

October 6, 2024

Happy National Principals Month! We are excited to celebrate your hard work and dedication to education. We appreciate your commitment to the secondary students in Utah. We have amazing principals leading the schools in this state. Thank you!

Please make note of the following:

**1. Nominations for High School and Middle Level Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year**

It is time to begin the process of naming the High School and Middle Level Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year. Roger Arbabi, HS Principal of the Year, Brian Stevenson, Middle Level Principal of the Year, and Melody Apezteguia, Assistant Principal of the Year, are doing a great job representing Utah as the 2023 winners. Our new winners will be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference in January. I am excited to announce that this year, along with Principals of the Year, we will have an Assistant Principal of the Year at both the High School and Middle Level.

If you would like to nominate someone for POY or APOY, please email [rhonda.bromley@uassp.org](mailto:rhonda.bromley@uassp.org) with the following information: (Note: In order to be eligible, they have to have been in their position for at least three years, not counting this year. Same position, not necessarily at the same school. For example: someone may have been a high school principal at three different high schools over the past 8 years but this is their first year at their current school - they would be eligible.)

**Name of Nominee:**

**Name of Current School:**

**Position:**

**# of Years in Position (doesn't have to be at the same school)**

**A paragraph about why you believe they should be awarded the POY/APOY:**

## 2. Assistant Principals Conference

We are looking forward to meeting with high school and middle level assistant principals at our annual AP conference on Wednesday, November 6 at The Gardens at Thanksgiving Point. The theme is *Assistant Principals Inspire Greatness*. Participants will have the chance to learn together about current issues in our schools, collaborate together with other AP's across the state, be inspired and motivated, and have the chance to win prizes. Sign up now at [uassp.org](http://uassp.org).

## 3. Power Hour Feedback

Angie Stallings did a great job last week at our monthly Power Hour. She updated us on some of the latest legislative issues with USBE. She also taught us how to find up to date information about current bills and other legislative information. She shared the following document with us, which includes live links to some of the current issues. We appreciate Angie for taking the time to educate us!

[Power Hour with Angie Stallings](#)

## 4. Secretary Conference Last Week

We have such amazing secondary school secretaries in Utah. It was fun to spend time with them at our annual conference last week. We heard from amazing speakers (David Kozlowski, Kenneth Scott, Sam Beeson, and Billy Ivey), learned how to line dance from "the kind and queen of country swing," and honored our 2024-25 Utah Secondary Secretaries of the Year. We want to congratulate the following:

**Middle Level Secretary of the Year: Mindy Wissler from Mount Jordan MS**

**High School Secretary of the Year: Gail Lee from Whitehorse HS**

**Secondary Secretary of the Year: Deborah Hoehne from Layton HS**

## 5. Book of the Month

Our Book of the Month is *It Won't Be Easy* by Tom Reademacher. Read the following summary by Executive Board Member Shane Jones, Principal of Skyview High School. Other book summaries are available at [uassp.org](http://uassp.org).

[It Won't Be Easy - Book of the Month](#)

## 6. USBE Feedback Requested

The USBE is seeking feedback through a Qualtrics survey on proposed changes to [Board Rule R277-608](#) and [Board Rule R277-609](#). The Qualtrics survey will be open until October 15, 2024. Please complete the [R277-608 and R277-609 Public Feedback Survey](#) by October 15, 2024. Reach out to [Ashley Lower](#) at [ashley.lower@schools.utah.gov](mailto:ashley.lower@schools.utah.gov) or (801) 538-7611 with any questions regarding proposed changes to Board Rule R277-608. Reach out to [Becca Rae](#) at [becca.rae@schools.utah.gov](mailto:becca.rae@schools.utah.gov) or (801) 538-7667 with any questions regarding proposed changes to Board Rule R277-609.

## 7. Congressional Award Program

[The Congressional Award Program](#) is open to all youth in the US between the ages of 14 and 23 regardless of ability, circumstance, or socioeconomic status. Participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas; Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. It is the highest award for youth legislated and presented by the United States Congress. It is a non-competitive program designed to acknowledge young people for their initiative, achievement, and service. See the following link for the Utah Fast Fact sheet, which includes contact information if you have any questions.

[Utah - Congressional Award Fast Facts.](#)

It was fun to see so many State Legislators visiting and teaching in our secondary schools in Utah over the past two weeks as part of *Legislators Day in the Classroom*. A great reminder for administrators to *Connect and Communicate* with local and state leaders.

Thanks for all you do. We have fantastic secondary school principals in Utah!

Rhonda  
*Inspire Greatness*