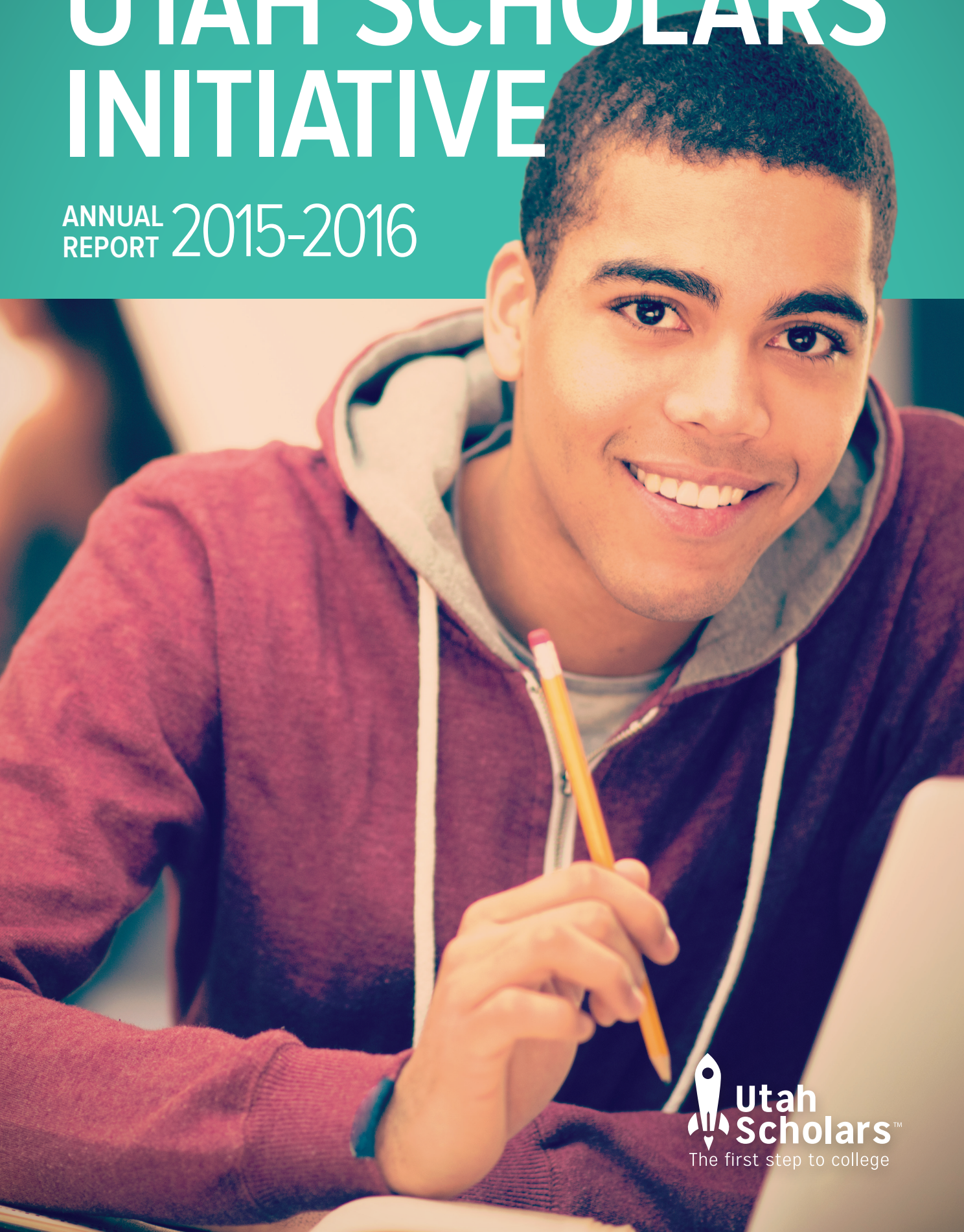


# UTAH SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

ANNUAL  
REPORT 2015-2016



 **Utah  
Scholars**<sup>™</sup>  
The first step to college

# WELCOME

**The Utah Scholars Initiative has gone through some exciting changes this past year** and we are thrilled to share them with you in our 2015–2016 Annual Report. Inside this year’s Annual Report we highlight: student experiences, our program reach, and new program changes.

