



# UEA Action Digest

Newsletter for members of the Utah Education Association

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Serving Utah Public Schools Since 1910

November 2011

## Legislature: Key Issues Face Educators

While most teachers were enjoying a well-deserved weekend break, local association presidents were meeting at the UEA Office in Murray Saturday, Nov. 5, to discuss a variety of matters that impact UEA members. A great deal of the meeting time was devoted to understanding key issues teachers and public schools will face in the upcoming state legislative session.

The UEA Legislative Team outlined for presidents several items that may be considered. The four issues detailed below have been identified as the top priorities for the Association. An Issue Brief outlining the UEA's position on these topics is available at UEA Under the Dome, [myUEA.org/legislature](http://myUEA.org/legislature).

### Public Education Employment Reform Act

While actual draft legislation does not yet exist for most of these, a comprehensive bill proposed by Sen. Aaron Osmond (R-So. Jordan), under the title 'Public Education Em-

ployment Reform Act,' is available for review. The proposed bill would eliminate traditional collective bargaining, the orderly termination statute and "career" status for public education employees. It establishes contract limits, at-will contracts for employment, salary ranges developed by the State Board of Education, a system of performance pay and a two-tiered system of employment. Many of the bill's guiding principles were encouraged by Utah State Supt. Larry Shumway.

Sen. Osmond and Supt. Shumway sponsored a series of meetings around the state in early November to hear feedback on the proposal. Nearly 1,000 teachers turned out to express their feelings.

"I don't see how anything proposed in this bill will improve education," said one teacher attending a meeting in Granite District. "Teachers can be removed who don't or won't meet standards. The current system works when districts follow

See **ISSUES**, page 5

## 2011 UEA Convention Highlights

Thousands of Utah educators, parents, students and others interested in public education converged on the South Towne Exposition Center October 20-21 to hear some of the professions most respected and inspiring speakers, attend workshops that motivated and challenged educators, browse an exhibit hall showcasing more than 200 vendors and much more.

"I am always impressed by the quality of the workshops," said an educator attending the 2011 UEA Convention & Education Exposition. "I'm glad for the opportunity to socialize with teacher colleagues from around the state and share ideas," said another. Many attendees expressed similar feelings.

Here are a few highlights:



Educators line up to register and receive credentials at the 2011 UEA Convention & Education Exposition.

### Thursday Opening Session—

UEA President Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh kicked off the 2011 UEA Convention Oct. 20 by sharing insights into the importance of teachers belonging to and participating in their professional association.

"I am a Utah teacher and a member of the UEA." The phrase was repeated by Gallagher-Fishbaugh as she chronicled challenges faced over her 31-year teaching career and how her relationship with her professional association, the UEA, helped sustain her during those challenges. (View her keynote speech online at [myUEA.org/convention](http://myUEA.org/convention))

Master *Jeopardy!* player Ken Jennings then provided the Convention keynote address. He

See **CONVENTION**, page 2

## Calendar



### November

24-25 Thanksgiving Recess (UEA closed)

### December

- 10 NEA Board of Directors meeting
- 16 UEA Board of Directors meeting
- 24 Winter Recess begins (UEA Office closed through Jan. 2)

### January

- 6 UEA Board of Directors meeting
- 7 Council of Local Presidents meeting
- 7 U-PAC meeting
- 12 UEA Declarations of Candidacy due (see **ELECTIONS**, page 7)
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (UEA Office closed)
- 23 Utah Legislative Session begins

### February

- 3 UEA Board of Directors meeting
- 3 UEA Primary Election voting begins
- 4 Council of Local Presidents meeting
- 4 U-PAC meeting
- 10-11 NEA Board of Directors meeting
- 20 President's Day (UEA Office closed)
- 24 UEA Primary Election voting ends
- 25 Council of Local Presidents meeting

### March

- 8 Utah Legislative Session ends
- 16 Joint UEA Board/Staff meeting
- 17 Council of Local Presidents meeting
- 17 U-PAC meeting
- 23 UEA General Election voting begins

### April

- 6-9 Spring Recess (UEA Office closed)
- 20 UEA General Election voting ends

# Events & Activities



## Other UEA Convention Activities

**Workshops:** UEA members were able to select from dozens of professional development workshops during the 2011 Convention. Topics covered a wide range of interests, with workshops targeting every grade level, various subject areas and even areas of personal interest.

