

Dr. James Y. Taylor

University and college executive with decades of academic, operational and student engagement excellence at both public and private institutions. Substantial expertise and commitment to unifying leading rural and distant campus locations and stewardship for dispersed systems over large geographic areas serving underserved populations. A commitment to developing and mentoring senior leaders, improving student engagement innovatively, and enhancing community and campus relations through trusted, authentic, and energetic leadership while maintaining a commitment to the values of place and a commitment to purpose.

Professional Experience

Utah State University: 2016 to Present

**Vice President for Statewide Campuses (2 residential & 28 campuses)
Professional Practice Associate Professor Sociology & Anthropology:
2023 – Present**

Executive oversight of a multiple campus system under the Utah State University umbrella across the State of Utah including 30 sites with two residential dual mission colleges (academics, athletics, and technical certificates), six regional campuses, and 22 centers. Oversight of \$77 million operating and \$20 million endowment budgets, 7,500 students, 209 faculty and 250 staff. Campuses include USU Uintah Basin & USU Blanding proudly serving students from the Northern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation. The Statewide Campus system meets the land-grant mission of Utah State University and maintains a regional commitment to access, research excellence, academic innovation, institutional collaboration with more than 16 other universities and colleges across the State.

- Supervision of eight senior executive campus leaders (regional presidents)
- Sustained enrollment increases: 12.5% fall 2024 over fall 2023
- 30% Expansion of technical & academic programs from certificates to doctorate
- Creation & expansion of multiple national research centers (energy & water) with funds & grants from the NSF, DEA, NIH totaling \$10 million+
- Private & partner funding of 4 new buildings including a new campus in Monument Valley (2024) serving the Navajo Nation, Early Childhood Education Center and world class learning lab with Uintah School District (2024), and state of the art campus in Moab Utah (2021) as well as numerous other large-scale projects and expansions providing access
- Expanded endowments across the Statewide system providing more than \$7 million in academic and athletic support and student funding
- 34% Increase in diversity of student population over the last five years

- Increased community partnerships across the State for diversified and more sustainable funding of campus academic operations

Senior Associate Vice President USU Eastern (formerly College of Eastern Utah): 2023

Interim Chief Executive Officer (Chancellor) for USU Eastern, a comprehensive dual mission institution, with more than 1,500 students, residence halls and 12 athletic teams. Oversight of substantial campus and leadership changes aligning with the larger USU mission and strategic plan. Stabilized the campus for long-term sustainability in relation to regional economic changes and recruited and mentor a seasoned Chief Campus Administrator to lead the Campus under my supervision. Budget oversight for more than \$12 million in operating costs and \$4 million endowments and student support.

Senior Associate Vice President for Uintah Basin Campuses Associate Professor Sociology: 2016 - 2022

Chief Executive of multiple campuses in Eastern Utah. Representation of Utah State University across the 12,000 square miles of Northeastern Utah at all regional, community, and outreach events. Executive leadership for campus culture, operations, student services, research centers and local liaison for faculty and academic affairs. Budget oversight for more than \$10 million dollar operating and research budge. Stewardship for student support and recruitment and retention. Partnership development throughout the State.

- Increased diverse populations served by 13%
- Decreased time to graduation by 18%
- Increased graduation rates by 21%
- Increased number of degrees and certificates by 33%
- Increased private financial support of students and programs by 36%
- Secured funding and development of 28 million preschool partnership

Colorado Mountain College: 2014 - 2016

Vice President & Dean

Campus CEO and Executive Dean of College's residential campus in Leadville and commuter campuses in Buena Vista & Salida and executive team member over the eight community campuses throughout the entire six county district and nine county service area in the Rocky Mountains. Leadership of student services, academics, and operations teams in accordance with policies of the Board of Trustees. Strategic management of a \$68 million operating budget.

- Increased enrollment by 23%
- Retired all debt and increased reserves by \$3 million

- Earning designation as an HSI institution
- Increasing diversity by 26%.
- Expansion of athletics programs: cross country and nordic skiing
- Increased research funding by 29% through grants from NSA, NIH, and State funding partners and programs
- Developed three academic programs with 100% private funding
- Developed innovative program (hybrid) for avalanche professionals

Joyce University (formerly Ameritech College): 2011 – 2014

Campus President (Previously Dean of Academic Officer)

Chief Executive Officer with academic and operational oversight of online and traditional campus operations serving 6,000 students and an operating budget of \$22 million. Direct supervision of 5 vice presidents and 6 deans with a total faculty of 133 faculty members and more than 300 professional staff.

