



UTAH
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

A tip for NEA's American Education Week

for TEACHERS:

Take Five!

NEA

'American Education Week' November 16-22
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UEA Action

The Voice of the
Unified Education
Profession in Utah
Volume 39
Number 1
November 2008

Convention moves to Sandy after more than a century in Salt Lake City

Activity-Packed Convention Informative and Fun for All

During his keynote address at the 2008 UEA Convention & Education Exposition, newly elected NEA President Dennis Van Roekel urged teachers to get involved in "electing pro-education policymakers" so all children can continue to experience the American dream of a good education (see a summary of Van Roekel's comments to convention attendees on page 5).

Thousands of Utah educators, parents, students, candidates and others interested in public education converged on the South Towne Exposition Center Oct. 16-17 for the 2008 UEA Convention & Education Exposition. The convention featured some of the profession's most respected and inspiring speakers,

workshops that motivated and challenged educators, an exhibit hall showcasing more than 200 vendors, and a reading area for elementary students.

An Historic Move: After more than a century of holding its annual meetings in downtown Salt Lake City, the UEA shifted its 2008 convention to the South Towne Exposition Center in Sandy. "While breaking tradition can be difficult, I heard nothing but positive comments from those who attended," said Kim Campbell, UEA president. "The access, parking and facilities were very convenient for everyone."

The convention kicked off with a call to action by UEA President Kim Campbell (see "Never Give Up Pursuing Excellence For All," page 2) and remarks by Utah's 2008 Teacher of the Year, Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh. "The question we must ask ourselves is how do we, the professional educators, deal with the public outcry for (education) reform," said Gallagher-Fishbaugh during her comments. "I would submit that it is time for us to begin leading from the classroom, to be our own advocates for positive change and practices we know from experience will work."

On day two, attendees heard



Attendees could visit more than 200 vendor booths, offering everything from books and games to jewelry and furniture, showcased in the exhibit hall at the 2008 UEA Convention.



NEA President Dennis Van Roekel participates in a live interview with radio personality Rebecca Cressman in the exhibit hall at the 2008 UEA Convention.

thought-provoking comments from author and nationally renowned education speaker Alfie Kohn (see a summary of Kohn's comments to convention attendees on page 6).

The convention featured several new and enriching activities for UEA members, parents and students. The Cat in the Hat prowled the exhibition center halls as part of an all-new student literacy event, called "Celebrating Read Across America," based on the National Education Association's highly successful annual "Read Across America" program. Elementary school students attending the event each received a free book, had their photo taken with the Cat in the Hat, and listened to books read by guest readers including UEA President Kim Campbell, Real Salt Lake player Chris Seitz,

See CONVENTION page 5

U-PAC Recommends Local Candidates in Upcoming Election – Vote NOW!

By Vik Arnold
UEA Director of Government Relations & Political Action

In his keynote address at the 2008 UEA Convention, National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel pointed out that "the majority of all public policies that affect educators' needs and student learning in their classrooms are formulated by elected officials or political appointees." From the local school board to the White House, our elected officials make key decisions about our schools and profession:

funding, standards and compensation. It is critical that educators get involved and stay



involved in the political process. Local, state and federal elected officials determine whether schools are adequately equipped and staffed and whether school employees are treated as valued professionals and partners.

When education employees become members of the UEA, they understand they are supporting an organization that will advocate for their interests in the legislative and political arenas, as well as at the bargaining table. The Utah Education Association Political Action Committee (U-PAC) is a key part of how educators flex their muscle in Utah's political process and fight for great public schools. The U-PAC takes a

bi-partisan approach when it comes to its endorsement process. The organization endorses pro-education candidates interviewed

See CANDIDATES page 4

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Thoughts & Opinions



Never Give Up Pursuing Excellence for All

By Kim Campbell
UEA President

Following is an excerpt from a speech given during the 2008 UEA Convention

I have a confession to make. I flunked. A reporter from a local radio station came to the UEA office to interview me about the convention and I flunked his reporter sound bite test.

He asked me the basic questions—"What is going on at the convention?" "What are you going to do?" I told him about the various workshops that would help hone our professional skills. I told him about the challenging and visionary keynote sessions. I told him about the great awards banquet. All the time he is getting antsy. In no uncertain terms, through his body language, he let me know that I was not giving him the sound bites he wanted. He said, "Last year you had that voucher thing. What's going on this year?" I tried to explain to him the positive things happening here for the next two days. When I got to the part about this year's theme, 'Best Practices: Pursuing Excellence for All,' he could contain himself no longer. He said, "Pursuing excellence? What does that really mean?"