**Exhibit Hall:** Exhibitors were featured in more than 200 booths where teachers and other convention attendees gathered valuable classroom materials, education supplies, products and information.

**UEA Membership Booth:** In the center of the Exhibit Hall, the UEA hosted a membership booth where UEA members could gather information and learn more about their Association. The booth featured representatives from U-PAC, UEA-Retired, Access Development and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

## Convention Prize Winners

Prizes were offered for educators attending the Convention and the UEA Membership Booth. Here are the prize winners:

- Exhibit Hall Grand Prize\* (Bose Wave Radio): **Kathie Jorgensen, Jordan**
- Golden Ticket Grand Prize\* (7-night vacation stay): **Patricia Pizarro, Salt Lake**
- Second Prize (Apple iPad): **Heidi Gross, Weber**
- Third Prize (Kindle e-Reader): **Bradi Holder, Ogden**
- Fourth Prize (\$100 Utah Idaho Gift Certificate): **Angela Parker, Granite**
- Fifth Prize (\$100 Utah Idaho Gift Certificate): **Margaret Pratt, Jordan**

\* Grand prizes courtesy of Access Development.



## 2011 UEA Convention & Education Exposition

### CONVENTION (continued from page 1)

thanked teachers for the impact they had in his life and shared his thoughts on the value of knowledge.

“There is value to knowing lots of stuff,” Jennings said. “The more you know, the more interesting a place the world around us becomes.” He went on to explain that “a good fact in the right place may make something that was previously uninteresting become interesting.”

Those facts may even change lives, he said, giving the example of a girl who heard

*“I am a Utah teacher and a member of the UEA.”*



*Jeopardy! icon Ken Jennings kicked off the Convention's Opening Session.*



*Convention attendees could select from more than 40 professional development workshops.*

about a squid with an eyeball the size of a human head. The fact led the girl to an interest in sea life and she eventually became a marine biologist.

### ‘Hot Topics and Hot Dogs’

The UEA Capitol Club (donors to the UEA Political Action Committee) sponsored the “Hot Topics and Hot Dogs” event to provide educators with an overview of the political landscape in Utah and explore how that may impact public education here.

**Kirk Jowers**, director of the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics and

Federal Relations, shared data about voter turnout and some facts about Utah's unique political process. “Utah is one of two states where the (party) convention alone can determine the candidate,” he said. Most states select their nominees through a primary election where all citizens can vote.

### Friday Address by Cea Cohen Elliott

Day two of the UEA Convention focused on young educators...students in education programs and those in their first three years



*The Exhibit Hall featured more than 200 vendor booths where educators could find classroom materials, education supplies, books, services and much more.*



*Channel 2's Rod Decker interviews UEA President Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh inside the Exhibit Hall.*

of teaching. The day's kickoff event featured advice for these teachers and a dynamic keynote speaker.

In her keynote address, educator **Cea Cohen Elliott** discussed ways to create peace and resolve conflict in the educational setting. “Life is definitely a bit harder these days, especially for those of us in education. Our students are bombarded with technology, music, media, peer pressure, stress and decisions,” she said. “But, the good news is, we can work through this and maintain our sanity, sense of humor and resolve to change the life of a child.”



# Point of View



## Education Excellence is Everyone's Responsibility

by UEA President Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh

For the past few weeks, I have been traveling around the state listening to the concerns of my fellow public school educators. Most challenges they face are those I've heard expressed throughout my 32-year teaching career—class sizes are too large, we don't have enough planning time, there's not enough money for supplies...