- Lead institutional transition from university from accreditation to regional accreditation and from college to university status
- Lead university expansion to online and national programs
- Lead university leadership and organization to remote and hybrid structure
- Increased private funding for students by 54%
- Increased enrollment by 32%
- Decreased institutional loan default rate from 21% to 6%

Carden Memorial School: 1992 - 2011

CEO, Head of School, & Board Member

Chief Executive Officer with oversight of academic, business, and operational structures and strategies of a highly successful private institution with a faculty of 40 and staff of 22 and an annual budget of \$6 million. Direct oversight of three academic leads and two division vice presidents.

- Increased enrollments by 24%
- Diversified enrollment by 11%
- Increased endowment funds by 65%

Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks: 1994 – 2012

Seasonal Biologist and Backcountry Ranger & Climbing Ranger

Research on ecosystem dynamics surrounding 376 backcountry campsites across the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Oversight of more than a dozen

graduate students. Partnership with conservation and granting organizations in support of research and outreach.

Southern Cross Expeditions: 1986 - 2007

Lead International Alpine Climbing Guide

Alpine guide for more than 30 climbing expeditions to South America, North America, Europe, and Asia with clients from the around the world.

Education

Doctor of Education: Leadership and Organizational Development
Grand Canyon University, November 2014

Master of Science Earth Science: Ecology & Resource Management
Montana State University, November 1995

Bachelor of Science: Biogeography
University of Utah, August 1992

Professional Memberships, Service, and Certifications

Member: Aggie Sandstone Foundation
Director: Aggie Red Rock Foundation
Member: Association for Career and Technical Education
Board Member of the Mountain Rescue Association
Member American Association of Geographers
EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), States of Utah and Colorado
Board Member: Belmont Academy (K-12 classical education school) (2016-2023)
Board Member: Uintah Basin Applied Technology College (2016-2019)
Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (2003-2007)
Executive Board Member Lake County Economic Development Corp (2014-2016)

Publications, Presentations & Awards

Spears, J. Lewis, H. Law, D. Busenbark, D., Hales, K., Taylor. Sustaining Student Success: A Three-Year Review of Faculty-to-Student Mentoring and Its Impact on Retention and Graduation Rates, *National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)*, New Orleans, LA, March 2025.

Taylor, J. Y., & Dart, G. (2023). The mentoring context: Securing institutional support and organizational alignment. In D. Law & N. Dominguez (eds.), *Making Connections: A handbook for effective formal mentoring programs in academia* (pp. 131-150). Utah State University. <https://doi.org/10.26079/ff55-d7ao>

Spears, J. Law, D. Busenbark, D., Hales, K., Taylor, J., Harris, A. Lewis, H., Dart, G. A Land-Grant Faculty-to-Student Mentoring Program: Addressing Shortcomings in Academic Mentoring. *National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)*, Baltimore, MD, March 2022.

Recognizing Potential in Others and Leading with Awareness: The Importance of Growth for Innovation and Improvement, 2022, Statewide Training of Student Services Professionals at Utah State University, Moab, UT, October 2022.

Team development through Individual Growth: The Importance of Supporting People to Improve Place, 2022, Department of Agriculture – National Forest Service Region 4 Annual Conference, Vernal, UT, October 2022.

Law, D. D., Busenbark, D., Hales, K., Taylor, J.Y., Spears, J. Harris, A., Lewis, M. L. (2021). Statewide Faculty-to-Student Mentoring program - Updates, Opportunities and Panel Discussion, 2022 ETE Conference, Logan, UT August 2022.

A Land-Grant Faculty-to-Student Mentoring Program: Addressing Shortcomings in Academic Mentoring, 2022 NASPA Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, March 2022.

Taylor, J. (2021). Finding Purpose from Passion and Pain, Utah State University Uintah Basin Lecture Series, Vernal, Utah.

