Bennion Center Mission, Values and Goals

**Bennion Center Mission Statement**
The Bennion Center fosters lifelong service and civic participation by engaging the University with the greater community in action, change and learning.

**Bennion Center Values**
Courage and optimism sustain our endeavors to learn through respectful, inclusive collaboration on projects which support and develop innovative action within all communities.

**Inclusion**
We build community with each other, our campus, and our greater community in a continuing effort to develop a better understanding of each other and ourselves.
We accept the responsibility to communicate with honesty and integrity and to treat all around us with care and understanding.

**Collaboration**
We honor diverse partnerships that enable all to work toward common goals.
We believe in the power of collaboration to build strong relationships, to sustain civic engagement, and to develop the most responsive and effective programs to meet the needs of our communities.

**Innovation**
We foster a forward-thinking environment, making use of best practices for program assessment and creative methods to offer opportunities for professional development.
We recognize the significant power of educational exchange through community service and the ability of the teaching and learning process to result in a deeper understanding of our world, its issues and its people.

**Bennion Center Goals**

**Leadership.**
Provide in-depth meaningful and educational experiences in order to facilitate the sustainable development of competent, confident lifelong leaders who are accountable for their performance

**Service.** Cultivate and nurture an ethic of lifelong community service and engagement

**Education.** Facilitate meaningful experiences that enhance the academic and research mission of the university

**Partnerships.** Continue to build solid foundations and enhance strong reciprocal relationships with stakeholders

**Development.** Carry out fundraising activities, public relations efforts to support, sustain and cultivate BC operations

**Efficacy.** Collaborate to evaluate and improve programs that are mission focused and maximize potential
Leadership
Deepen leadership development opportunities/abilities through trainings/summer leadership program

1. Deepen student leadership through providing training in skill building, professionalism and accountability.

2. Providing support and scholarships to faculty and students to encourage participation in civic engagement work.

3. Seek new opportunities for students to network, build collaborative relations, broaden their horizons and explore their roles as leaders in their community.

4. Strengthen and empower new student leaders through development and growth of service council. Provide student leaders with more opportunities for hands on leadership development.

5. Provide all the necessary training and tools to effectively teach skills that are part of their programs and to understand specific challenges of the communities they serve.

6. Seek and recruit a broad and diverse group of student leaders in the Bennion Center and provide diversity training for all student leaders on an on-going basis.

Service.
Cultivate and nurture an ethic of lifelong community service and engagement

1. Cultivate and ethic of community service and life long civic engagement. Expose students to experiential learning opportunities that develop critical thinking and positive action. Support opportunities for meaningful community service in issue areas, such as education and advocacy, social justice, environmental and health and abilities.

2. Through reflection and issue education, develop understanding of the relationship between service and healthy communities.

3. Provide Service Council with opportunities for service along with leadership development to avoid burnout with administration responsibilities.

4. Recruit volunteers through public relations efforts, promote all special events, while providing opportunities for Bennion Center alumni to be involved in the Center.
5. Develop high quality service-learning courses in diverse disciplines to provide the experiences to a broad spectrum of U of U student’s.

6. Increase knowledge and participation in Service-Learning Scholar program, from on campus and high school recruiting efforts.

7. Broaden service community and create new partnerships and service opportunities.

8. Collaborate with academic departments and student affairs divisions to support and deepen community engagement and s-l work.

9. Provide effective service through literacy tutoring to the elementary age students of our community partners.

10. Focus on inclusion, say no to no one, find a place within existing developing programs. Instill meaning into service actions. Extend learning to the deepest parts possible.

**Education.**
Facilitate meaningful experiences that enhance the academic and research mission of the university

1. Provide to all student leaders, student volunteers, faculty, University staff and the public educational opportunities to gain an understanding of the root causes in the issues we are working in, to develop knowledge and a desire for lifelong service and civic engagement.

2. Deepen the educational ties between the direct service students participate in and the reasons why particular issues are present. Impact as many students as possible through student directed programs, volunteering, issue education, dialogues, forums, ssp’s and internationals service learning programs, ASB.

3. Develop high quality service-learning courses, bring together junior and senior faculty and other academic administration to develop a community of support and recognition at the U for faculty doing civic engagement.

4. Increase knowledge and awareness among students, faculty and University Administration of the positive impacts of community engaged scholarship in order to increase support for and participation in engaged teaching and research.

5. Increase awareness of and participation in the Service-Learning Scholars program.
Partnerships.
Continue to build solid foundations and enhance strong reciprocal relationships with stakeholders

1. Deepen the relationships between BC and Community partners
2. Deepen the relationships between Students and Community Partners
3. Deepen the relationships between the BC and University departments and divisions.
4. Deepen support with community partners; attend their events, etc.
5. Collaborate with community partners, donors, board alumni and university departments to strengthen visibility and relationships.
6. Act as a resource to our community partners, so that program compliments their own literacy goals and programs
7. Help educate community partners about the BC, particularly the BC student leadership structure and help to facilitate collaboration.
8. Provide support to Service learning Scholars and Community Partners in creating effective and reciprocal partnerships.
9. Partners (attend their community celebrations, etc. and build solid foundations.
10. Collaborate with staff and other university departments on projects, programs and committees.
11. Ensure a healthy and working relationship with community partners.

Provide the opportunity to become civically engaged student leaders and interns who are otherwise unable by offering financial assistance.

Develop long range plan and funding prospects for BUTR funding and maintenance plan.

Development:
1. To collaborate with Central Development and Development staff to seek, solicit, secure and steward donors.
2. To assist students deepening understanding and education experiences of fiscal responsibility/budgeting to foster programs that can grow and expand.
3. Develop an International focus, while targeting a base of support.
4. Maintain student, alumni, faculty, staff and board (all constituents) database, maintaining biographical and financial information.

5. Maintain a positive public perception of the bennion center through public relations efforts. (Include faculty)

6. Provide the opportunity to become civically engaged student leaders and interns who are otherwise unable by offering financial assistance.

7. Develop long-range plan and funding prospects for BUTR funding and maintenance plan.

**Efficacy.** Collaborate to evaluate and improve programs that are mission focused and maximize potential

1. Discern, develop, evaluate and improve the development of basic training structures, policies and procedures for student programming transition, application process and annual calendars. Organize the O drive, specifically for student programs.
2. Evaluation tools, reflections, student volunteer hour tracking, accountability, etc.
3. Streamline and improve
4. Create MOU’s for all community partners (partnership)
5. Improve office communication and collaboration
6. Implement student stewardship plan and conduct semi-annual review approvals with staff (BITR-executive committee and BC directors)
7. Find ways to save the center public relations funding through traditional/non-traditional methods of communication.
8. Support the center’s students, staff, alumni, faculty, and partners wherever necessary.
9. Assist student affairs and administration to evaluate and enhance the public mission of the University.
10. Provide academic rigor and structure to Service-Learning Scholar program and the Bennion Center Service House.
11. Assist and lend coordination of Jordan River and Salt lake Cooperative Mgt. Area
12. Use student Stewardship program as student model for Cooperative operations.
13. Collaborate with the BC staff to evaluate and improve programs that are mission focused while maximizing individual potential, using Assistant Directors in the process.