



Sterling Scholar 2021 pg. 2



Regional Spelling Bee pg. 2

Spring 2021

SEDC SNAPSHOT

2021 UTAH RURAL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Utah Rural Schools Association to host IN-PERSON conference July 7 - 9, 2021

This year's Utah Rural Schools Association annual summer conference will be held at Richfield High School and Snow College Richfield Campus, located in Richfield, UT. The conference will provide keynote speakers and break-out sessions that will focus on insights and interventions with strategies to close the learning loss associated with the disrupted learning of COVID-19. There will be a new addition to the conference this year of a leadership track designed for principals, superintendents, and other leaders. Sessions are planned that will strengthen mental and behavioral health supports, social and emotional learning, grading practices, literacy best practices, strengthening the guaranteed viable curriculum at each school, and developing a culture of investment. The URSA conference is for educators of every grade level and every content area.



We are very excited about this year's keynote presenters. **Mike Roberts**, author of *Hacking Classroom Management: 10 Ideas to Help You Become the Type of Teacher They Make Movies About*, will present a keynote and breakout session on July 7th. **Tom Schimmer**, author of *Standards Based Learning in Action, Instructional Agility and Grading from the Inside Out*, will present a keynote and breakout sessions on July 8th. **Kyle Schwartz**, author of *I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything for our Kids* will present a keynote and breakout sessions on July 9th. Registration is now open at <https://utahruralschools.org/conference>

WHAT'S NEW : COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATOR ENDORSEMENTS

As the Utah State Board of Education reimagines the future of P-20 education for both students and educators, there is a dynamic shift to creating more personalized opportunities as represented in Utah's Portrait of a Graduate and the Personalized, Competency Based Learning Framework. As our educators and students engage in personalized, competency-based learning, it is expected that each educator will engage all students with high expectations for shared learning goals and empower each learner to take ownership of their strengths, needs, and interests while tailoring flexible supports to maximize student growth and competence. Given this expectation, it is advantageous to provide similar learning opportunities for teachers. Competency based endorsements will

afford greater flexibility, acknowledge previously acquired knowledge and skills, as well as provide more leeway for our school districts and charters in ensuring a highly qualified workforce.

Currently, earning an endorsement requires educators to complete specific coursework and/or Praxis content exams to meet endorsement requirements. Due to changes in Utah State Board of Education Board policy (R277-301-9), educators now have more flexible and personalized pathways to demonstrate competency to earn endorsements.

Beginning in **July 2021**, Utah's educator endorsements will be designed through the lens of educator competencies that embody the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to

teach in a particular area of concentration. Newly designed endorsements pathway options may include university coursework, microcredentials, certification exams, and other available options for demonstrating competency. Educators can use the current endorsement requirements and complete by June 2023 or use the redesigned endorsements as they become available. In July of 2023, all educators will be required to use the redesigned endorsement pathways to earn the endorsement. If an educator has previously earned an endorsement, then that endorsement will remain intact and no action is needed.

The redesigned competency-based endorsements that are available for review can be found at www.schools.utah.gov/licensing/endorsements

Taken from USBE Informational Flyer

2021 STERLING SCHOLAR AWARDS

ALMOST BACK TO NORMAL

The 43rd Annual Southwest Regional Sterling Scholar Competition was held on April 1, 2021 on the campus of Southern Utah University. Following current health orders and social distancing requirements, this year's competition was able to be held in person after last year's event had to take place virtually. One hundred and ninety students representing eighteen high schools competed this year.

Each of the students were judged on personal achievements and awards compiled in their portfolios as well as their interviews with the judges. The students were judged in the areas of scholarship, leadership, community service, and citizenship. There are three judges for each category that come from local communities, Dixie State University, and Southern Utah University.

After the competition an Awards Ceremony was held in SUU's America First Event Center. Students and their parents were welcomed to the SUU campus by President Scott Wyatt. Dr. John Taylor served as the Master of Ceremonies where the winners and runners-up were announced. Winners and runners-up received a sterling silver pin or charm and

a sizable college scholarship. Colleges and Universities in Utah offer additional scholarships to both the winners and the

190 Sterling Scholars come together in live in-person event after last year's virtual version.

runners-up.