Highlights:

- Students, parents, and counselors experienced our updated look and feel in rebranded materials and presentation. Utah Scholars now operates under the StepUp Utah umbrella and we collaborate with the social media team to help engage more students via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.
- We sent weekly text messages to over 1,200 high school seniors “calling them to action” on things they should be doing to make it through the college doors this fall.
- We expanded our Utah Scholars 10th grade program to include 9th–12th grades. Students in select high schools can now join the Utah Scholars Club, where they can participate in activities that will help them be more prepared for college.

The Utah Scholars Initiative would not be possible without the support of our volunteers, school counselors, teachers, and administrators. A big THANK YOU to everyone who comes together each year to help our Utah students be more prepared for college.

**Erika Norton**

Utah Scholars Program Manager



“It got me thinking about  
what I want to do after  
high school a lot more.”

—Eisenhower Junior High Student

# ABOUT UTAH SCHOLARS

The Utah Scholars Initiative (USI) is a high impact academic program intended to motivate students to complete a **defined curriculum** while in high school to better prepare them for college and future employment. We focus on helping students understand the **academic preparation** needed to succeed in post-secondary education and in the workforce.

Students hear about Utah Scholars through 8th grade presentations given by volunteers from local businesses, communities, and education leaders.

**Our volunteers emphasize:**

*Why getting a college education is important*

*What they can do now to prepare for college*

*How to pay for college*



**When a student is a Utah Scholar, they will:**

- Qualify for more scholarships
- Be more competitive in college admissions
- Be academically ready for college courses
- Receive a Utah Scholars Initiative completion certificate and medallion to wear at high school graduation
- Receive the StepUp Utah monthly newsletter which covers topics such as college preparation, college resources, scholarships, financial aid and tips to stay on-track for college
- Receive text messages with college prep advice throughout the senior year of high school and receive personal replies to their questions

# USI CURRICULUM

The Utah Scholars curriculum encourages students to “take the right classes” in order to help them be more prepared for college. These courses are based on national recommendations that ensure students are prepared for life beyond high school. By taking these classes, students have a stronger foundation to be more competitive on scholarship and college admissions applications. We encourage students to:

## *Step 1:* Sign Up

Sign up now at [utahscholars.org](http://utahscholars.org) and take the first step to college!

## *Step 2:* Take the Right Classes

### **4 Credits of English**

Includes: Language Art 9,10,11,12, or Honors Language Arts, IB Language A, AP English Language, ENGL 1010 and 2010, if taken as concurrent enrollment.

### **4 Credits of Math**

Includes: Math I, II, III, IB Math, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2. Students must take one class beyond Math III.

### **3.5 Credits of Social Science**

Includes: geography, world and U.S. history, economics, government, and AP/IB versions of those courses.

### **3 Credits of a Lab-Based Science**

Must take each of the following: biology, chemistry, and physics. Students taking concurrent enrollment must complete both a college lecture and a college lab. A college “lecture” combined with a high school “lab” is not sufficient.

### **2 Credits of a World Language**

Must be the same world/classical language taken progressively in grades 9-12. Includes American Sign Language, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish. AP and IB versions of these courses.

## *Step 3:* Stay on Track

Utah Scholars need a 3.0 GPA and no grade lower than a “C” in the core classes (that means no “C-”). In 11th grade, take the ACT. This test helps colleges know that you are ready for college-level work. Any score on the ACT can qualify you to be a Utah Scholar.

## *Step 4:* Launch Into College!

# USI PARTNER SCHOOLS

“[The presentation]  
made college  
less scary.”

—West Hills Middle School Student

## Alpine

American Fork High School  
American Fork Junior High  
Canyon View Junior High  
Frontier Middle School  
Lakeridge Junior High  
Lehi High School  
Lehi Junior High  
Lone Peak High School  
Mountain Ridge Junior High  
Mountain View High School  
Oak Canyon Junior High  
Orem High School  
Orem Junior High  
Pleasant Grove High School  
Pleasant Grove Junior High  
Timberline Middle School  
Timpanogos High School  
Vista Heights Middle School  
West Lake High School  
Willowcreek Middle School

## Cache

Mountain Crest High School  
North Cache Center  
Sky View High School  
South Cache Center



