



Dr. Doris Geide-Stevenson, professor of economics, Weber State University, offers topical blog at https://www.weber.edu/goddard/Blog_111120.html.

Updating 'legacy initiative,' making the case for special session of Utah State Legislature

By Doris Geide-Stevenson, Ph.D.
Economist, Weber State University

About one year ago, the Utah Legislature was presented with 'A Plan to Elevate Utah's Economic Success' by the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). This plan was the outcome of a comprehensive effort to tap Utah's best minds with respect to economic development in order to help chart the future course for the state's economy. Not surprisingly the plan advocates to build on Utah's economic success, measured by economic indicators such as the unemployment rate, average weekly earnings, employment growth, and average labor force participation rates.

It is a well known fact that those indicators are historically substantially stronger for Utah when compared to the data for the overall U.S. economy. Economically, Utah is doing well. One ingredient of this success is the diversity of the Utah economy. According to the Kem Gardner Institute's economic report, Utah holds the top spot in terms of the state-level diversity index, indicating that Utah has a healthy industry mix where no industry or employer is overly large, thus avoiding exposure to business downturns that hit particular industries, think the real estate sector during the Great Recession in 2008. Utah is economically strong and resilient because of diversity in its industry mix.

However, what about the diversity of Utah's population and the work of diversity, equity and inclusion of underrepresented populations? While Utah is much less diverse in terms of race and ethnic make-up of its population than the U.S. as a whole, state demographers show a marked increase in the mix of the state's population with respect to race and ethnicity, including age and family commitments.

Utah is becoming more culturally and ethnically diverse. For example, West Valley City, Utah's second-largest city, is already a minority-majority city in terms of race and ethnicity with a large Hispanic population. So what is the role of this different kind of diversity, the diversity of the population and workforce, for the economic development of the state? What is the business case for diversity in the workplace?

A publication by the World Economic Forum states that the business case for diversity is now overwhelming. For example, companies with more diverse leadership teams report higher innovation revenue. A McKinsey report shows that companies with more gender and ethnic diversity are more likely to outperform peer institutions in terms of their financial performance and that gender diversity on corporate boards is correlated with higher profitability.

Utah's economic success has been achieved with a population and a workforce that is less diverse in terms of race and ethnicity when compared to the U.S. as a whole. However, Utah's population is quickly becoming more diverse.

While the ingredients to economic success are manifold, Utah needs to explicitly acknowledge the role of diversity, equity and inclusion with respect to

... jump to Page 2, Geide-Stevenson

Prompt action by State Legislature will impact H. R. 7640 in Congress

'The Local Journalism Sustainability Act'

Utah is not an exception to what is happening across the nation with local newspapers. Recently, both The Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News announced they will stop printing daily newspapers at year's end. Life of the print newspaper is all but gone following "The Great Migration" to the internet.

Is the newspaper migration to the internet a good marriage? The jury is still out.

For decades, daily newspapers were delivered to our front porches, apartments, offices, libraries and hotel rooms. If not delivery, remember the ease of plucking coins into the box on the street to purchase a fresh newspaper? Newspapers were purchased tax-free at retail locations from grocery stores to airport concessions.

Superman, also known as Clark Kent, was a breaking news reporter for "The Daily Plant." African American or Black newspapers were always at the vanguard, advancing advocacy with names like "Guardian," "Defender," "Tribune," "Sentinel," "Observer" and "Times," among others. An African-American weekly newspaper in Greensboro began publication in 1967 as "The Carolina Peacemaker."

The Newspaper Hall of Fame includes the first African American newspaper, "Freedom's Journal" (1827), followed by "Indianapolis Recorder" (1895); "Chicago Defender" (1905); "The Pittsburgh Courier" (1907); and "The New York Amsterdam News" (1909).

Locally, "The Diversity Times" was published monthly from June 1, 2006-February 1, 2009 and delivered to churches and other locations along the Wasatch Front, south to Provo and north to Ogden.