I guess it just isn't newsworthy when Utah's educators take another huge step toward a better future for Utah's public schools because that is what this year's convention was about—another step in the right direction. Last year at the convention we were just a few weeks away from the voucher referendum. With help from all of you, coalition partners who care about public schools both in Utah and all across the nation, and our national affiliate, the National Education Association, we were able to defeat this very harmful legislation. You are heroes and champions for Utah's children—for the nation's children—and I can't thank you enough.

On election night following the voucher defeat, reporter after reporter asked me, "So, now what?" I repeated time and time again, "Now we have to turn this victory into good things for our schools." That is exactly what this year's convention was about—good things for our public schools and Utah's children. Pursuing excellence for all is not an empty platitude or just a cute convention theme—it is an integral part of the American dream.

- "Pursue"—to search, to hunt, to quest.
- "Excellence"—quality, distinction, best.
- "All"—each and every one, inclusive.

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The quest for our personal best. Isn't that the essence of the American Dream? That everyone, no matter what their background or income, is willing to work for it has the right and the opportunity to strive for personal excellence. That opportunity must be available through great public schools.

Don't ever give up the dream and don't ever give up pursuing excellence for all.



UEA President
Kim Campbell



Jesse DeHay



Ryan Anderson

Thoughts from NEA Directors
Jesse DeHay & Ryan Anderson

Every aspect of our most recent trip to Washington, D.C., at the end of September was unlike any previous visit. Our first full day in D.C.—the day we are always scheduled to visit the Congressional offices—had previously been projected as the last day of the current Congressional session.

Had it been a normal end of the session, everyone in the offices would have been cheerfully tying up loose ends in preparation for several weeks of break; the outgoing lame ducks, like our congressman, Rep. Chris Cannon, would have been closing up their offices for the last time and saying their goodbyes; and an air of excitement over the anticipation of having many new, fresh, currently unknown faces in the Senate and the House at the start of the next session would have prevailed up and down the halls. However, the gloom of the looming economic crisis hung heavy in the air. No one knew when the session would end, everything was in turmoil as both houses of Congress scrambled to develop the first (failed) bail-out package, and there was an almost frantic, gotta-get-it-done-now attitude everywhere.

Our elected representatives were busy on the floors of their respective houses, staffers were running in and out gathering data, and in every office we visited the staffers in the reception areas were tactfully and patiently answering one phone call after another from irate, shouting constituents com-

Invite others
to join you in
voting



Thoughts from
UEA Vice President
Ellen Thompson

When I was growing up there was an unwritten law in our house, everyone 18 and older attends caucus meetings and votes. Politics was never a common topic around the dinner table, but it was understood that it was a privilege and a duty to participate. I was very surprised at my first caucus meeting to see so few of my friends and their parents in attendance. In addition, it seemed that voting was something you did only if it was convenient. Columnist Bill Vaughn's statement seems to be coming more and more true: "A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election."

That can't be the case in Utah this year. While so much of our attention has been focused on the national race for president, the local races for Utah House and Senate could make a dramatic difference in your life as an educator. No matter what your party affiliation, please take the time to read the recommendations listed here in the "Action." They were made by bi-partisan committees consisting of educators from all around the state.

There are also the important races of Attorney General and State Treasurer. The UEA has recommended Democrat Jean Welch Hill for Attorney General and Republican Richard Ellis for State Treasurer. Both of these individuals have worked hard for education in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Make this the year you not only cast your vote as always, but take five or ten people to the polls as well. Democracy requires involvement from all of its citizens. Educators should be the role models.

plaining bitterly about bailing out the banks and big-money houses with taxpayer dollars. We made our usual rounds, met with the education staffers in each office, and discussed NEA's and our own concerns and suggestions about how to ease the economic crisis while remembering to rescue the "little guys" who need to pay their bills, keep their jobs, put their kids and grandkids through college, and so on. Every person we met with seemed distracted, and no one wanted to talk for long, so we made our points, left our handouts and moved quickly from office to office.