## Canyons

Albion Middle School  
Alta High School  
Brighton High School  
Butler Middle School  
Eastmont Middle School  
Hillcrest High School  
Jordan High School  
Midvale Middle School  
Mount Jordan Middle School  
Union Middle School

## Davis

Bountiful High School  
Bountiful Junior High  
Centennial Junior High  
Centerville Junior High  
Central Davis Junior High  
Clearfield High School  
Davis High School  
Fairfield Junior High  
Farmington Junior High  
Kaysville Junior High  
Layton High School  
Legacy Junior High  
Millcreek Junior High  
Mueller Park Junior High  
North Davis Junior High  
North Layton Junior High  
Northridge High School  
South Davis Junior High  
Sunset Junior High  
Syracuse High School  
Syracuse Junior High  
Viewmont High School  
Westpoint Junior High  
Woods Cross High School

## Garfield

Panguitch High School  
Panguitch Middle School

## Granite

Bennion Junior High  
Bonneville Junior High  
Brockbank Junior High  
Cottonwood High School  
Cyprus High School  
Eisenhower Junior High  
Evergreen Junior High  
Granger High School  
Granite Park Junior High  
Hunter High School  
Hunter Junior High  
Jefferson Junior High  
Kearns High School  
Kearns Junior High  
Kennedy Junior High  
Matheson Junior High  
Olympus High School  
Taylorsville High School  
Valley Junior High  
West Lake Junior High

## Iron

Canyon View High School  
Canyon View Middle School  
Cedar High School  
Cedar Middle School  
Parowan High School

## Jordan

Bingham High School  
Copper Hills High School  
Copper Mountain Middle School  
Elk Ridge Middle School  
Fort Herriman Middle School  
Herriman High School  
Joel P. Jensen Middle School  
Oquirrh Hills Middle School  
Riverton High School  
South Hills Middle School  
South Jordan Middle School  
Sunset Ridge Middle  
West Hills Middle School  
West Jordan High School  
West Jordan Middle School

## Kane

Kanab High School  
Kanab Middle School  
Valley High School

## Nebo

Diamond Fork Junior High  
Maple Mountain High School  
Mapleton Junior High  
Mount Nebo Junior High  
Payson High School  
Payson Junior High  
Salem Hills High School  
Salem Junior High  
Spanish Fork High School  
Spanish Fork Junior High  
Springville High School  
Springville Junior High

## Ogden

Ben Lomond High School  
Highland Junior High  
Mound Fort Junior High  
Mount Ogden Junior High  
Ogden High School

## Park City

Park City High School  
Treasure Mountain Junior High

## Provo

Centennial Middle School  
Dixon Middle School  
Provo High School  
Timpview High School

## Salt Lake

Bryant Middle School  
Clayton Middle School  
East High School  
Glendale Middle School  
Highland High School  
Hillside Middle School  
Nibley Park School  
Northwest Middle School  
West High School

## Tooele

Clarke N. Johnsen Junior High  
Dugway High School  
Grantsville High School  
Grantsville Junior High  
Stansbury High School  
Tooele High School  
Tooele Junior High  
Wendover High School

## Washington

Desert Hills High School  
Desert Hills Middle School  
Dixie High School  
Dixie Middle School  
Enterprise High School  
Hurricane High School  
Hurricane Middle School  
Pine View High School  
Pine View Middle School  
Snow Canyon High School  
Snow Canyon Middle School



# NEW SCHOOLS

Each year, we add to new schools and expand our reach to students across the state. If your school or district wants to participate, please contact us at 801-321-7179 or [info@utahscholars.org](mailto:info@utahscholars.org).