UEA President  
Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh

But an entirely new issue has recently emerged. An overwhelming number of my colleagues are now asking, "When did teachers become the enemy?" or "Why do they hate teachers so much?"

Of all the strategies to discredit public

schools, none is more unfair than making teachers into scapegoats.

It is difficult to deny that public education, teachers and their associations are under attack. A *Salt Lake Tribune* editorial ("Whose mediocrity: Senator's goal: privatize schools," Sept. 26) chronicled one state senator's continued attempts to "dismantle" and privatize our public schools. This same senator is seeking to eliminate the right of educators to bargain salaries, benefits and teaching conditions with their school boards. Most recently, a proposal was presented to the Utah State Board of Education that would take away a teacher's right to any kind of firing process, effectively leaving teacher's to the whim of their supervisors after the completion of a specified contract term,

regardless of their teaching ability.

There is absolutely no research to suggest these proposals would do anything to improve student learning or teacher instruction. They are clearly politically motivated rather than student focused.

Just as making our teachers scapegoats won't solve the challenges facing public education, neither will pointing the fingers solely at legislators. While many teachers feel chronic underfunding by our legislature has left Utah's public schools starved of the resources they need to succeed, that's not the whole story either.

*"It is difficult to deny that public education, teachers and their associations are under attack."*

The reality is that everyone—teachers, parents, students, schools, communities, legislators, school boards—must be partners in building quality neighborhood public schools. And we ALL should be held accountable for our students' success.

Teachers must be *See SHARON, page 7*

## Online learning for your life



### Have You Visited NEA Academy's New Interactive Website?

Your input helped guide the design of the NEA Academy's new website, and we think you'll be pleased with the results. Come explore the site and fill out your personal profile. Based on the preferences you select, this new interactive learning environment will provide content recommendations, course alerts, and additional material of specific interest to you. We invite you to see the all-new NEA Academy at [neaacademy.org](http://neaacademy.org).



### Let Us Count the Ways . . . to a Master's Degree

- 50 master's degree programs in Curriculum and Instruction, Administration, Counseling, and General
- Three leading universities – UMassOnline (University of Massachusetts), Walden University, and Western Governors University
- 5 to 20% discounts on course tuition plus waivers of some fees
- NEA member-only scholarships for eligible applicants

### NEA Academy's University Partners

NEA Academy's university partners were selected after a nationwide review of higher education institutions and advanced degree programs for educators. Visit the Academy's website, [neaacademy.org](http://neaacademy.org), for more information about each of these outstanding institutions and their special benefits for NEA members.



# Awards & Recognitions



## 'Superstars in Education'

### Ten Top Educators Honored

Many students at Utah's remote Monument Valley High School do not even dream of going to college, but teacher **Howard Dee** decided students on the reservation must be exposed to what college can do for them. He created a program that facilitates student trips to college campuses and helps students plan curriculum to meet entrance requirements. Last school year, he took 25 students on visits to colleges in Utah, New Mexico and Colorado.

**Donna Tippetts** has become somewhat of a personal trainer to students in her P.E. classes at Woods Cross High School. She helps each one set goals, then designs exercise and nutrition programs to help each meet those goals. One senior who had been overweight her entire life set a goal to lose 35 pounds. With Tippetts' help, the student began changing her habits. After graduation, the student returned to the school to report she had reached her goal, but more importantly, she was a healthier, happier person because of the skills learned in Tippetts' class.

Dee and Tippetts are two of 10 educators honored with 2011 Arch Coal Foundation *Excellence in Teaching Awards* during the Utah Education Association's annual *Superstars in Education* banquet. The guest speaker for the banquet was Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert. He and Arch Coal President of Western Operations Ken Cochran presented the awards.

Award recipients are nominated by their peers and chosen based on their work with individual students or groups of students. Each winner received an award and a check for \$1,500, courtesy of the Arch Coal Foundation.