The closing of local newspapers is creating a lack of knowledge in our local communities. News is being generated on the internet and making its way to river's endpoint is at best a mixed-bag confluence. What is to become of local news which year-round delivered to us a perennial flow of reliable news? Is fact-

... jump to Page 2, Davis-Corroon



The Honorable Francis A. Davis & Peter Corroon Report

Albert B. Fritz Communicator

Diverse, Multicultural and Inclusive

Utah Economic Development News and Notes

November 17, 2020

Volume II, No. 6

Albert C. Jones, Publisher
America, The Diversity Place / *Albert B. Fritz Communicator*
130 South 500 East Suite 307, Salt Lake City, UT 84120
(801) 364-4187
americadiversityplace@gmail.com

'Utah, The Inclusion Place' license plate is 'life elevating'

By **Marlin 'Pastor Mo' Lynch III**
Founder of Kingdom Huddle

I am in full support of "Utah, The Inclusion Place" license plate. It is "life elevating," representing the importance of diversity and inclusion in the state of Utah. The proposed license plate will show that the state of Utah is moving in the right direction in regards to acknowledging, celebrating and respecting diversity and inclusion.

When adopted in a bill passed by the Utah State Legislature and signed by Gov. Gary R. Herbert, the "Utah, The Inclusion Place" license plate will be a daily visual/reminder of humanness, oneness, love and humanity. With so much division in the world, this is a way we can come together in solidarity and in unity. We here in Utah have the opportunity to lead from the front, be example the world needs in coming together as ONE!

WE ARE ALL HUMANS . . . and need to learn

how to coexist with one another. We must stop allowing race to disconnect us, religion to separate us, politics to divide us and wealth to classify us. Life is about authentic relationships. In order to build relationships, we must recognize what makes the world so amazing are our differences.

"Utah, The Inclusion Place" license plate will allow us to publicly celebrate and show respect for each of our differences. As a society we should focus on things that bring us together and not separate us.

Diversity and Inclusion should be viewed as holistic because each of us has our own special gifts and talents to offer to this world. Having diverse groups makes for different thought processes and innovative thinking. It also makes the environment more inviting and welcoming to all people from all backgrounds of life. From a business perspective, you can attract high-caliber professionals from all walks of life.



Pastor Mo holds *Utah, The Inclusion Place* license plate: 'coming to Utah, being in Utah.'

Updating 'legacy initiative' will boost economic development

. . . **Geide-Stevenson,**
continued from Page 1

race, ethnicity, gender and gender orientation when it comes to economic development.

Reports on Utah's economy tout its diversity with respect to the various businesses and industries its economy is made up of, but lacks focus on who the population and workforce of the future is.

Utah has made some strides in being more intentional in supporting diverse populations by establishing ethnic chambers of commerce about two decades ago. Nowadays those historic efforts are called "The legacy initiative of Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Gov. Gary R. Herbert." There needs to be a plan to build on this legacy initiative. Without more intentional reflection of the value that a diverse population brings to the financial success of the state, however, the current strategy for economic development is incomplete. The Governor, GOED, Utah State Legislature, business, civic and faith-based leaders are in a position to act.

The state will continue to need a diverse mix of industries. The state, however, needs to make sure that diverse groups of people foster the success of its businesses and are in turn supported. The nation will take notice and follow Utah's lead. The state needs to take advantage of inclusion as the higher aspect of diversity to ensure economic development successes in the future.



Dr. Geide-Stevenson: *Utah, The Inclusion Place:* 'coming to Utah, being in Utah.'

'The Local Journalism Sustainability Act'

. . . **Davis & Corroon,** *continued from Page 1*

based reporting going to be replaced by "fake news?"

Beyond lamenting newspapers ceasing to print, there are myriad questions — trials and errors to be sure — about developing sustainable business models for local news organizations. It is unlikely that newspapers will experience the fate of mythical Phoenix Bird and see new birth by rising from its own ashes.

Among legacy newspapers and their forced transition to the internet, concern over financial matters is unavoidable. Before the Congress of the United States, originating in the House of Representatives is a proposed bill H. R. 7640: 'The Local Journalism Sustainability Act.' Passage of the bill will "provide tax incentives that support local newspapers and other local media, and for other purposes."

We have joined forces to write this column in the Albert B. Fritz Communicator to express our support on both the federal and local level for journalism. We urge prompt and decisive action by our Utah congressional representatives and the Utah State Legislature in matters of concern related to survival of local journalism. The time for exacting leadership is now.

