 years of experience working in the areas of enrollment management, institutional advancement, and strategic research initiatives. Rakin moved to Salt Lake City, joining the University of Utah from the University of Southern California, in 2018. Rakin has worked for four universities, both public and private, in various leadership capacities. Each university differed in topography, culture, and diversity. The variety of Rakin’s experiences allows him to better understand the nuances of assisting the University of Utah as it strives to continue its upward momentum as one of the newest members of the Association of American Universities.

“My professional journey has prepared me well to support the Corporate and Foundation Relations (CFR) team and assist the university research community. Building meaningful relationships and aligning values are the keys to success within CFR. The faculty at Utah engage and ask the tough questions that lead to measurable outcomes. I am honored to partner with faculty and work toward secure funding that furthers their research.”
Chevron Helps Fuel Natural History Museum of Utah’s STEM Programs

Introducing students to STEM principles early through K-12 programming is integral to generating interest in obtaining higher education degrees in math and science. To advance this important effort, the Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU) is collaborating with Chevron—and other major funders—to provide support for two exciting STEM programs: Youth Teaching Youth, the museum’s premier science education and youth leadership program for students from the Glendale community; and Teen Explainers, a newly launched program where high school students design interactive demonstrations and lead hands-on activities for public visitors to the museum. With a focus on STEM-based principles, these programs provide a powerful pathway for K-12 students to hone their knowledge in the natural sciences, develop critical science communication skills, and lay the foundation for becoming confident, college-ready students.

Over the past 30 years, the University of Utah’s partnership with Chevron has inspired students from throughout Utah to pursue careers in STEM-related fields. As the Natural History Museum of Utah celebrates its 50th anniversary—and looks ahead to its next 50 years—the museum is excited to educate a new generation of scientists, engineers, and leaders who will help make Utah an even better place to live.

1,850 Minutes of Imagining More

Join us for the 2nd annual U Giving Day, February 25-26, 2020! Alumni, parents, friends, students, faculty, and staff will unite for 1,850 minutes in honor of the U’s founding year to celebrate, engage, and make an investment in the future of the university. U Giving Day is an opportunity to help imagine more for students, health care, the arts, athletics, and the greater University of Utah community.

Learn more about how you can get involved during U Giving Day at givingday.utah.edu.