*Excellence in Teaching* award recipients for 2011 include:

- **Deborah Brown**, science teacher at Bingham High School, Jordan District;
- **Howard Dee**, student achievement coordinator at Monument Valley High School, San Juan District;

- **Dale Johnson**, fifth/sixth grade teacher at Longview Elementary School, Murray District;
- **Charlie Matthews**, AP physics teacher at Park City High School, Park City District;
- **Sherrolyn Middleton**, teacher librarian at Bonneville Jr. High School, Granite District;
- **Sherl Miner**, fifth grade teacher at Mt. Mahogany Elementary School, Alpine District;
- **George Richardson**, principal at Fillmore Middle School, Millard District;
- **Holly Stankosky**, speech/language pathologist at Horizon Elementary School, Washington County District;



Ten teachers were presented 2011 "Excellence in Teaching" Awards at the *Superstars in Education* Banquet Oct. 20. Pictured are (left to right, front row) UEA Vice President Tom Nedreberg, Deborah Brown, Charlie Matthews, Sherl Miner, Arch Coal President of Western Operations Ken Cochran, UEA President Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, UEA Executive Director Mark Mickelsen, (back row) George Richardson, Howard Dee, Michelle Van Dyken, Holly Stankosky, Donna Tippetts, Dale Johnson and Sherrolyn Middleton.

- **Donna Tippetts**, P.E. teacher at Woods Cross High School, Davis District; and
- **Michelle Van Dyken**, teacher at Canyons Transition Academy, Canyons District.

The UEA has sponsored the *Excellence in Teaching* awards since 2000. This is the Arch Coal Foundation's first year as title sponsor for the awards.

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

- **Dixie Allen**, Utah State School Board member, for her long-time advocacy and support of public schools and teachers;
- **Virginius "Jinks" and Barbara Ann Dabney**, partners in a St. George law firm, for their work in promoting student involvement in learning about the U.S.

- Constitution; and
- **JoDee Sundberg**, Alpine Board of Education member and Utah State School Boards Association president, for her work as an ardent defender of public schools and public school teachers.

A *Charles E. Bennett Human and Civil Rights Award* was also presented to Park City teacher and Park City Education Association President **Heidi Matthews** for her efforts to make Park City School District the state's first to ensure health benefits for all employee family members, including domestic partners.

### New UEA Director

Long-time UEA state associate staff member **Jenny Okerlund** has joined the UEA State Program Staff as director of organizing, capacity building and member benefits.

As State Membership Associate for the UEA, Okerlund has been an integral part of UEA membership and organizing for more than a decade. She has served as staff liaison to the UEA Membership and Elections Committees, coordinated publication of the UEA Convention program, assisted in organizing UEA Summer Leadership Academy, managed NEA membership databases, and served as the office proof-reader.

Prior to joining the UEA staff in 1998, Okerlund spent a number of years working in the Utah legislature, including time as a director in the Legislative Printing Office and as secretary to the Speaker of the House.

Okerlund's new responsibilities include directing the Association's organizing, capacity building and member benefits functions. As part of her duties, she will direct the student and campus outreach program, organize the UEA Summer Leadership Academy and other leader/staff training activities and coordinate member benefit programs through NEA Member Benefits, Access Development and other providers.

Okerlund began her new role Oct. 24. She replaces Jerry Monson who left the UEA in August.



Jenny Okerlund has been named UEA Director of Organizing, Capacity Building and Member Benefits.

## ISSUES (continued from page 1)

the law and their own policies,” said another.

Members of the UEA Legislative Team met with Sen. Osmond at the UEA Office for several hours on Oct. 31. Based on input provided by the Team and from teachers at the public meetings, Sen. Osmond indicated he is willing to change the legislation to meet the needs of educators and other stakeholders. He continues to accept feedback at [aosmond@utahsenate.org](mailto:aosmond@utahsenate.org).

### Collective Bargaining

Several legislators have indicated interest in ending public sector collective bargaining. Legislative efforts to ban collective bargaining have been successful in a few states. Legal challenges to these efforts are pending and some face voter repeal petitions. Voters in Ohio recently voted to override such a ban enacted there.