The next two days were long hours of meetings with the three newly elected NEA officers and the many newly elected NEA Directors. Dennis Van Roekel, the new president; Utah's own Lily Eskelsen, the new vice president; and Becky Pringle, the new secretary-treasurer; were bright and shiny in the forefront as they eagerly worked to put their own stamp on NEA. Reg Weaver, our previous NEA president, has moved on, and we all wish him well. If the U.S. presidential election ends up the way the polls are indicating at this writing, you may expect to hear his lively, passionate voice once again in an influential position affecting public education.

There is now much more emphasis on crosstalk, sharing ideas, and gathering input from the NEA Directors on every topic on the meeting agenda. We'll include more details on that new emphasis in our formal report to the UEA Board and Council of Local Presidents. We are looking forward to new approaches and fresh ways of meeting the needs of public education over the next exciting months.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to do what we do. We really are having fun doing all this.

Issues & Action



Join the UEA/Utah Jazz



Great Public Schools Celebration

The Great Public Schools Celebration is an opportunity for Utah Education Association members to showcase the great accomplishments of Utah public schools. The UEA, in partnership with the Utah Jazz, is asking Utah educators to identify an outstanding educational program or individual in a Utah public school. Entries are judged based on how the program or individual helps students, teachers and the school. One winner will be chosen in each category.

Contest winners will be recognized during halftime at a Utah Jazz game. Winners will be honored guests of the Utah Jazz and receive:



- Two tickets to the Utah Jazz game where they will be honored (up to four tickets for the educational program winner).
- Dinner for two at a Salt Lake-area restaurant.
- A visit to the winner's classroom by the Utah Jazz Bear (within 50 miles).

Nominations must be submitted by January 9, 2009. Nominees must be UEA members currently teaching in a Utah public school. Visit www.utea.org for a nomination form.



Utah Jazz and UEA Team Up for 'Great Public Schools Celebration'

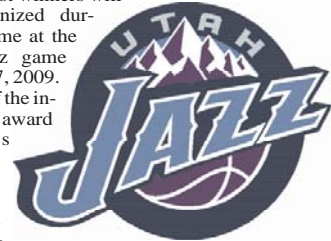
The Utah Education Association is once again partnering with the Utah Jazz to recognize outstanding public school programs and educators.

The "Great Public Schools Celebration," established in 2007, gives UEA members an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of Utah public schools. In this year's competition, UEA members are being asked to nominate an outstanding education program or individual in a public school. Entries will be judged based on how the program or individual helps students, teachers and the school. One winner will be chosen in each category.

Contest winners will be recognized during halftime at the Utah Jazz game on Feb. 17, 2009. Winner of the individual award receives two game tickets and the outstanding education program winner re-

ceives up to four tickets, in addition to dinner at a Salt Lake-area restaurant for each game attendee. The Utah Jazz Bear will also visit the winners' classrooms (within 50 miles of Salt Lake Valley).

Nominations for the "Great Public Schools Celebration" must be submitted to the UEA by Jan. 9, 2009. Nominees must be UEA members and licensed educators who currently teach in a Utah public school. Those nominating must also be UEA members. Visit the UEA Website at www.utea.org to download a nomination form.



UEA Defends Bad Teachers (or so the argument goes)

by Michael T. McCoy, UEA General Counsel

I've represented teachers for more than 30 years. Some might be considered bad. Others were good teachers who simply questioned the system or had too many parents complain. Coaches are most often victimized by complaining parents, but any teacher can be a target. Representing "bad" teachers is a very small part of my job. Most teachers who can't teach resign or retire when confronted with the evidence.

Most of UEA's legal efforts are defending members against false charges made by students or parents angry about one thing or another.

One tactic of an angry parent is to complain to the Division of Child and Family Services claiming the teacher physically or emotionally abused a student. DCFS investigates most complaints and too often sides with the parent, finding physical or emotional abuse if the student's feelings were hurt or someone claims to have seen a red mark or bruise alleged to have been caused by a teacher. Parents have learned complaining to DCFS is a good way to harass a teacher. If that doesn't work, they complain to the police and the district administration.

Teachers are forced to defend themselves in DCFS investigations, police investigations and administrative investigations. If a teacher hires his/her own attorney, it will likely cost several thousand dollars in attorney's fees.

In a recent case, a mother called the police based on her son's claim the teacher hit him. Rather than talk to the teacher, the parent sided with little Johnny even though he was a known liar and trouble maker.

