

Utah has incredible administrators leading our schools. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as this year's president of UASSP. I always learn so much when we get together as leaders from across the state. Your creative approach to challenging circumstances leads to positive outcomes for our students and communities.

This year's UASSP theme is Lift Where you Lead. When I think of this theme I imagine leaders spread out across the state doing amazing things. I imagine administrators getting together with their leadership teams to craft a compelling vision of what their schools can be and then taking the incremental steps necessary to do that. When each of us lifts where we lead, our students benefit and our communities become stronger.

I find it helpful to break down the theme into its parts to identify what it really means.

Lift - Elevate your school through focusing on high leverage activities. These are activities that produce large results in comparison to the amount of effort they require.

Where - Most of us will be at our school for less time than most of the teachers and other staff members. Let's leave those schools better than we found them.

You - You were hired because of who you are. You were not hired to imitate your predecessor. Identify your strengths and find ways to leverage them for the benefit of your school.

Lead - It's a burden and a privilege to lead. At it's most essential, leadership is about clarifying a desired destination and then consistently aligning people and resources to most efficiently reach that destination.

Our mission, as members of the UASSP board, is to serve you. We intend to provide high quality learning opportunities to develop your knowledge, skills, and dispositions as leaders. We will foster professional networks so no one has to do their work alone. We will advocate for principals throughout the state so they can focus on leading effective schools. I look forward to being part of that effort together with this incredible network of leaders.