

Utah State University – Center for Community

The proposed Center for Community (CFC) will support Utah State University's commitment to excellence, access, and respect for all as a premier land-grant, R1 university. The proposed center will provide opportunities for cultural sharing, education, and celebration for USU students and personnel. It will also serve as a bridge between the varied expertise and experience of the USU community and the broader communities USU serves, ensuring programs and activities support Utah State's land grant mission, including educational outreach.

With the establishment of the CFC, USU hopes to advance programs, initiatives, and learning opportunities through engagement and community-based partnerships. The proposed center will be a unit in the Division of Student Affairs and will be committed to all students as they seek intellectual, personal, and cultural development.

The proposed center's educational and celebratory programs and events will be open to all students, encouraging participation and interaction in ways that enhance the USU's educational mission. The CFC will create an environment where students and attendees can learn from one another, exchange their ideas, and appreciate each other more fully.

For instance, the CFC may facilitate cultural celebrations and create opportunities for educators and scholars to share their expertise relevant to heritage activities, adding academic components and programming. The CFC will curate learning forums, such as guest lectures, workshops, and collaborative panel discussions.

Our expectation is that this approach will allow all students to engage with faculty, staff, and each other in a way that facilitates good will and greater understanding on campuses, online and within the communities that USU serves, and the community more broadly.

The proposed Center for Community will be initially led by an Interim Executive Director and staffed with two-to-four program coordinators. The programming will be structured to encourage students to learn through hands-on cultural activities, shared storytelling, and interactive exhibits. The proposed Center for Community would absorb the current Latinx Cultural Center and Native Cultural Center and their programming.

Aligned with the mission of Utah State University, the CFC will encourage students in their development as thoughtful, well-rounded individuals ready to contribute to a global society. By creating a space where students can encounter and learn about different cultural practices and philosophies, the center will help equip them with the awareness and understanding needed to be effective citizens and leaders. In this way, the CFC will not only enrich campus life but also provide lasting educational value, preparing students to navigate and engage with the world around them.