At the request of its chairs, the Interim Education Committee agreed to “study whether to

prohibit a public entity, or public education entity, from engaging in collective bargaining.” So far the only public proposal to restrict collective bargaining is by Sen. Osmond (see above).

“Eliminating collective bargaining would leave rights of public sector workers, like teachers, unprotected,” said UEA Policy and Research Director Jay Blain. “These changes would undermine collaboration and silence the voice of teachers in impacting reforms that could improve student achievement.”

### Public Education Orderly Termination

The State School Board and some members of the legislature are recommending the elimination of the Utah Orderly School Termination Procedures Act (*Utah Code 53A-8*). This act provides the minimum standard and due process for the termination of school employees.

Those favoring this approach cite the lingering perception that it is difficult to remove poorly performing teachers from the classroom. Those opposed fear elimination of due process rights could result in reduced protections for em-

ployees and the potential for increased litigation to challenge terminations.

“Our goal is to work with the legislative body to overcome the misunderstanding that school districts cannot fire bad teachers,” said UEA Government Relations Director Kory Holdaway. “We may be able to partner with the legislature if the goal is improving teacher quality by revising the termination procedure to become more transparent and efficient. We cannot partner if the goal is simply to end due process and career status for educators.”

### Payroll Deduction of Association Dues

Nationwide, several bills have been introduced and a few passed out of state legislatures that eliminate payroll deduction for association dues.

Generally these fall into two types of legislation – those that eliminate payroll deduction for dues, often for educators alone, and those that imposes such difficult restrictions it becomes impossible to collect dues this way. Following one of these national models, Sen. Howard Stephenson has discussed crafting a payroll deduction bill for Utah public employees.

“Regardless of the method, it’s difficult to argue the move to eliminate payroll deduction is about anything but politics,” said Holdaway. “It is clearly a national strategy to weaken our Association and silence our voices.”



About 500 educators attended a meeting held in Granite School District to discuss Sen. Aaron Osmond’s proposed Public Education Employment Reform Act.

# MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS Electric

‘Tis the season for shopping & giving. Light up the holidays with big savings! Log on to [www.myUEA.org](http://www.myUEA.org) and click the Access link to save at merchants like the ones listed below.



Apple Store for Education

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# Your Benefits



## Raise Funds for Your Classroom

Rally your students' parents, family members and friends, local business owners and others in your social network to help support your efforts in the classroom. Register online with *Adopt-A-Classroom*, a program that matches donors with teachers so you can raise funds for classroom supplies and materials. All donations are tax-deductible, and 100 percent of donations are passed through to your account. To get started, visit [teachade.com](http://teachade.com) and click on the "adopt a classroom" tab.

Brought to you through a partnership of NEA Member Benefits, TeachAde and Adopt-A-Classroom.



# Special Members-Only Offers

## Limited-Time Savings at SmileMakers

Through December 31, UEA members receive up to 50 percent off on a huge selection of classroom items that help "create, motivate and educate." To receive this special discount, use promo code "NEABTS" when ordering. Plus, members get free shipping with no minimum order. UEA Members can order online at [SmileMakers.com](http://SmileMakers.com) or by phone at 1-888-800-SMILE.



## Save on Classroom Essentials, Free Shipping

Carson-Dellosa, a premium provider of standards-based, supplemental educational content and classroom solutions, helps teachers create an engaging and dynamic, 21st century classroom with a wide range of inspiring decoratives, innovative hands-on materials, and engaging books for PreK through grade 8. With over 300 new products, all 15 percent off, it's easy to get everything you need. Find out more by entering "Carson-Dellosa" in the search field at [neamb.com](http://neamb.com). (Carson-Dellosa orders must be \$15.00 or more.)



## Use Curriki Online Resources for Free

NEA members have free access to thousands of online learning resources and tools such as lesson plans, videos, worksheets, multimedia activities and courses through the Curriki online community. Obtain open-source peer-reviewed content, collaborate with other educators and share your own content. Find out more by entering "Curriki" in the search field at [neamb.com](http://neamb.com).