Those chosen as the Regional Sterling Scholar Winners were: in **English**- Winner Jana Nader Nassar and Runners-up Kailey Gilbert and Jenna Page; in **Speech & Drama**- Winner Amelia Gahterum and Runners-up Carson Miller and Jazzlyn Shannon; in **Computer Technology**- Winner Ethan Mowery and Runners-up Ian Jenson and Taiji Harada; in **Mathematics**- Winner Carter West and Runners-up Grace Engst and Tayla Marie Boyer; in **Social Science**- Winner Chantell Pearson and Runners-up Anna Karin Barfuss and Martha Bown; in **Agricultural Sciences**- Winner Jason Morwood and Runners-up Brian Evans and Wyatt Gardner; in **Business &**

Marketing- Winner Caleb Nelson and Runners-up Treyson Roberts and Kaden Scott Terry; in **Dance**- Winner Melanie Grob and Runners-up Emma Grace Young and Brooke Randall; in **Family and Consumer Sciences**- Winner Delaney Miller and Runners-up Carla Prat and Savannah Wood; in **Music**- Winner Emma Sierra Ferguson and Runners-up Trevor Sanders and Heidi Wakefield; in **Science**- Winner Katherine Manazer and Runners-up Matthew Monson and Brenlie Belle Shirts; in **Skilled and Technical Sciences**- Winner Annie Rae McArthur and Runners-up Emily Wixom and Adam C. Dunn II; in **Visual Arts**- Winner Jessica Perry and Runners-up Boman Johnson and William Douglass; in **World Languages**- Winner Mykela Hansen and Runners-up Cameron Shakespear and Emily Jane Ord; and in **General Scholarship**- Winner Max Workman and Runners-up Avery Brown and Ethan Gilmore.

If you would like to view the 2021 Awards Ceremony, please visit <https://youtu.be/yPNeYm04DEI> Congratulations to all of the Sterling Scholars and best wishes in your future.

2021 REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Twelve students from the Southwest Educational Development Center (SEDC) Region came together to compete for top honors in the Third Annual SEDC Regional Spelling Bee competition held virtually on Tuesday, April 13th, 2021. This year the student contenders from Millard, Iron, and Washington County School Districts were joined by students from Beaver County School District for the first time. Each student was one of the top three spellers from their districts.

After 17 exciting rounds and over an hour of words, **Derek Allen**, an elementary student in Iron County School District won after correctly spelling the word "flambeau." **Ryeesa Rose**, also a student from Iron County SD, placed second and **Stetson Christensen**, the third



student representing Iron County, 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 3rd through 8th grade students from all of the region's districts and charters.



SMARTER TEACHING:

Alternative Formative Grading

There are many alternative grading schemes designed to ensure that feedback and reflection is a collaboration between the teacher and student, not another thing teachers must do on their own. One idea is to replace a formative letter grade or score with



An "equal to" is the same standard as your previous work on the topic. A "greater than" symbol means the work is a better standard than your last work on the topic. A "less than" symbol means the work is currently at a lower standard than your last work.

This approach discourages students from comparing their grades to others and gets them to concentrate on their own improvement—by focusing their attention on the teachers comments rather than just looking to see what grade they "got." Experience shows that when using alternative grading schemes like this one, students took up the teachers advice more readily.

Taken from Glen Pearsall (2018). *Fighting Educator Burnout*. Educational Leadership , June 2018/Volume 75, pgs 34-38. ASCD.



The Southern Utah Autism Conference was held virtually this year on Saturday, March 27th. More people registered for this regional Autism conference than ever before. Dr. Thomas Higbee from Utah State University was the keynote speaker and one of the more than 15 breakout session presenters. The theme for this year's conference was "Happy and Healthy Futures." Some of the very informative topics included: increasing social skills, improving quality of life, behavior management, and school & clinical services. If you missed the conference, recordings of each session are available. For more information please reach out to Chris Haught chrish@sedck12.org or Paul Day paul@sedck12.org at SEDC.