# BY THE NUMBERS

**91%** of students want to go to college

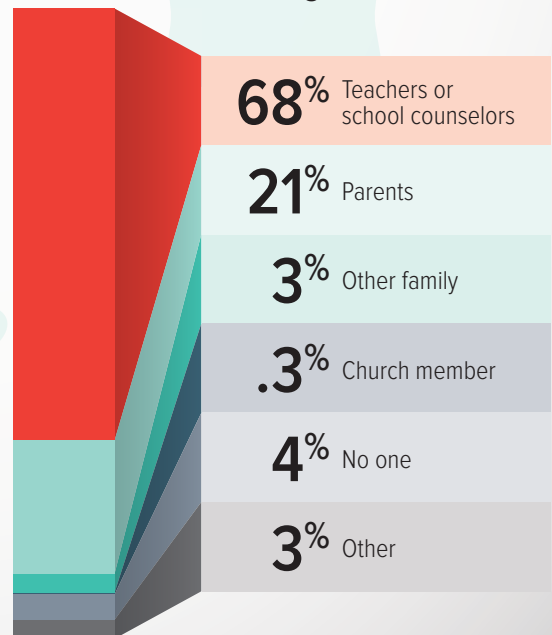
## REASONS WHY STUDENTS WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE



Do the classes you take in high school affect your ability to get into college?

**82%** said yes

Who talks to you about going to college?



\*Responses from the Utah Scholars Student Survey



# STUDENTS REACHED

District	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Alpine	4,418	5,479	5,568	5,910	5,699
Cache	NA	NA	NA	1,203	1,343
Canyons	2,012	1,700	1,784	1,711	1,459
Davis	5,095	5,141	5,287	5,360	4,657
Garfield	NA	NA	NA	50	39
Granite	2,415	4,155	4,457	4,416	4,158
Iron			665	631	639
Jordan	2,064	2,190	4,228	3,712	3,409
Kane	NA	100	62	78	78
Nebo	NA	NA	NA	2,407	2,190
Ogden	890	1,058	831	833	833
Park City	360	360	391	400	370
Provo	946	931	1,487	970	415
Salt Lake	1,559	1,438	1,472	1,523	639
Tooele	952	1,303	1,107	1,087	1,070
Washington	1,984	2,032	2,065	2,014	2,159
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,695</b>	<b>25,887</b>	<b>29,404</b>	<b>32,305</b>	<b>29,157</b>

# USI ENROLLMENT

District	2014	2015
Alpine	868	1218
Cache	497	88
Canyons	202	73
Davis	1199	1149
Garfield	4	17
Granite	2220	1704
Iron	223	207
Jordan	1924	2264
Kane	74	46
Nebo	248	523
Ogden	464	435
Park City	28	20
Provo	63	22
Salt Lake	71	219
Tooele	716	322
Washington	877	519
Misc		6
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,678</b>	<b>8,826</b>

# PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

District	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Alpine	134	140	150	152	169
Cache	NA	NA	NA	35	40
Canyons	62	54	45	54	40
Davis	155	160	162	157	137
Garfield	NA	NA	NA	1	1
Granite	69	118	125	134	128
Iron	NA	NA	22	20	22
Jordan	67	71	109	124	98
Kane	NA	1	1	2	2
Nebo	NA	NA	NA	63	77
Ogden	31	30	27	25	25
Park City	12	11	12	13	13
Provo	33	30	36	32	16
Salt Lake	55	48	53	49	19
Tooele	33	44	39	29	38
Washington	45	55	50	49	51
<b>Totals</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>876</b>

# UTAH SCHOLARS GRADUATES



Students who qualify for the Utah Scholars Recognition usually meet all of the qualifications to apply for the Regents' Scholarship.

## USI GRADUATES

**3,550**

District	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Alpine	348	558	536	657	794
Cache	NA	NA	NA	179	248
Canyons	131	22	210	275	303
Davis	174	322	393	484	558
Garfield					3
Granite	18	68	90	72	295
Iron	NA	NA	15	27	30
Jordan	82	116	218	253	346
Kane	NA	NA	0	2	0
Nebo	NA	NA		350	341
Ogden	4	2	1	2	8
Park City	40	35	45	31	20
Provo	44	61	62	80	78
Salt Lake	73	84	77	96	99
Tooele	23	43	53	87	108
Washington	99	214	276	301	319
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>1,976</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>3,550</b>



“[Utah Scholars] motivates me and gets me excited to go to college!”

