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Provost Fellow: 2021-2022

Cedar City Utah, April 8, 2022

Dear Provost Anderson,

Being a Provost Fellow allowed me to have a glimpse at the continuous process of advancing the academic performance of Southern Utah University under your leadership. The process is ongoing, complex, and, I believe, shaped by various factors. I attended a number of different meetings, shadowing Associate Provost Johnny MacLean. After his departure to the University of Montana-Western I worked with Associate Provost William Heyborne. Among the meetings that impacted me the most were the meetings of Associate Provost MacLean with academic leaders, meetings of the whole Provost Office, and much larger meetings of the Provost Office with the College Deans. I admired your courteous leadership as well as professionalism and in-depth analyses of problems and situations manifested by all the attendees. I got familiarized with broader issues and approaches that are applicable to all colleges, not just my 'home' college and department. It was like learning the other side of the coin: The work of the university's administration and the work of faculty are of equal importance, or at least that what's the metaphor conveys, I hope.

One of the projects that I have witnessed while shadowing Associate Provost MacLean was the beginning of the discussions about the future of Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the office of the Online Teaching and Learning (OTL). I am immensely grateful to Associate Provost MacLean for making me a witness and possibly a contributor to one early

discussion of the Directors of CETL and OTL about how to restructure these two units to respond to the changes in higher education. It is exciting to see that the process which I witnessed a little as it began in late Fall 2021, has now led to the decision being made and the Center for Teaching Innovation being called into life! This has been an extraordinary experience that allowed me to see the actual change being made.

I believe that the experiences that this fellowship has brought will keep expanding my understanding of academia, its complexity, and, I believe, they will continue to strengthen my professional capabilities as a member of SUU team! Thank again for this extraordinary opportunity! It has been unparalleled!