New associate dean focuses on creating an inclusive CHaSS community

By: Kelsie Holman, CHaSS Communications Journalist

Rebecca Walton, associate professor in Utah State University’s technical communication and rhetoric program, is taking the position of associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Walton has been at USU since 2011 and teaches classes in document design and research methods. Her classes allow students to partner with clients off campus and do real work with these clients.

“Technical communication involves a lot of project management, and I think my project management experience is going to help my work as associate dean,” said Walton.

Walton is going to be the liaison between CHaSS and two building projects: the new Mehdi Heravi Global Teaching and Learning Center and the nonprofit organization Encircle’s new location at the edge of campus. Encircle’s mission is to create safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth where they know that they will be welcome. Walton’s job will include facilitating the communication between team members of both projects and the CHaSS administration. Walton will focus on inclusion, specifically on making the built environment more inclusive of various marginalized groups. She is excited that this job will help her sow a physical legacy on campus through her work with inclusion and the new buildings.

“I want students to know that the work of inclusion is not only theoretical; it’s enacted through everyday decisions and designs,” said Walton.