Johnny told his mother the teacher hit him on the head causing pain. In fact, the teacher was talking to the mother on the telephone while little Johnny was shouting obscenities and insults in the background. The teacher tapped little Johnny on the head to get

his attention. No bruise. No swelling. No nothing.

However, the mother called the police and the newspapers telling them, "Then I heard a loud thump, and the phone went dead." The parent claimed little Johnny "returned home with a bump on his head." Funny thing: little Johnny had a meeting with the principal, the school counselor, and the teacher later the same day and nobody noticed a bump or even a red mark on little Johnny's head.

District administration investigated Johnny's mother's claim. (They have to be objective by law.) They must call the incident as they see it. The DCFS investigated. The police investigated. They can't afford not to or to whitewash the complaint. Police must be objective and able to justify whatever course they recommend, whether it is prosecution or no action at all.

The teacher met with the principal and the director of human resources. She was also interviewed by the police and then by DCFS. The teacher told her side of the incident. Witnesses were contacted. Because the teacher was a UEA member, she had an attorney present who advised her of her rights. The UEA provides representation without cost to members in all administrative hearings including DCFS hearings.

In most cases, as in this one, the teacher was vindicated. Unfortunately, sometimes a criminal complaint is filed and the teacher has to defend

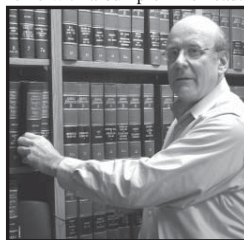
himself/herself in court. If the teacher is a member, the UEA pays a portion of the attorney's fees. If the member is vindicated, the UEA, through its insurer, pays all of the attorney's fees.

An increasing number of cases involve parents who decide it's their responsibility to get the teacher fired. The attack takes several forms. The simplest is the telephone call to the superintendent or board member complaining about the competence of the teacher. Except in small communities, this approach has little effect. The more provocative attack is to falsely accuse the teacher of assaulting students or having an "intimate" relationship with a student.

We have several weapons in our arsenal for responding. First, we hire a private investigator who noses around the neighborhood letting people know that the UEA is investigating for the purpose of suing somebody who is defaming teachers. That usually does it and the harassment stops. Sometimes, a meeting with the faculty is sufficient to get the word around. That's our objective. When all else fails, I write a letter to the person advising him/her if he/she continues to defame our member we will sue for a million dollars (or something more realistic). Again, that usually works, but not always. The UEA has funded several defamation cases.

The fact is, I spend far more time representing teachers investigated by DCFS and the police—and defamed and harassed by parents—than I do defending "bad teachers."

That's a good reason to belong to UEA.



UEA Attorney
Michael T. McCoy

For more information
about teacher rights, visit:

[www.utea.org/educatorResources/
educatorRights/index.htm](http://www.utea.org/educatorResources/educatorRights/index.htm)

Issues & Action



CANDIDATES . . . (continued from page 1)

and recommended by local or UniServ political action committees. Contributions are made to candidates in races where the U-PAC Council determines additional support may make a difference in a race to elect a public education advocate.

For complete Utah election information, including polling locations, early voting information and to obtain a sample ballot, go to elections.utah.gov.

Note: *The UEA does not use membership dues money to make contributions to, or expenditures on behalf of, candidates for public office. All contributions and expenditures on behalf of candidates come from the U-PAC, which is funded entirely with contributions donated voluntarily by UEA members and others interested in supporting public education.*

Election Information:

► For complete Utah election information, go to elections.utah.gov. At this site you can find polling locations and print sample voting ballots.

► Vote early beginning Oct. 20. For a list of early voting locations in your area, visit elections.utah.gov and click "2008 Early Voting Locations."

► Up-to-date U-PAC candidate recommendation lists, including school board candidates, is available at utea.org/politics/legislation/legislativeinformation.

U-PAC Recommended Candidates

Utah Statewide Elections

State Treasurer: Richard Ellis
Attorney General: Jean Welch Hill

U.S. Congressional Elections

District 2: Jim Matheson - *i*
District 3: Bennion Spencer

Utah State Senate

District 1: Luz Robles
District 5: Karen Mayne - *i*
District 6: Cora Lee Jckowski
District 8: Karen Morgan
District 10: John Rendell
District 13: Kenneth Peay
District 16: RaDene Hatfield
District 20: Steve Olsen
District 23: Dan Liljenquist/Richard Watson
District 27: Brad King