Utah leadership needs to act. Now is the best time to address fate of local journalism sustainability with doable remedies.



Rep. Sandra Hollins



Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Gov. Gary R. Herbert: → → → →
Legacy Initiative: Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce, Friday, February 24, 2006, left to right, Rev. Stanley Ellington, Betty Sawyer, Lt. Gov. Gary R. Herbert, The Rev. France A. Davis and Zions Bank Vice President Gloria Wilkinson.

Ambassador Jon M. Huntsman Jr.
Utah Governor (Jan. 3, 2005-Aug. 11, 2009)
(801) 245-9329
MikeD@strategies360.com



Ambassador Huntsman

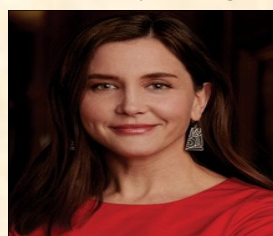
Pastor Corey J. Hodges
The Point Church
Kearns, Utah
(801) 969-4681 (Church)
coreyjhodges@comcast.net



Pastor Corey J. Hodges

Doris Geide-Stevenson, Ph.D.
Weber State University
Ogden, UT 84408
(801) 626-7634 (office)
dgsteven@weber.edu

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Hall
(801) 535-6040 (office)
erin.mendenhall@slcgov.com



Mayor Erin Mendenhall

Jenny Wilson
Salt Lake County Mayor
(385) 468-7000
jwilson@slco.org

Betty Sawyer, President
NAACP Ogden Utah Branch
bettrysawyer@weber.edu

Adrienne (Gillespie) Andrews
Assistant VP Diversity / Chief Diversity Officer
Weber State University
adrienneandrews@weber.edu



Mayor Jenny Wilson

Dr. Leslie Whited & Jose Bonilla
MOSAIC Inter-Faith Ministries
Salt Lake City, Utah
(801) 588-0139
MosaicInterFaithMinistries@yahoo.com



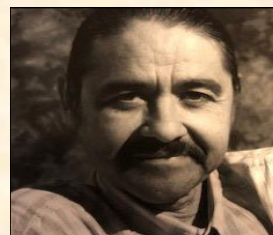
Betty Sawyer



These are they . . . One Utah:
Darlene McDonald, Chair
Utah Black Roundtable, "Coming to Utah, being in Utah," Ohio via Indianapolis (385) 240-4626
ubr.chair@gmail.com



Adrienne Andrews



Jose Bonilla

Gov. Gary R. Herbert
Utah State Capitol
(801) 538-1505
jharding@utah.gov



Gov. Gary R. Herbert

Shireen Ghorbani
At Large A
Salt Lake County Council
(385) 468-7451
shireen@slco.org



Councilwoman Ghorbani

Dr. Jackie Thompson
Educational Equity Consultant
Layton, Utah
(801) 651-4365 (cell)
jathompson55@outlook.com

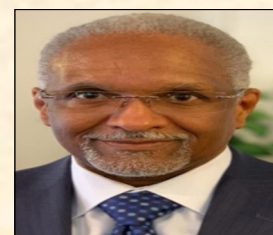


Dr. Jackie Thompson

Stanley Ellington
Economic Development Consultant
(801) 678-7640
sediamon@msn.com

James Jackson III
Utah African American Chamber
(801) 747-9134 (cell)
jamesiii@me.com

Mayor Peter Corroon (Nov. 2004 – Jan. 2013)
Salt Lake County
(801) 597-7471 (cell)
petercorroon@gmail.com



Rev. Stanley Ellington

Forrest C. Crawford, Ph.D.
Weber State University
(801) 652-7853 (cell)
fcrawford@weber.edu

Rev. France A. Davis
Calvary Baptist Church
(801) 943-6145 (cell)
(801) 355-1025 (church)
revfrancedavis@gmail.com



James Jackson III

Rep. Sandra Hollins
Utah House of Representatives
(801) 363-4257
shollins@le.utah.gov



Dr. Forrest C. Crawford

On the Road: People Bridges to People: Jeffrey J. Thomas, Battalion Chief / Airport Fire Chief, Salt Lake City Fire Department, August 1, 2009, East Canyon State Park.
(801) 330-7644 utahigfa@comcast.net



Dr. Leslie Whited