INFORMED DECISIONS™

An institute of thought, ideas, and innovation in public policy

Kem C. Gardner
POLICY INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
DAVID ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
We are an honest broker of informed research that guides informed discussions and leads to informed decisions™
“Informed decisions—guided by informed research and informed discussion—truly benefit people and stand the test of time.”

– Gail Miller, Co-Chair, Advisory Board

## Informed Research

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah prepares economic, demographic, and public policy research that helps Utah prosper. We are Utah’s preeminent public policy institute and a vital gathering place for policy leadership and thoughtful discourse.

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### Economics and Public Policy

Our seasoned team of economists analyze economic impacts, prepare economic forecasts, examine tax and expenditure policies, and provide economic development consultation. We are experts on the Utah economy and specialists in public policy related to regional economics, economic development, and public finance.

### Demographics

Our demographers make sense of Utah’s unique demographic characteristics and interpret how they affect policy choices. We prepare the state’s official population estimates and projections and serve as the lead entity in Utah for the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Survey Research

Our public-purpose surveys, focus groups, and interviews help ensure the public’s voice is heard and provide valuable insight for decision makers.
We engage the community by hosting monthly newsmaker breakfasts and meetings of the Economic Club of Utah on topics of statewide, regional, and national importance.

We convene seminars where opinion leaders can take time to reflect and deliberate on innovative ideas and approaches.

We partner with public entities and private organizations to create opportunities for guided discussion on specific subjects.

We host the annual Gardner Policy Symposium that highlights important national and state issues and features prominent national thought leaders.

We open our home, the Thomas S. Monson Center, for use as a meeting space to foster fruitful conversation.

“The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute helps leaders move public policy decisions beyond heated discussion to enlightened discourse.”

– Senator Mitt Romney
We are passionate about raising the level and quality of public discourse in ways that encourage leaders to make well-considered decisions that balance the needs of community members. We help by sharing economic, demographic, and public policy data and research and by facilitating collaborative discussions.

Business leaders and public servants at all levels of government—legislators, mayors, county commissioners, county and city council members, volunteer members of boards and commissions, and public employees—are more effective when they can call upon a trusted entity to share accurate data, prepare independent research, and convene policy discussions.

Informed decisions are not easy to make. They take intention, time and focused effort. We are here to help.

“"We operate under the basic premise that if you provide decisionmakers with independent, relevant, meaningful, and understandable research they will make informed decisions and Utah will prosper.”

— Natalie Gochnour, Associate Dean and Director, Gardner Institute

INFORMED DECISIONS

Our Major Partners
- Governor’s Office
- Utah Legislature
- Salt Lake County
- Salt Lake City
- Salt Lake Chamber
- Utah League of Cities and Towns
- Utah Association of Counties
Natalie Gochnour, M.S.
Director
Associate Dean, David Eccles School of Business
Former advisor to three Utah governors
Political appointee in the George W. Bush Administration
Columnist for the Deseret News and Utah Business magazine
Utah Transportation Commissioner

Jennifer Robinson, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Gubernatorial appointee to Women in the Economy Commission
Author of dozens of publications on public policy and administration
Adjunct Assistant Professor at University of Utah
Former staffer for the Utah Legislature

Jim Wood, B.S.
Senior Fellow
Author of more than 100 articles and studies on the Utah economy
Member of Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors
Board member for Salt Lake Home Builders Association
Board member for Salt Lake County Housing Trust Fund

Pamela S. Perlich, Ph.D.
Director of Demographic Research
Expert on Utah demographics
Research economist and expert in regional analysis
Member of Governor’s Education Excellence Commission
Member of Envision Utah Steering Committee

Juliette Tennert, M.A.
Director of Economic Research
Former State Budget Director
Former Chief Economist to Governors Jon Huntsman, Jr. and Gary Herbert
Member of Utah Board of Water Resources
Special Advisor to Economic Development Corporation of Utah

Dianne Meppen, B.S.
Director of Survey Research
More than 30 years of survey research experience
Former Director of Quantitative Research for Dan Jones and Associates
Trained moderator and member of the Qualitative Research Consultants Association

In addition to these principals, we employ nearly two dozen talented economists, demographers, analysts, and communication experts.
Utah’s demographic expert, Pamela S. Perlich, during a televised interview.

Members of the Utah Coal Country Strike Team and other community leaders gather in Sen. Mike Lee’s Washington Office.

Our chief economist, Juliette Tennert, responds to a question about tax policy at the Eccles Executive Summit.

Gardner Institute director Natalie Gochnour leads a discussion with Delta Airlines CEO Ed Bastian at the 2019 Economic Summit.

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary Adm. Brett P. Giroir speaks at the annual Gardner Symposium.
### Advisory Board

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