Utah State House of Representatives

District 1: Ronda Menlove - *i*
District 4: Fred Hunsaker - *i*
District 5: Suzanne Marychild
District 8: Trent Alvord
District 9: Neil Hansen - *i*
District 10: Ed Allen
District 11: Mark Openshaw
District 12: Richard Greenwood - *i*
District 13: Paul Ray - *i*
District 14: Marcie Smith-West
District 15: Doug Aagard - *i*
District 16: Carole Peterson
District 17: Julie Fisher - *i*
District 19: Sheryl Allen - *i*
District 20: Becky Edwards
District 21: Jim Gowans - *i*
District 22: Sue Duckworth
District 23: Jen Seelig - *i*
District 24: Rebecca Chavez-Houck - *i*

District 25: Christine Johnson - *i*
District 26: David Litvack - *i*
District 27: Gwyn Franson
District 28: Brian King
District 29: Janice Fisher - *i*
District 30: Jackie Biskupski - *i*
District 31: Larry Wiley - *i*
District 33: Neal Hendrickson - *i*
District 34: Kory Holdaway - *i*
District 35: Mark Wheatley - *i*
District 36: Phil Riesen - *i*
District 37: Carol Spackman Moss - *i*
District 38: Charles Henderson
District 39: Jim Dunnigan - *i*
District 40: Lynn Hemingway - *i*
District 41: Fred Ash
District 42: Jim Bird - *i*
District 44: Tim Cosgrove - *i*
District 45: Laura Black
District 46: Marie Poulson
District 47: Steve Mascaro - *i*
District 48: Trisha Beck
District 49: Jay Seegmiller
District 51: Lisa Johnson
District 52: Dave Hogue
District 53: Mel Brown - *i*
District 57: Mary Lou Huffman
District 58: Steve Baugh
District 59: Paul Thompson
District 60: Boyd McAfee
District 61: Deon Turley
District 62: Claralyn Hill
District 63: Don Jarvis
District 64: Boyd Petersen
District 66: Debbie Swenson
District 68: Ed Phillips
District 69: Christine Watkins
District 70: Kay McIff - *i*

i = Incumbent

2009 UEA Election

Declaration of Candidacy Forms Due January 12, 2009

Utah Education Association members wishing to run for Association positions must complete a Declaration of Candidacy form and submit it to the UEA executive director no later than 5 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, 2009. Forms are available at UEA Headquarters, or online at www.utea.org. The following UEA offices will be subject to election in 2009:

- NEA State Director on the UEA Board of Directors (Three-year term)
- Bonneville Director on the UEA Board of Directors (Three-year term)

- Bonneville NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Three-year term)
- Color Country Director on the UEA Board of Directors (Three-year term)
- Color Country NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Three-year term)
- Eastern Director on the UEA Board of Directors* (Three-year term)
- Eastern NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Three-year term)
- High Desert Director on the UEA Board of Directors (Three-year term)
- High Desert NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Three-year term)

- Northern Director on the UEA Board of Directors* (Three-year term)
- Northern NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Three-year term)
- Ogden/Weber Director on the UEA Board of Directors (Three-year term)
- Ogden/Weber NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Three-year term)
- Wasatch Director on the UEA Board of Directors (Three-year term)
- Wasatch NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Three-year term)

* Current director has served maximum term.

American Education Week

During American Education Week, November 16-22, 2008, Americans nationwide will join the National Education Association in raising awareness about the need to provide every child with a quality public education.

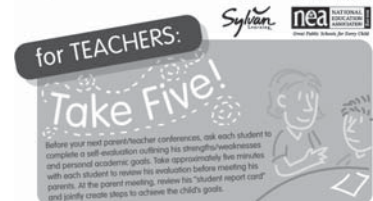
"Public schools are the foundation of our country's prosperity and strength," said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel. "We must honor all Americans who are committed and dedicated to giving our nation's children a basic right to a great public education."

To further reinforce American Education Week's theme, each day of the week will spotlight the different people who are critical in building great public schools for the nation's 50 million K-12 students. American Education Week's celebration days include:

- Nov. 17: Open House Day. From national commemorations to local community events, millions of Americans will celebrate public education.
- Nov. 18: Parents Day. Schools invite parents into the classroom for a hands-on experience of what the day is like for their child.
- Nov. 19: Education Support Professionals Day. Individuals who provide invaluable services to schools are recognized for their outstanding work.
- Nov. 20: Educator for a Day. Community leaders will be invited to serve as educators to get a glimpse of a day in the life of a school employee.
- Nov. 21: Substitute Educators Day. This day honors the educators who are called upon to replace regularly employed teachers.

