



Provo has been and continues to be a center for innovation

For decades, creative ideas and innovation have flowed from Provo. In the 1980's the WordPerfect word processor was created at BYU and Novell with headquarters in Provo had NetWare, with a 65% market share and more than 50 million users. As these companies faded into history, their impact did not. These early Provo-based companies were instrumental in making Utah Valley a focus for technology and software development.

Other companies exploded out of BYU / Provo – Qualtrics, Omniture, Podium, BambooHR, Ancestry, Domo, Vivint, the list goes on. In fact, Omniture was the catalyst for Adobe moving to Utah which then became the catalyst for Silicon Slopes. This wave was followed by another wave of innovation in the companies Owlet, Divvy, Devmountain, Pura, Weave, and on and on.

This innovation environment continues in Provo. Startup incubator and accelerator companies like the Startup Building and RevRoad are nurturing dozens of companies that will form the next innovation wave. Kiln is locating in Provo in 2022 and will house an additional 50-75 startup companies and Qualtrics' Ryan Smith is building his own startup community in Provo.

This innovation is nurtured at BYU with the Rollins Center for Entrepreneurship and the Technology Transfer office. UVU has the Entrepreneurship Institute. Of note, BYU is the #3 Best University for Entrepreneurship Programs and the #4 Best University for Technology Transfer. Wow!!

Provo is a center for about 16,000 annual graduates in technology, engineering, business, marketing, design, etc. that flow from BYU and UVU and provide innovation companies with the quality employees they need.

The innovation coming from Provo has benefitted all of Utah but specifically Utah County. Provo is the seedbed for what is now called Silicon Slopes. Of Utah's "unicorn" technology companies (fast-growing start-ups that are now valued at over \$1 billion) most have 1 thing in common – their founders studied in Provo at BYU. **YES, Provo has been and continues to be a center for innovation.**