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Utah State University Southwest has hired Terin Crane as an Academic Advising Assistant. She is here to help students through registration, financial aid, creating course semester plans, offering alternative course and degree options, helping students find internship and scholarship opportunities and more, all the while helping ensure students work their way towards graduation. Academic advisors are another tool a student has at their disposal to guide them on their way to academic success and career decisions.

Crane is no stranger to academic advisors herself, having visited with her advisor several times during her time at USU. She graduated from Gunnison Valley High School in 2017 and graduated from Snow College with her associate degree in 2018. Having every intention of applying for her upperclassman study at another university, she suddenly had the notion to apply to Utah State, and she never regretted the decision.

“I sat down that day and filled out the application to attend in Logan and study English,” she said. “I had remarkable experiences at USU, and I met people who have changed my life forever.”

However, during her last year at USU, Crane suddenly was doubting her decision as to her major. She ended up visiting with her academic advisor four times in one week. She was guided on her path.

“My advisor was amazing and was a great support to me,” Crane said. “She calmed me down, took the time to help me get at the root of my crisis, and helped me set up an alternate plan. I was back in her office four different times the next week, changing my major every time. She never once judged me but welcomed me with a warm smile. I remember thinking that I wanted to be able to help someone the way she helped me.”

Crane valued her time at USU not only for being able to study, but also to expand her horizons, learn new things and meet new people. Trying new things was just another way she could get a learning experience at USU.

“My favorite thing about higher education is that it often requires you to get out of your comfort zone,” she said. “You do things that you never knew you could, and that is exciting! Talk with advisors over programs you are interested in, talk to people who are doing the job or career that you are interested in, and do some research. Find what excites you and come to people ready with questions to ask.”

Making her way out of college, Crane started to apply for job positions all over the state of Utah. After months of not being able to find a good fit, she came across the posting for the Advising Assistant at USU Southwest and was immediately excited about the prospect.

“I leapt at the opportunity to work for the school that molded me into the person I wanted to be, the school that gave me experiences I will never forget,” she said. “Now,
as my three-month mark approaches, I recognize that this was the job I not only wanted but needed. Being a part of the Southwest team is a blessing."

In her spare time, Crane likes to read dystopian novels and war novels. Some of her favorite books include *The Hunger Games* series and *The Maze Runner* series. She is also a pro at quoting movies and television shows. Her current go-to quote comes from *New Girl*. She is also learning how to cook. Above everything, she is passionate about her family, whether they are blood relatives or close friends.

While she admits she may not always have the answers, Crane is dedicated to finding them for students, and guiding them along their path to graduation and learning experiences.

“If I don’t have the answer to your question, I will find someone who does,” she promises students. “I am in the business of you and will do everything I can to help you succeed. There are countless resources available to students that they don’t know exist. Guess who has both access and knowledge about these resources? Advisors.”

USU students are encouraged to reach out to their academic advisors. They are always willing to sit down and help students on their path to graduation, and every step in between. To schedule an appointment with Terin or another advisor, visit advising.usu.edu.

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