A tip for NEA's American Education Week

November 16-22



To help plan American Education Week's celebration days, NEA is offering a free, online toolkit, complete with promotional materials, activity ideas, and downloadable templates. The toolkit is available at www.nea.org/aew.

UEA Convention



UEA President Kim Campbell reads to students to kickoff the "Celebrating Read Across America" event at the UEA Convention. Children who had read three books during the year could participate.

NEA President Urges Change

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

It is as relevant now as at the time he said it, remarked NEA President Dennis Van Roekel about the quote from FDR. "Our great nation has always provided for those who have too little...too little hope...too little opportunity...too few possibilities. And the way to do that was education. Education was always the vehicle."

Van Roekel's keynote address to the 2008 UEA Convention focused on bringing needed change to public education. "My conclusions are very simple. Number one, I do not believe the people who work in public schools are doing anything wrong. I don't think we ought to be pointing a finger at them. Number two, I don't believe the current public education system in America is broken.

"Everything I've read about system change says that every system delivers exactly what it is designed



UEA President Dennis Van Roekel addresses the 2008 UEA Convention opening session.

to," said Van Roekel. "We've designed a system that by its very nature means that 30 percent of our students will not get out of high school. We've designed it and it continues to do that. We haven't changed [the system] in 20 years.

"If the current system is not broken, we need to change the system of education in America so that it actually lives up to the American dream...[a system] that includes every child no matter where you live, who you are or the economic circumstances of your parents."

In discussing the role of the federal government in education, Van Roekel said "we've talked to them about... supporting the profession of teaching. The government can support the profession of teaching in many ways, like in the National Defense of Education Act. Wouldn't it be great if the federal government actually did quality research on student assessment...[assessment that gives] information to the teacher that will help get [students] to the right level?"

"We get criticized a lot about our involvement in political action," he noted. "They understand it is our civic responsibility as individuals to participate, to vote, to be involved. But somehow they don't like it when we do it as an organization."

But Van Roekel said it didn't take him long to understand many decisions made outside the classroom impact the ability of teachers to deliver for students. "To change what's happening to [the students in my classroom] I have to go to the decision makers. Don't whine to the person who doesn't have the power to change it. Try to influence the person who does.

"Do we have the will to transform public education in America," asked Van Roekel. "I believe the time is right now. We shouldn't wait two years, four years or five years. The time is right now. I believe we are the ones to do it and I believe in 2008 we can begin that."

CONVENTION . . . (continued from page 1)

Utah State Representatives Jim Dunnigan and Rebecca Chavez-Houck, and representatives from event sponsor Barnes & Noble. Other sponsors included Horace Mann Insurance Companies, Real Salt Lake, Utah Idaho Supply & Map World and LoveSac.

Political candidates from across the state participated in a Candidate Forum Oct. 16 to discuss policies and issues related to public education. UEA members and representatives from the media had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with legislative leaders and candidates at this event.

UEA members could select from more than 40 professional development workshops throughout the two-day convention. Sessions included titles ranging from "Teaching Math the Way the Brain Learns Best" to "Using Foldables and Magnets to Enhance Science." On Friday, Oct. 17, the convention welcomed students and educators in their first three years of teaching to participate in the New Educators' Workshop. Specific sessions on classroom management, working with special education students, and tips and shortcuts for educators were available to attendees.

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UEA Convention



Memories from the 2008 UEA Convention

Day 2: Keynote Speaker Alfie Kohn

Kohn Questions School Testing

Author and educator Alfie Kohn challenged traditional standards and accountability measures in his comments to UEA members and new educators attending the UEA Convention Friday opening session.

"The best classrooms rarely emphasize test scores or grades," said Kohn. "In classrooms where real learning takes place, teachers challenge assumptions and emphasize critical thinking."

Kohn pointed out what he sees as fundamental flaws in traditional standards-based measurement. "First, it gets the motivation wrong," he said. "Students become so focused on how well they are doing they forget about what they are doing." He gave the example of students so focused on how well they are reading that they do not realize the importance of what they are reading.

In addition, those implementing standards "don't understand how school reform happens. We have moved to a situation where we have more control by people who don't understand education." Teachers are given mandates without having input. "We don't get people to improve by saying 'do this or else.'" he said.