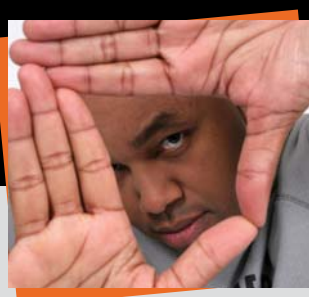
## Hit the Road for the Holidays

Have peace-of-mind on vacations by keeping your car ready to travel. Automotive maintenance is more affordable with \$10 off an oil change, 10 percent off services and tires or free flat tire repair. Also take advantage of up to \$30 off at Advance Auto Parts.

If you'd rather rent a car, Avis offers many deals like \$35 off a weekly rental, a free weekend day or a free single upgrade. Budget will also help you save with a free single upgrade, a free Sunday, two free days of GPS, or \$25 off a weekly rental.

To take advantage of these and many other offers, go to [myUEA.org](http://myUEA.org) and click "Member Login" in the top right corner.

## Take a closer look at



# NEA MEMBER BENEFITS

You have a lot of bargaining power with 3.2 million members.

Look closely and you'll discover that you and your entire family can take advantage of NEA Member Benefits' wide range of high-quality programs and services at *member-exclusive* prices. That's because our large membership of 3.2 million dedicated teachers and education support professionals makes it possible for NEA Member Benefits to leverage our numbers and work effectively on a national level to support, protect, and advocate for you and your family.

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# Association Notes



'Declaration of Candidacy' due Jan. 12

## 2012 UEA Elections

General elections for UEA offices will be held March 23-April 20, 2012. If necessary, primary elections will be held Feb. 3-24. The deadline for filing Declaration of Candidacy with the UEA Executive Director is 5 p.m., Jan. 12, 2012. Go to [myUEA.org/vote](http://myUEA.org/vote) for a form or call the UEA Office, 801-266-4461, ext. 103.

The following UEA offices will be subject to election in 2012:

- 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\* (Two-year term)
- Color Country NEA-RA Successor Delegate (Two-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 (One-year term)
- Northern NEA-RA Successor Delegate (One-year term)
- Ogden-Weber Director on the UEA Board of Directors (One-year term)
- Ogden-Weber NEA-RA Successor Delegate (One-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.

## UEA-Retired Forms, Elects Leaders

It's official! The Utah Education Association-Retired held its first meeting Oct. 21 in conjunction with the UEA Convention. Those in attendance elected officers and approved organization documents.

Creation of the UEA-Retired organization began as a recommendation from the UEA Transformation process. A steering committee was formed to investigate the possibility of creating a retired group. That committee met for several months and developed a proposed Constitution and By-laws. Those documents were adopted at the Oct. 21 meeting.

Meeting attendees elected the following interim officers:

- Dave Van Langeveld, interim President;
- Jesse DeHay, Vice-President; and
- Arlene Arnold, Secretary/Treasurer.

The approved UEA-Retired documents also allow for a 10-member Board of Directors. The following six individuals were elected to these positions: Bill Worner, Paul Fawson, Loreen Major, Maggie Carly, Elizabeth Carlin and Mike Vaughan. An additional four Board members will be elected at a later date.

The newly elected officers and Board members will be meeting to continue to refine and define functions for the new organization. With the Utah State Legislative Session rapidly approaching, plans will be made as to how the retired members can best assist during that time.

"Help us grow. Volunteer to help." Arnold urged retired educators. "Let's make UEA-Retired a force to be reckoned with!"

Updates will be posted at [myUEA.org/retired](http://myUEA.org/retired).



Members of the newly formed UEA-Retired held their first meeting Oct. 21 during the UEA Convention.

