Gary Straquadine was recently appointed Vice Chancellor for the USU Eastern campuses. His new role will build upon previous academic leadership experiences at three different Land Grant Universities - Utah State, Ohio State, and New Mexico State. He will retain his assignment as Vice Provost with responsibilities for program design and development in southeast Utah. During 29-years of work in higher education, Dr. Straquadine has served as a Department Chair, Associate Dean, and Regional Campus Dean and Executive Director. He is a distinguished professor with numerous teaching and advising awards plus a notable researcher. He has published more than 100 research papers in journals and at professional conferences. His record of awarded research and development grants exceeds $750K.

As the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Straquadine will assist the Chancellor to advance the academic programs at USU Eastern with a focus on economic development and community development. He will be responsible for program design, implementation, and evaluation with a vision for attracting and retaining the best students for the right programs. He will mentor new and maturing faculty to maximize their teaching, research, and service roles. Dr. Straquadine has the skills set needed to develop significant relations with business, industry, and community leaders in the private and public sector.

Dr. Straquadine has a hardy background in agricultural extension education -- both in his academic preparation and his career experiences. He has taught high school, served as a state-level leader of agricultural education teachers in a State Office of Education, and has been a teacher educator for more than two-decades. He perfected his community outreach expertise with the Cooperative Extension Service in both Utah and New Mexico. Originally from Land of Enchantment, Dr. Straquadine holds a B.S. and M.A. in Agriculture and Extension Education from New Mexico State University. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Education at The Ohio State University in 1987.

Dr. Straquadine replaces Dr. Peter Iyere as Vice Chancellor. Dr. Iyere resigned in December, 2016 to pursue other opportunities in higher education closer to home. He served the USU Eastern campus for 3.5 years.