Kohn went on to say standards-based measurement also gets the idea of improvement wrong. "(Standards-based measurement) assumes that if it is harder it must be better... When they say 'higher standards' they mean standards that all kids will never be able to meet," he said. It also gets teaching and learning wrong. "Our education system is based on an outmoded fact-and-skill model of learning," said Kohn. "The more focused you are on measurable results, the more trivial your teaching becomes."

Finally, Kohn believes standards-based measurement gets the evaluation wrong. He pointed out that demographics account for most test results. "Eighty to ninety percent of the variance in test scores can be explained without knowing anything about what happens in the classroom." He illustrated many ways test scores could go up besides improved teaching including adjusting to the mean, environmental changes and "playing games" with the tests.

"We have a responsibility to protect children from inherently damaging educational practices sold to us in the name of accountability," Kohn concluded.

Alfie Kohn writes and speaks widely on human behavior, education, and parenting. He is the author of 11 books including "THE HOMEWORK MYTH: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing" (2006) and "THE SCHOOLS OUR CHILDREN DESERVE: Moving Beyond Traditional Classrooms and Tougher Standards" (1999). Additional information is available at www.alfiekohn.org.



Author Alfie Kohn told Conference attendees that the best classrooms emphasize critical thinking over testing and grades.



The South Towne Expo Center in Sandy was home to the 2008 UEA Convention.



Participants commented that parking and registration were easier at the new South Towne venue.



Congressman Jim Matheson addresses a Candidate Forum sponsored by the UEA Political Action Committee.



Musician Kurt Bestor performed and gave a tribute to teachers during the "Superstars in Education" Banquet.



A choir comprised of UEA members performs the national anthem during the opening session.

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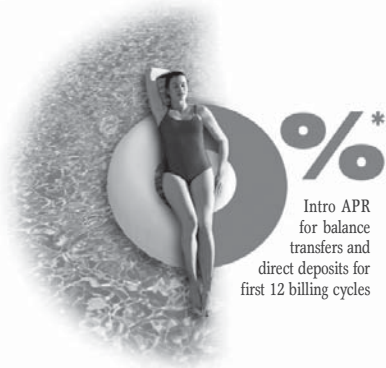
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UEA People



Kelley, Pett Join UEA Staff



Michael Kelley

A 20-year public relations veteran, Michael Kelley has replaced Mark Mickelsen as UEA Communications and Public Relations Director. His responsibilities include editing publications, media relations, directing image and issue campaigns and coordinating events.

Most recently, Kelley worked in the Office of Communications at Jordan School District. His previous experience includes public relations positions in banking, technology and tourism. He has a bachelor's degree in public relations from Brigham Young University and a MBA from the University of Utah.

Kelley attended public schools in Salt Lake, Nebo and Alpine School Districts. His wife, Monica, teaches in Granite School District and his three children attended schools in Jordan School District.

Brenda Pett has recently been named UEA's business manager after working in the Eastern UniServ since May 2005. She brings 15 years of accounting experience to her new position. Her responsibilities include the day-to-day financial operations of the UEA and assisting with annual proposed budgets and projections.



Brenda Pett

Prior to joining the UEA, Pett lived in the outback of Western Australia with her family for two years. When returning to Utah, she decided to work in a place that "made a difference." She came to work at the UEA and has never looked back. When asked why she likes working for the Association, Pett said "I love working with people who motivate me. I am truly inspired by the leaders of [the] UEA and their dedication to the children in Utah's public schools."

Pett attended Murray High School and Salt Lake Community College and now lives in Murray with her husband, Bryan, and their four children.

KUDOS

Honoring Utah Educators & UEA Members

2009 Utah Teacher of the Year

The parent of a student in Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh's second-grade class at Dilworth Elementary School said her 7-year-old son got "schoolsick," as opposed to "homesick," during the winter break. "I'm happy because of Christmas but I really miss my classroom and I really miss Mrs. Gallagher," the parent quoted her son as saying.



Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh

Gallagher-Fishbaugh was recently named Utah's 2009 Teacher of the Year. She succeeds Grand County High School history teacher Hal Adams as Utah Teacher of the Year and will go on to compete in the national Teacher of the Year competition. Gallagher-Fishbaugh has 29 years of teaching experience, all at Dilworth Elementary in Salt Lake School District.

