

Dear campus community,

Over the past eight years, I have been privileged to serve the University of Utah community for five years as senior vice president for academic affairs and for the past three years as president.

Together, we have achieved truly miraculous progress, building on foundations of excellence forged by previous generations at the U. I am so proud of what we have accomplished and am eager to share our innovative, collaborative approaches with other institutions around the country.

So, it is with a grateful heart that I write to let you know I will be leaving the University of Utah near the end of the spring semester to serve as president of Strada Impact, part of the Strada Education Network, a national organization that enhances access, completion and meaningful careers for students. I believe the work of Strada Impact is more important today than ever before because completing college and securing employment will be especially crucial for millions of young Americans post-pandemic. I am eager to help Strada Impact enact and scale the types of successes we have achieved together here at the U, particularly the strategies we have used to promote student success.

The significant increase in the U's graduation rates means many more lives have been transformed by the power of a college degree and Utah's industries have the talent they need to thrive, helping our local economy remain strong. Key components in that effort were expansion of our residence halls to provide more students the opportunity to live on campus and our collective and ongoing work to enhance safety, strengthening the university for decades to come.

Our strategic focus on expanding research activities — and the financial investments that enable research innovation — means our scholars can address and solve urgent problems, and our economy benefits from jobs created through our research efforts.

U of U Health's achievement of top rankings in quality of patient care has been critical in navigating the pandemic and expanding access to health care in our communities.

Our shared success has attracted renowned scholars and leaders to join us and ensures our people will have continued success into the future. In 2019, we achieved a signature accomplishment — the invitation to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), the 65 leading research universities in the nation. AAU membership exemplifies the leadership the University of Utah provides the nation, particularly in this time when research and innovation are so crucial.

Together, we benefitted enormously from a remarkable community of donors and alumni who steadfastly supported our vision, as well as from state leaders and industry partners who contribute so much to strengthen and demonstrate how a public research institution can positively transform lives in our state, across the nation and around the globe. In December 2020, we achieved the remarkable milestone of raising \$2 billion in our current capital campaign, all thanks to the commitment of our donor community.

Your collective efforts as a “One U for Utah” community have brought us to new heights. We are strong, ready for the next phase and prepared to make an even greater impact.

I offer my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to the U's vital work and success, and who have given me the opportunity to be part of this community. Please know that no matter where I go, a Utah woman I will always be, and Bob and I will be proudly cheering you on in every good thing you do.

With appreciation,

Ruth