

April 8, 2019

Dear University Colleagues,

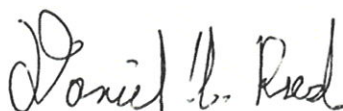
Connecting the work of our faculty, staff, and students, to issues and needs of our communities is a priority for the University of Utah. To that end, I write to encourage you to ask the faculty and staff in your unit to consider serving as a partner for the Bennion Center's Alternative Breaks program. This deeply engaged learning experience supports the University's mission by engaging students from diverse backgrounds in a variety of community projects designed to develop civic competencies—awareness, skills, values, and habits. Additionally, the program offers all U of U employees a rich and unique professional development experience and a chance to mentor exceptional students, visit communities inside and outside of Utah, and take a deep dive into the issues affecting local health and quality of life.

Each semester, the Bennion Center's Alternative Breaks program needs faculty and staff willing to serve as mentors and form meaningful partnerships with student site leaders. Together—mentor and student leader—design, plan, and implement an exceptional community engaged learning experience for a group of U students rooted in service, dialogue, and the ideals of justice.

The Bennion Center depends upon the voluntary participation of engaged faculty and staff across campus to successfully execute its Alternative Breaks program. Because the work associated with being a faculty or staff partner requires a significant time commitment and because it is of such great value to the mission of our University, I recommend that supervisors talk with the faculty and staff on their teams about whether their involvement with Alternative Breaks could be part of their regular duties.

I am committed to providing our dedicated faculty and staff the support and resources they need to advance our University mission and advance their own professional development. I hope you will join me by enthusiastically supporting these experiences when the faculty and staff members in your unit seek them.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Reed
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs