



UTAH ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

October 12, 2025

Secondary Principals,

It is with a full heart that we share some sad news. Former UASSP Executive Director, Jess Christen, passed away this morning after a short battle with cancer. Jess was an amazing leader in the state of Utah at the school, district and state levels. He participated in many roles with the UHSAA as well as UASSP. He was a mentor to many and a friend to all. Please keep his wife Amy, his son Kenyon (administrator at Cedar Valley HS), and the rest of the Christen family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please make note of the following:

1. Power Hour - Tuesday, October 21 - CTE Concerns

We have heard many questions and concerns about the state of CTE and CTSOs in Utah because of budget cuts. We appreciate **USBE Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement, Leah Voorheis**, for joining us on our October 21 Power Hour. She will be discussing **Legislative Updates on CTE Programs**. This is a virtual opportunity to join the discussion, which will include a Q&A. It will be at 9 AM on Tuesday, October 21. If you are interested in receiving a link to the Power Hour, email rhonda.bromley@uassp.org.

2. Assistant Principals Conference - November 5

Our annual Assistant Principals Conference will be at The Gardens at Thanksgiving Point on Wednesday, November 5. We are looking forward to learning, collaborating and being inspired together. The conference will include both breakfast and lunch and will have amazing speakers including: Bronson Kafusi, Dr. Mike Anderson, Emily Traveller, a CEO Panel with Sawyer Hemsley (Crumb), Brock Blake (Lendio), Jeanette Bennett (Colliers), and more! There will be collaboration activities, drawings, and prizes. Principals, thank you for encouraging your assistant principals to attend. Register now at uassp.org.

3. October Book of the Month

UASSP Board Member Quinn Kellis from USBE shared our October Book of the Month, *Meeting the Ethical Challenges of Leadership*. According to the author, Craig E. Johnson, "You will find this book helpful if you are a leader or an aspiring leader who (1) acknowledges that there are ethical consequences associated with the leadership role, (2) wants to exert positive influence over others, (3) seeks to make more informed ethical choices and follow through on your decisions, and (4) desires to foster ethical behavior in others." You can find Quinn's full book review at the following link:

[Meeting the Ethical Challenges of Leadership](#)

All previous books that have been reviewed are available on the uassp.org website.

4. Letter to Principals from Superintendents

The Superintendents in the State have shared the following letter in acknowledgement of National Principals Month.

[Letter to Principals](#)

5. Nomination for Utah Secondary Principal for National Assessment Board

The National Assessment Governing Board sets policy for the Nation's Report Card or the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) - the gold standard of student assessment. Board members are appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education, and will serve a term that begins October 1, 2026. Each seat of the Governing Board is designated by law to represent specific expertise and perspective. This year they are looking for a secondary principal. We have been invited to nominate a principal from Utah. If you are interested in having UASSP recommend you for this national position, email rhonda.bromley@uassp.org.

We hope you are being spoiled by your staff, students and parents for National Principals Month - you certainly deserve it. Thank you for all you do for the secondary students in Utah!

Rhonda
#leadwithfocus