SHARON (continued from page 3)

held accountable to clearly defined standards that are based on research and use multiple measures. Parents must ensure that their children come to school ready to learn by teaching them values like responsibility and respect for others, and by instilling a love of learning. Students must be motivated to work hard to achieve their full potential. Schools must be accountable to taxpayers. Communities must engage and support their neighborhood schools. Legislators must provide school

*"It's time for all of us to recognize there is no 'silver bullet' to solve the challenges facing public education."*

boards with the tools and resources they need to succeed. School boards, policymakers and administrators must partner with classroom teachers to promote student success.

As the UEA president and elected representative of Utah's public school teachers, I am committed to setting aside differences and working with all these stakeholders in a true spirit of collaboration—earnestly seeking education excellence for all students. Those who know me and have met with me know I take this commitment very seriously.

It's time for all of us to recognize there is no "silver bullet" to solve the challenges facing public education. No single law or policy change, no new program, no innovative technology will by itself bring about the changes necessary to ensure a quality education for every student.

It is absolutely critical we stop engaging in ideas that promote a cycle of short-term fixes, diminish our children's comprehensive education, punish schools and educators, and perpetuate the blame game. Let's recognize that we all have a responsibility. Let's begin a new collaborative dialogue where we place excellence for our children and our public schools at the center of every conversation.

(To comment on this article or see other editorials by Sharon, visit her blog at [myUEA.org/blog](http://myUEA.org/blog).)



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# Working for You



Road Trip 2011

## UEA Leaders Travel the State Listening to Members

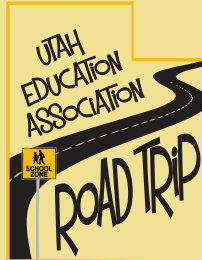
Up at the crack of dawn, UEA and UniServ staffers rolled into the parking lot at Farr West Elementary and began the task of offloading boxes of t-shirts, grand prize drawing cards, and membership information. After sharing information and a quick breakfast with teachers there,



they packed up and moved on to Lakeview Elementary where the scene was repeated...then Sand Ridge Jr. High, Ben Lomond High, James Madison Elementary...and that was just Monday.

For the entire month of September and into October, this became the routine for the UEA Road Trip Team as they made their way across Utah.

In just 16 days, UEA Road Trip teams traveled nearly 2,500 miles, listening to concerns expressed by more than



1,000 members from 28 local associations and visiting 50 schools. In addition, the teams shared messages with dozens of legislators, school board members, parents and policymakers.

Teams from the UEA state office were joined by UniServ staff at many locations. Each UniServ was given the opportunity to work with its local association(s) to plan events supporting local members.

"It was really an opportunity for those of us at the state and the UniServ-level to mingle with members around the state and share ideas for moving our organization forward," said UEA President Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh. "We heard from teachers in all parts of the state, discussing ways we can work together to make Utah schools great places to learn and to work."

Everyone who attended a UEA Road Trip event had the opportunity to enter a drawing for a 7-night Endless Vacations condo stay

certificate and \$1,000 in transportation vouchers courtesy of Access Development. The winner was Ashman Elementary (Sevier School District) teacher Sharon Bergin.



For more information, including details about each UniServ and school visit, see the complete 2011 UEA Road Trip report at [myUEA.org/roadtrip](http://myUEA.org/roadtrip).



The *UEA Action Digest* is published by the Utah Education Association. A portion of UEA members' dues are designated for this publication.

UEA President:  
**Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh**

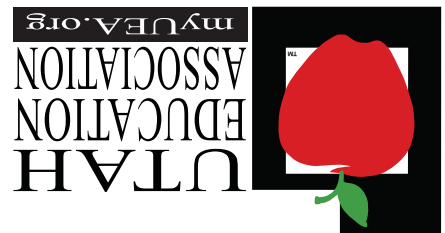
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**Tom Nedreberg**

UEA Executive Director:  
**Mark D. Mickelsen**

Editor & Director of Communications:  
**Michael T. Kelley**

The Utah Education Association  
875 East 5180 South, Murray, UT 84107  
Tel: 801-266-4461 • Fax: 801-265-2249  
[myUEA.org](http://myUEA.org)

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