"Sharon is loved by the parents and students she has had the privilege of coming in contact with," said Dilworth Principal Kenneth D. Limb. "She is professional in her relationships with all, but exudes love, compassion and high expectations for her students and parents."

Gallagher-Fishbaugh is a National Board Certified Teacher and was a Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education finalist last year. She was selected from a group of 24 teachers nominated by their school districts. As Utah's 2009 Teacher of the Year, Gallagher-Fishbaugh received a \$10,000 check from the Utah State

Office of Education, a SMART Board interactive white board from SMART Technologies Inc., a classroom wireless microphone system from Audio Enhancement, a computer from P.C. Laptops, a full scholarship in a degree program offered through Walden University's Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership, and trips to Dallas for the National Teacher of the Year conference and Washington, D.C., to meet with the President. She will also spend time at the U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.



Crystal Fish

Crystal Fish, a mathematics teacher at Hillcrest Junior High in Murray was named first runner up and Karen Gorringer, a sixth grade teacher from Bluffdale Elementary in Jordan School District was named second runner-up. Runners up received checks for \$5,000 and \$3,000 respectively. All Utah teachers of the year were honored at a banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Salt Lake City and received a clock from O.C. Tanner Co., a gift basket from Great Harvest Bread Company and a gift certificate from McDonald's.



Karen Gorringer

'Superstars in Education' Honored at Gala Convention Event

Since Elizabeth Sprackland's arrival at Wasatch Mountain Junior High in Wasatch School District, the Art Department has become a premier art studio. She instituted art shows with parents and community members filling through as if in a gallery opening in New York. She also had students create murals around the school.

There are countless examples of James Brey's service to his disabled students at Dixie Middle School in Washington County School District: he arranged for a dying student to ride in a military helicopter; he helped a family install a pool so their disabled student could exercise; he changes students' diapers, washes their clothes, feeds them and is patient with students who "fight" him on a daily basis.

Brey and Sprackland are two of 10 educators honored with 2008 William and Pat Child "Excellence in Teaching" Awards during the UEA's annual "Superstars in Education" Banquet, Oct. 16 at the South Towne Exposition Center. Entertainer Kurt Bestor wowed guests at the event with his musical prowess and a loving tribute to teachers.

Award recipients were nominated by their peers and chosen based on their work with individual students or groups of students. Each winner received a crystal award and a check for \$1,500, courtesy of William and Pat Child.

"Excellence in Teaching" Award recipients included:

- **James Brey**, special education teacher at Dixie Middle School, Washington County School District;
- **Kim Broadbent**, integrated learning and lab specialist at Westridge Elementary School, Provo City School District;
- **Jeanette Christenson**, seventh-grade reading teacher and assistant principal at Willow Valley Middle School, Cache County School District;
- **Jay Evans**, vocational education teacher at Tintic High School, Tintic School District;
- **Scott McKay**, science teacher at Juab Junior High School, Juab School District;
- **Kevin Puzey**, U.S. History teacher at Central Davis Junior High School, Davis School District;

- **Sharon Roberts**, third-grade teacher at Park Elementary School, Cache County School District;
- **Elizabeth Sprackland**, art teacher at Wasatch Mountain Junior High School, Wasatch School District;
- **Janice Voorhies**, English teacher at Bingham High School, Jordan School District;
- **Linda Walter**, science teacher at Payson High School, Nebo School District.

In addition to recognizing the state's outstanding educators, the UEA presented Honor Roll awards to the following individuals and business that have provided outstanding service to public education:

- **Representative Sheryl Allen** who has shown both courage and conviction on behalf of public education during her 15 years in the Utah Legislature;
- **Kim Burningham** who demonstrated exemplary leadership and vision as he served in the Utah Legislature, on the Utah State School Board and during the fight to repeal a divisive voucher bill; and
- **State Farm Insurance** and its agents who have contributed more than \$365,000 to Utah's teachers and students through the "Good Neighbors for Good Schools" program, in partnership with the UEA and the Utah Jazz.



UEA President Kim Campbell (left) and UEA Vice President (right) presented "Excellence in Teaching" awards to 10 educators during the "Superstars in Education" Banquet. Pictured, left to right, are award winners Kevin Puzey, James Brey, Linda Walter, Scott McKay, Kim Broadbent, Janice Voorhies, Sharon Roberts, Jeanette Christenson, and Elizabeth Sprackland. Not pictured, Jay Evans.