Law, D., Busenbark, D., Hales, K., Taylor, J., Spears, J., Harris, A., and Lewis, H.M. (2021) “Designing and Implementing a Land-Grant Faculty-to-student Mentoring Program: Addressing Shortcomings in Academic Mentoring,” *Journal on Empowering Teaching Excellence: Volume 5: Iss.2, Article 5*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26077/320a-9d71>

Spears, J., Law, D., Busenbark, D., Hales, K., Taylor, J., Harris, A., Lewis, H. and Dart, G. A Land-Grant Faculty-to-Student Mentoring Program: Addressing Shortcomings in Academic Mentoring @ National Association of Student Personnel Association (NASPA), Baltimore, MD, March 2022.

Spears, J., Law, D., Busenbark, D., Hales, K., Taylor, J., Harris, A., Lewis, H., and Law, M. A Review of Student-Faculty Mentorship Programs: Lessons Learned and Best Practices @ Council on Social Work Education 2021 Annual Program Meeting (APM), Orlando, FL. November 2021

Law, D.D., Taylor, J. (2020, August). Faculty Mentoring of At Risk and First-Generation Students. Presented at the Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference, Logan, UT.

Taylor, J. (2020, February). Empathetic Leadership; Embracing Stewardship for Student Learning – Accepting the Changing Nature of Higher Education and Student Needs. Presented at the Uintech Education Conference, Park City, UT.

Taylor, J. (2019, December). Women of impact in the Uintah Basin; a Historical Perspective and Modern Interpretation. Presented at the Year of the Women Awards Ceremony, Vernal, UT.

Law, D.D., Taylor, J. (2019, August). Ensuring student learning: How to develop SoTL projects. Presented at the 2019 Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference, Logan, UT.

Teacher of the Year (2019) Utah Work-based Learning Association.

Post-Secondary Educator of the Year (2018) Association for Career and Technical Education.

Taylor, J. (2018, August). Campus Cultural Shift, the Value of Diversity to improved campus culture on majority demographic groups: Keynote at Governors High Mountain Symposium for Higher Education Innovation in Colorado, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Taylor, J. (2017, May). *Risk & Reward: Holistic Approach to Change*. Keynote at AmeriTech College of Healthcare Graduation, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Taylor, J. (2016, October). *Redefining Educational Leadership: Incorporating Technology and strengthening Relationships*. Presentation at the Leadership in Higher Education Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.

Governor's Award for Educational Innovation (2016) – Colorado Department of Education.

Taylor, J. (2015, November). *Educational Systems Change, the Need for National Education Reform in Response to Changing Student Expectations and Norms*. Presentation, NASPA Region IV Conference: Renew, Elevate, & Embrace, Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Taylor, J. (2015, November). *Environmental Education: Connecting the Virtual and Physical Worlds*. Presentation at the StemTech Conference, Phoenix, Arizona.

Taylor, J. (2015, June). *The Value of Ethical Leadership and Transparent Communication in Higher Education*. Presentation at the Learning Summit, Phoenix, Arizona.

Taylor, J. (2014). *Environmental Literacy and Leadership Development: A Comparison between Onsite and Online Environmental Courses*. Grand Canyon

University, Phoenix, AZ. UMI Number: 3665401
<http://pqdtopen.proquest.com/pubnum/3665401.html>

Taylor, J. (2012, September). *Effective Expeditionary Leadership: Team Development and Conflict Resolution*. Presentation at the Lougheed Leadership Symposium, Banff Alberta, Canada.

Taylor, J. (2012, June). *SAR Team Improvement: Transformational Leadership in a High Structured Environment*. Mountain Rescue Association Annual Conference, Lake Tahoe, California.

Taylor, J. (Winter 2007). Leave only Footprints: Impact of Backcountry Campsite Use on Forest Dynamics in Yellowstone. *Yellowstone Science*, Winter 2007

Taylor, J. (1992). Detailed Food-Web Dynamic Structures for Black-Tailed Butte, Grand Teton National Park. *Teton Science School Publication*, summer 1992.

Courses Taught

SOC 1010: Introduction to Sociology

FDSCI 203: Environmental Stewardship

SCI 207: Dependence of Man on the Environment

FDSCI 201: Natural Disasters

NRSM 240: Natural Resource Ecology

GPHY 411: Biogeography

GPHY 141: Geography and World Regions

GPHY 121: Human Geography

GPHY 291: Introduction to Field Studies

GPHY 441: Mountain Geography

GPHY 329: Environment and Society

Earth 307: Principals of Geomorphology

Earth 101: Earth Systems Sciences

MGT 240: Introduction to Management

MGT 420: Organizational Behavior and Management

MGT 401: Servant Leadership