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Spring 2019

# SEDC SNAPSHOT

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

*Congratulations to All of the SEDC Regional Spelling Bee Participants*



Nine students from the Southwest Educational Development Center (SEDC) Region came together to compete for top honors in the Second Annual SEDC Regional Spelling Bee competition on Thursday, March 21st at North Elementary School, which is part of Iron County School District located in Cedar City. The student contenders came from Millard, Iron, and Washington County School Districts and were the top three spellers from their districts.

After 20 exciting rounds with 119 words, Jack Parson, a student at South Elementary in Iron County won after correctly spelling the word “dramatize.” Mary Aydon, an intermediate school student from Washington County School District placing second and Brittyn Beams, an elementary school student from Millard County School District, rounded out the top three places.

SEDC is proud of all the students who worked hard studying and learning these spelling patterns in preparation. Thanks to all those that participated, the SEDC staff looks forward to seeing the competition grow to include students from all six of the school districts they work with in the Southwest part of Utah.

## WHAT'S NEW

*Google Tour Creator- makes it easy to build immersive 360° tours*

You may already be familiar with Google Expeditions, a virtual reality platform that lets users experience hundreds of places in the world in 3D. But what you might not know is that you can now create your own tours using Tour Creator. This tool enables us to create our own tours, using imagery from Google Street View or our own 360 photos, then publish them right into Poly, Google’s library of free VR and AR objects.

Students can create tours as part of a research project, use them as a way to reflect after a field trip, or even as a supplement to a creative writing project. They can be used to create tours of your school, your classroom, or your town. If your school doesn’t currently have much VR technology, start with an affordable Google Cardboard—just pop a smartphone into one of these and you now have one VR headset that can be used by a small group of students. If you would like to learn more about **Google Cardboard** or **Tour Creator** contact Clint or Chris at SEDC.



# 2019 STERLING SCHOLAR AWARDS

The Southwest Utah regional Sterling Scholar finals competition was held Thursday, April 4th at Southern Utah University with more than 190 students from 18 high schools participating.

During the banquet that evening, the Scholars and their parents were entertained and inspired by SUU Professor Dr. Matt Nickerson. Finally, the award-winners were announced during the closing ceremonies in the America First Event Center.

The finalists in each category were: Ag. Science Winner Ashton Anderson & Runners-Up Dallie Honson and Wytney Larson; Business/Marketing Winner Maysen Feilding & Runners-Up Morgan Stewart and Ryan Holt; Computer Tech. Winner Kaden Yardley & Runners-Up Jordan Slade and Tayden Merrill; Dance Winner Josie Staheli & Runners-Up Courtney Grob and Grace Walter; English Winner Ashley Burton & Runners-Up Rebekah Caldwell and Sydney Dobson; Family/Consumer Science Winner Asher Barnum & Runners-Up Elizabeth Wall and Taylor Black; Math Winner Luca

Nordquist & Runners-Up Leon Weingartner and Gibson Crawford; Music Winner Megan Lind & Runners-Up Jackson Reese and Alyson Candland; Science Winner Samantha Tobin & Runners-Up Dylan Bistline and Andrew Larkin; Skilled/Tech. Sciences Winner MaKaty Thorley & Runners-Up Jacob Brinkerhoff and Lance Little; Social Science Winner Kenna Johnson & Runners-Up Alyssa Fox and Nathan Vaughan; Speech/Drama Winner Brad Lamoreaux & Runners-Up Kierstyn Meredith and Natalie Pierce; Visual Arts Winner Sierra Newbold & Runners-Up Erynn Swinson and Zoe Price; World Languages Winner Nellie Bowman & Runners-Up Hannah Justvig and Sage Anderson; General Scholarship Winner Jamie Keller & Runners-Up Alexis Martin and Eliza Allen. John Taylor was the Master of Ceremonies and provided the closing remarks.

"The purpose of the Sterling Scholar Awards is to publicly recognize and encourage the pursuit of excellence in scholarship, leadership and citizenship of high school seniors in the state of Utah," he said.

Taylor quoted one of the judge's comments on the competition: "We fell in love with the students, their energy, their passion and especially their personalities. They made it so difficult to choose a winner."

Taylor quoted from the song "Tightrope" from the film "The Greatest Showman" and praised the Scholars for persevering through failure and hardship.

"Too often we highlight only the victories and never the countless failures and the setbacks that lead to those victories," he said. "In truth it's the student who, with great enthusiasm and devotion, spends their time on a worthy cause, despite their failures, and still dare to do greatly. That's how legends are made, daring to do greatly."

*"We fell in love with the students, their energy, their passion and especially their personalities"*

## SMARTER TEACHING: Better Internet Searches



Some teachers may embrace a digital research experience of chaos. For others setting students loose on Google is a recipe for a project full of Wiki Answers and less-than-ideal sources.

Did you know that Google gives you the option to customize your students' search experience by roping off certain sections of the internet, or by gently emphasizing others. You can choose particular sites for students to visit and can customize other search features, such as turning off auto-complete. Go to [bit.ly/2IpZfPB](https://bit.ly/2IpZfPB) to learn how.

# GIFTED & TALENTED ENDORSEMENT

WCSD and SEDC will offer G&T Endorsement to Teachers in Rural Districts

In Utah, educators are committed to the belief that each individual should have the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. We believe that all students should have educational experiences that challenge their individual development whether it is below, at, or beyond the level of their age peers. It is with this philosophy in mind that Utah schools recognize and make provisions for the needs of gifted and talented learners.

According to the US Department of Education's National Excellence Report in 1993: "Children and youth with outstanding talent perform or show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth exhibit high performance capability in intellectual, creative, and/or artistic areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity, or excel in specific academic fields...Outstanding talents are present in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

The Utah Gifted and Talented Endorsement requires 16 college level credit hours in a variety of topics including: Identification and Assessment, Social-Emotional Needs, and Curriculum of Gifted students. SEDC is excited to partner with Washington County School District to provide an opportunity for teachers in rural districts to earn the Utah Gifted and Talented Endorsement in a convenient and less expensive way. The endorsement classes will begin with two one-week intensive courses in June 2019. The third class will begin in September 2019 with the fourth beginning in January 2020. These classes will be held one day a week after school. The endorsement cohort will finish up with two more intensive courses in June 2020. All classes will be broadcast using IVC technology so that teachers will not have to travel. For more information visit: <https://sedck12.org/category/professional-development/endorsements/gifted>



**URSA**  
**July 10-12**

Professional educators from all over the State of Utah will gather at the **2019 Utah Rural Schools Association's Annual Conference on July 10-12, 2019** at USU Eastern Campus in Price, Utah. This is the conference for dialogue, learning, and exploration of topics critical to districts, schools, and individuals dedicated to the education, development, and growth of students in Utah's rural communities. Key note speaker **John Hattie** has been referred to as "possibly the world's most influential education academic" and will present his research on what works best for learning in schools. Register for the conference at [www.ursa.k12.ut.us](http://www.ursa.k12.ut.us)