Utah Academy
of Sciences, Arts & Letters

2026 Fall Awards Night

November 2026
5:15 PM – 5:50 PM Reception
Room 250 MSRB
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Program & Entertainment
321 MSRB Maeser Auditorium
Brigham Young University

Awards Program

President's Welcome. . . . . Keith Lawrence

Musical Performance. . . . . Artiva Strings
Violin: Rebecca Dalgleish
Viola: Caitlyn Curry
Cello: Kaitlin Booth

Presentation of Honorary Members . . . . . Keith Lawrence
Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson
Hannah Freeze, Great Salt Lake Commissioner

Presentation of Academy Fellows. . . . . .Jim Godfrey
Dr. Daniel Poole
Dr. Ali Siahpush

Outgoing Officers
Arts Chair – Jim Godfrey – Utah Valley University
Business Chair – Jim Brau – Brigham Young University
Engineering Chair – Ali Siahpush – Southern Utah University

Incoming Officers
Arts Chair – Keri Rowe

Presentation of Best Paper Awards. . . . . Keith Lawrence and Division Chairs

James H. Wolfe Address . . . . . Dr. Daniel Poole
"Utah Academy: Opportunities for Connection"

Excursion
Contact CoCo James (coco.james@utah.edu) for more information

Closing Remarks. . . . . Keith Lawrence

Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters
Outstanding Best Paper/Poster Awards 2026

Arts - Jim Godfrey Chair
Best Poster "Connecting to the Rhythm: Dance and Autism in Adulthood"
Bella Trionfo
Best Paper – "The Shattered Mirrors of Mexican Surrealism: Fragmentation of Identity in the Self-Portraiture of Frida Kahlo and Maria Izquierdo
Aubrey Gallafent

Biological Science - Daniel Clark Chair
Best Poster - "Investigating How Odor-Guided Behavior Shapes Ecological Interactions in Drosophila melanogaster."
Jessica Venegas
Best Paper - "Insect Phototaxis Response to Various Wavelengths at High Elevations in Iron County, Utah."
Sarah Slikkerveer

Education - Doug Stump Chair
Best Poster – "Medical Terminology Podcasting as an Engaged Critical Thinking Learning Modality"
Maddison Johnston, Justin Burr
Best Paper – "A Study of Organizational Strategy at Mid-Sized Universities: Administrators' Thought Patterns on Strategic Position and Sources of Competitive Advantages"
Jacob Johnson, Mary Pearson, Jared Tippets

English Languages, and Literature – Melanie Jenkins Chair
Best Paper "A Revenant of Congaree: Old Growth Haunting to Stand for Future History"
Dillan Bryan

Humanities, Philosophy, & Foreign Languages – Thomas Terry Chair
Best Poster "Sappho on Tour: Mapping Lesvos; Poetic Heritage"
Dhanai Anthimidou-Friel
Best Paper

Kinesiology and Health Sciences – Tracy Fawns Chair
Best Poster "Exploring the Role of Thyroid Hormones and Zinc in Reducing ACL Injury Risk in Menstruating Females"
Kasidee Carter
Best Paper "Effect of Carbohydrate Quality on Markers of Oxidative Stress: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Human Intervention Studies"
Tyler Carley Tyller Bosner, Karen Corte, and Dennis Corte

Physical Sciences and Mathematics – Maria Rodriguez Chair
Best Poster -
Best Paper - "First-Principles DFT Study of Ferroelectric-to-Antiferroelectric Phase Transitions in $LiTaO_3$ under Electric Boundary Conditions"
Eva Greene and Dr. Shaohui Qiu

Social Science – Emily Putnam Chair
Best Poster – "Visitor Reactions at a Museum Exhibit:
Emotions to Climate Change Vary by Climate Engagement"
Ginger Blodgett, Alec Roberts, Lynne Zummo, & Monika Lohani
Best Paper – "Investigating Utah Stereotypes"
Bethany Gull

Deidre Henderson, Lieutenant Governor – Honorary Member
Deidre M. Henderson took office as Utah's ninth lieutenant governor on January 4, 2021. Prior to being elected lieutenant governor, she served for eight years in the Utah State Senate. Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in history from Brigham Young University. She and her husband, Gabe, live in Spanish Fork, where they raised their five children. Lt. Governor Henderson has dedicated her time in public office to advancing a limited, accountable, and effective government, promoting civic responsibility, and making elections secure, transparent, and accessible to Utah voters.

Hannah Freeze, Great Salt Lake Commissioner – Honorary Member
Hannah Freeze, who holds a BS degree in animal science from Utah State University, is Commissioner of the Great Salt Lake and has more than fifteen years of experience in conservation work. Most recently, she served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Great Salt Lake under Brian Steed. Earlier, at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, she established the Agricultural Water Optimization Program, which uses new technologies and upgraded irrigation systems to enable agricultural producers to maximize water-use efficiency. Her career is defined by successful relationship building with agricultural producers across the state and by engaging their input in state conservational decisions and policies.

Daniel Poole – Academy Fellow
Daniel Poole is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Salt Lake Community College. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Utah and has published research on the indirect health effects of war, veteran post-combat reintegration, and homelessness. His teaching pedagogy focuses on community-engaged learning, undergraduate research, and encouraging the sociological imagination. He has served on the board of the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters as the Social Science Division Chair and President. He is currently representing Utah on the board of the National Association of Academies of Science and is Chair of the Organizing Committee of the American Junior Academy of Science.

Ali Siahpush – Academy Fellow

Ali Siahpush has over 30 years of expertise in nuclear research at Idaho National Laboratory (Idaho Falls, ID) and aerospace engineering with Space Dynamics Laboratory and Globesat (Logan, UT). He also has more than 18 years of experience teaching in higher education at Idaho State University, the University of Idaho, Ferris State University, and Southern Utah University. Recognized for his contributions in heat transfer, fluid mechanics, aerospace engineering, and thermohydraulics, he is also highly regarded for his work in DOE Safety Analysis Reports (SAR) and reliability in engineering design. Dr. Siahpush holds five patents related to systems for delivering liquefied natural gas to engines and has authored over 50 peer-reviewed technical publications.