

Dr. Jon Anderson, Ph.D., Provost
Office of the Provost
Southern Utah University
351 W. University Blvd.
Cedar City, Utah 84720

Re: Reflection on 2021-2022 Provost Fellowship

April 6, 2022

Dear Provost Anderson,

I would first like to thank you and the Office of the Provost for this opportunity to serve this past academic year as a Provost Fellow. Working with Dean Jean Boreen in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Danielle Dubrasky as the Director of the Grace A. Tanner Center has been an enriching and energizing experience. I benefitted from their generosity and goodwill by being included in several meetings related to the operation of the Center and the implementation of Center events. When possible, I also attended Grace A. Tanner Center events specifically with an eye toward how events are formulated, planned, and brought to life. During my graduate student years at Washington University in St. Louis, I served as an assistant to the director at the WashU Center for the Humanities, an organization not unlike the Grace A. Tanner Center, with its focus on humanistic and social scientific inquiry. I have found both comfort and inspiration in playing even a small role in the Tanner Center programming, which does such meaningful work in promoting campus-wide intellectual inquiry and dialogue under the HSS aegis. In working together, Dr. Dubrasky and I have discovered a mutual admiration for storytelling as an essential component of the (global) human experience and the creation of narratives as inextricably linked to human cognition. Given the significance of storytelling and the words of caution that Nigerian American novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie articulates in her now-famous 2009 TED-talk "The Danger of the Single Story," Dr. Dubrasky and I have discussed how 2022-2023 Tanner Center programming would benefit in aligning its overarching theme to questions related to the ethical dimension of reading and the cultural responsibilities concomitant to the relationships between readers and the texts that they consume.

As a result of our successful on-going collaboration and cooperation, Dr. Dubrasky has asked me to extend my work with the SUU Tanner Center as a Tanner Center faculty fellow in 2022-2023. Our hope is that many of the conversations that we have conducted over the past year can come to even greater fruition as our collaboration continues to grow and ideas are further set into motion. The intent for 2022-2023 would be, in part, to strengthen ties between the Tanner Center and other events and initiatives on campus, such as the annual International Cinema of Southern Utah University Film Festival (to name just one example).

While steering the SUU German program is a challenging, deeply rewarding experience, it is also often a one-man show. Collaborating with and learning from Dr. Dubrasky and Dean Boreen has been a godsend in reinvigorating my connection to the wider intellectual community here at SUU. Again, my deepest thanks for making this experience possible.

With deepest appreciation,

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Southern Utah University