

SUU: Prepared for

While certainly not a prime consideration when SUU entered into a concerted effort to expand its online offerings, that successful campaign has positioned the University well in dealing with the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, when higher education providers everywhere began to face the challenges of the coronavirus, and the method of teaching shifted from face-to-face to online instruction, the institution's significant increase in online degree options for both undergraduate and graduate degrees successfully maintained its acclaimed ability to deliver high-quality, affordable education.

In addition to bolstering its online offerings, SUU decreased its attached tuition to make them more accessible for prospective students. Online-only tuition for undergraduate degrees has been reduced an average of 23 percent, while graduate online-only tuition costs dropped 12 percent.

"We've tightened our belt as a University in order to give opportunities for people looking to better themselves," said President Scott L Wyatt. "With the impact of COVID-19 on the job market, people are struggling and are looking for ways to improve their situation. And we hear you loud and clear."

SUU works to allow students to graduate on-time with less debt, and has developed innovative and revolutionary programs to assist prospective students. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and the Graduate Bridge

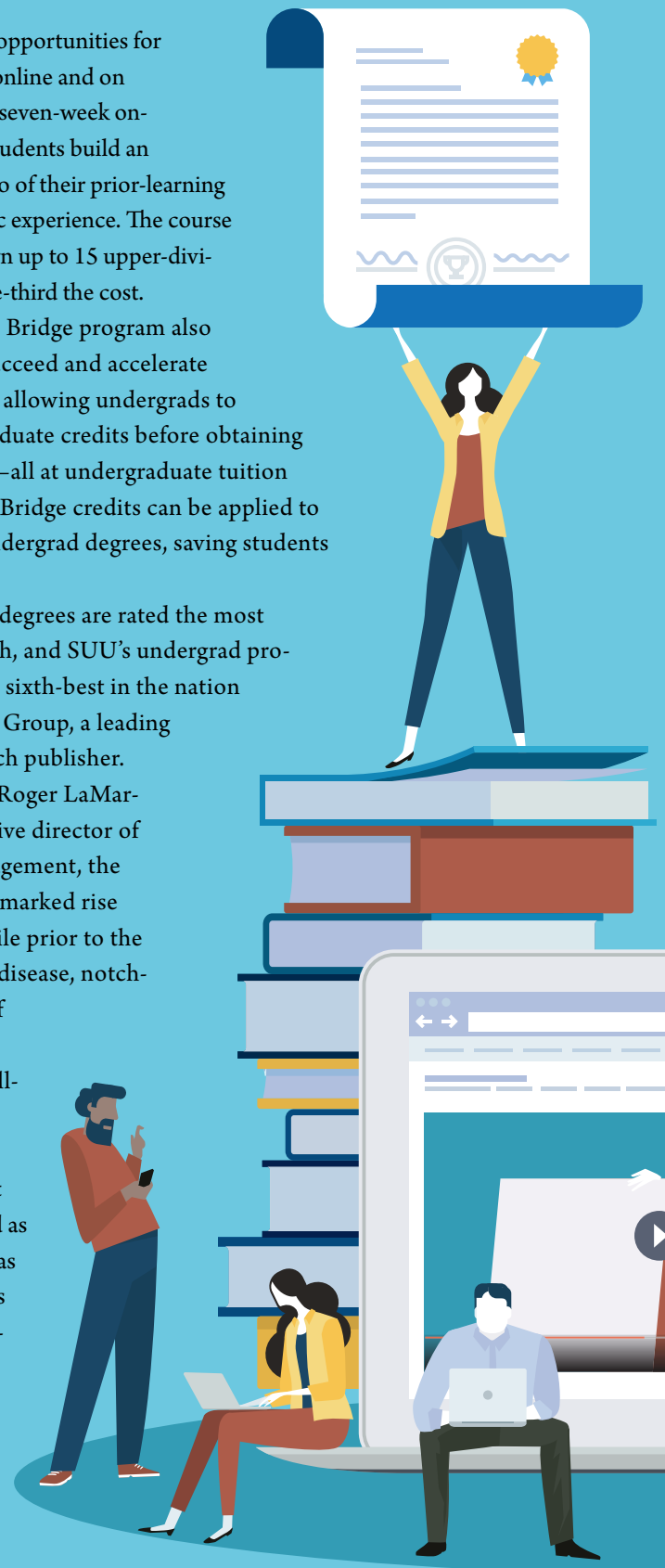
program provide opportunities for all undergrads—online and on campus. PLA is a seven-week online class where students build an academic portfolio of their prior-learning and non-academic experience. The course helps students earn up to 15 upper-division credits at one-third the cost.

The Graduate Bridge program also helps students succeed and accelerate their graduation, allowing undergrads to earn up to 12 graduate credits before obtaining their bachelor's—all at undergraduate tuition prices. Graduate Bridge credits can be applied to both grad and undergrad degrees, saving students time and money.

SUU's online degrees are rated the most affordable in Utah, and SUU's undergrad programs are ranked sixth-best in the nation by SR Education Group, a leading education research publisher.

According to Roger LaMarca, SUU's executive director of enrollment management, the institution saw a marked rise in its online profile prior to the onslaught of the disease, notching an increase of 82.7 percent in online-only enrollment in the past three years.

Of course, that growth has soared as the coronavirus has closed the campus to in-class instruction. LaMarca noted that the University's



Online Students

Online Teaching & Learning Team (OTL) has, in the last few weeks, made significant advances in its work to serve SUU students. It has:

- » Increased SUU's Zoom Pro licenses from 150 to 500.
- » Purchased 90 webcams for faculty to use for remote instruction.
- » Offered several face-to-face and videoconference workshops, tutorials, and other resources to support transition to remote instruction.
- » Extended support hours to include weekends and evenings for faculty.
- » Increased Interactive Video Conferencing abilities to allow a greater range of access.
- » Revamped the OTL Canvas Resource course for more specific remote learning concepts compared to online learning concepts

Beyond the depth of SUU's COVID-19 response, the University maintains its strong belief in the benefits of online programs overall.

"These programs are invaluable," said LaMarca. "They give students who may live away from Cedar City, work full-time, or have a family, the opportunity to earn a degree and receive a quality education from a premier university."

SUU places students first in all courses and programs, including online, and though a geographical distance may exist between teacher and student, classes are personalized and engaging. Professors go above and beyond to ensure that online students are connected to each other and learning through technology and interactive coursework.

The University's online programs are designed for working adults, with high-quality online programs that are flexible, affordable, and accessible. Its convenient accelerated degree programs help people advance in their careers.

SUU is growing its online degree options and currently offers 47 programs that are delivered 100 percent online. In addition, the University recently added the following online programs:

- » Master of Business Administration (MBA) emphases: Marketing, Finance, Leadership
- » Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- » Bachelor of Science in History
- » Bachelor of Science in Family Life & Human Development
- » Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

To view a complete list of online programs, emphases or certificate options, visit suu.edu/online.

