

USU re-imagines Center for Women and Gender to be more inclusive

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New center to be housed in CHaSS with Christy Glass as director



Dr. Christy Glass, a Sociology professor, will act as the interim director of the new Center for Intersectional Gender Studies and Research to be housed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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tah State University has announced plans for the next phase of its academic programs and research efforts in the area of gender studies. The new Center for Intersectional Gender Studies and Research will build upon the highly successful history of the university's Center for Women and Gender.

The new center will leave in place the important mission of the Center for Women and Gender while at the same time broadening and strengthening USU's long-term commitment to students, faculty and women on campus, in particular. It will be housed under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences with Professor Christy Glass as its interim director.

"This change will re-invigorate the university's efforts in the area of gender studies and create even more opportunities for student academic success and for research by faculty and students," said USU President Noelle Cockett.

The new interdisciplinary center will also provide a broader focus on issues at the intersection of identities, such as gender and gender identity, race, class, sexual orientation, nationality and disability.

The Center for Women and Gender was created in 2010 to bring together academic and support programs. Special programs for women's studies have seen several transformations since the Women's Center for Lifelong Learning was established in 1974 and an academic program was created the following year.

This most recent re-envisioning of women and gender studies was prompted by an evaluation of existing offerings by a group of faculty and administrators that included Alison Adams-Perlac (executive director of the Office of Equity), Janis Boettinger (pedology professor, vice provost, and director of Global Engagement), Avery Edenfield (technical communication and rhetoric assistant professor), Rich Etchberger (vice provost of statewide campuses), Frank Galey (USU provost), Christy Glass (sociology professor), Sue Grayzel (history professor), Maura Hagan (dean of the College of Science), Crescencio Lopez Gonzalez (Latinx studies associate professor), Marisela Martinez-Cola (sociology assistant professor), and Alexa Sand (art history professor and associate vice president for research).

An advisory board will lead the transition of academic and research programs under the new center, including expanding the curriculum of academic programs. The advisory board includes representatives from all eight colleges, as well as those listed above who were involved in evaluating the gender studies programs at USU. Christy Glass will serve a two-year appointment as the interim director and will chair a search committee for a permanent director.

USU Executive Vice President and Provost Frank Galey said the goal will be to ramp up even more the already successful efforts of many innovative women leaders who have taken the program to where it is today.

"We hope to build up their many successes and reinvigorate the university's firmly ingrained commitment to addressing issues of gender equity and inclusion on campus," he said. "I would particularly like to thank Dr. Ann Austin, the most recent leader of the center, but also the

many others who have both led these critical efforts and helped in varying capacities as advisors and benefactors.”

In July, student support programming under the former Center for Women and Gender was moved to the USU Inclusion Center. This move will provide more cohesive support for students with intersecting identities, for example, women of color, transgender women and LGBTQ women.

The university will continue to ensure academic continuity for students in the current women and gender studies program, and scholarship agreements will continue to be honored and managed according to their designated purpose. Popular events held by the former center, such as the welcoming of new faculty, will also continue.

Writer:

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CHaSS faculty instrumental in design and purpose of the new center were: Avery Edenfield (technical communication and rhetoric assistant professor), Christy Glass (sociology professor), Sue Grayzel (history professor), Crescencio Lopez Gonzalez (Spanish associate professor), and Marisela Martinez-Cola (sociology assistant professor).

Story by Amanda DeRito

Additional Resources:

- [USU Inclusion Center](#)
- [USU's Year of the Woman initiative](#)
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