—Kaysville Junior High Student

# VOLUNTEERS

## USI PARTNERS

Bank of American Fork  
Check City  
Cimetrix  
Cyprus Credit Union  
Direct Communications  
Dixie State University  
Energy Solutions  
Hexcel  
IHC Timpanogos  
IM Flash  
Imagine Learning  
Instructure  
LANDESK  
NCR  
Rockwell Collins  
Salt Lake Community College  
University of Utah Engineering  
United Way of Utah County  
United Way of Salt Lake  
Utah State University  
Utah Valley University  
Weber State University  
Zions Bank

## VOLUNTEERS

The Utah Scholars Initiative would not be possible without our volunteers. Our volunteers are on the frontlines talking to students about the importance of college. Their personal experiences and passions about college connect them to students and help them explore the possibilities.

Each year our volunteers have the amazing opportunity to interact with thousands of students across the state of Utah. Many of these students are excited about their futures and know that going to college can help them achieve their dreams.

We are always looking for more exceptional volunteers; if you or someone you know is interested, please contact us at 801-321-7179.

**IN 2015 - 2016**

**194 volunteers** gave

**876 presentations**

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Adelle is on the path to graduating as a Utah Scholar. She discovered the program when a volunteer delivered the presentation to her 8th grade class at Hillside Middle School. She is excited to start high school and especially enjoys her English, sciences and history classes. Adelle loves to sing, act and plays many instruments; she was even the lead in Shrek the Musical where she starred as Fiona. In addition to excelling at performing arts, she loves science and made it to the region level science fair. When she grows up she wants to be an actress on Broadway and in the movies, or a geneticist.



“College is important because with a higher educational degree you get paid more and have a better job. I want to go to college because both of my parents went to college. I also want to go to college because I want to hone the skills in the area that I want to have a profession.”

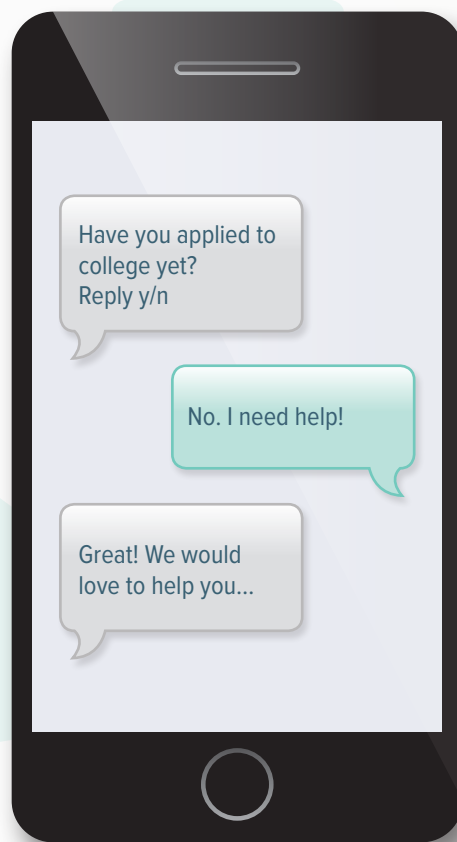
“It helped me understand how much college is going to cost and how programs like this can help pay for it.”

—Valley High School Student



## Senior Text Messaging Pilot

Many students know that they want to attend college but many don't know what's involved to get there. In an effort to be more accessible to students, we piloted a "senior texting campaign" through Signal Vine, a two-way text messaging platform. Students receive weekly texts prompting them to do various college preparation tasks such as filing a FAFSA or meeting with their school counselor to make sure they're on track for college. If students need additional help, we are there to answer their questions or direct them to the appropriate resource.



## Campus Tour

The Utah Scholars Club is an after school college prep club that students can join at Hunter and Granger High Schools. This club is open to any student who has an interest and a desire to go to college. The Club uses a “near peer” model with college students acting as mentors to high school students. Each week they meet to learn about the ins and outs of what it takes to get to college. Many of the students are the first people in their family to go to college and have many questions and concerns about the unknown. As part of the Utah Scholars Club, students had the opportunity to visit a college campus. This year the students selected Utah Valley University (UVU) and were able to meet with a college student on campus to talk to him about what it is like to attend UVU.



## New and Improved Monthly Newsletter

When students sign up to be a Utah Scholar they receive the monthly StepUp Newsletter. The newsletter includes short essays and personal statements from actual high school and college students on their college prep experiences. They also receive valuable information about paying for college and tips from financial aid experts. A monthly scholarship opportunity is included along with a tip of the month and a “Did you know?” section.

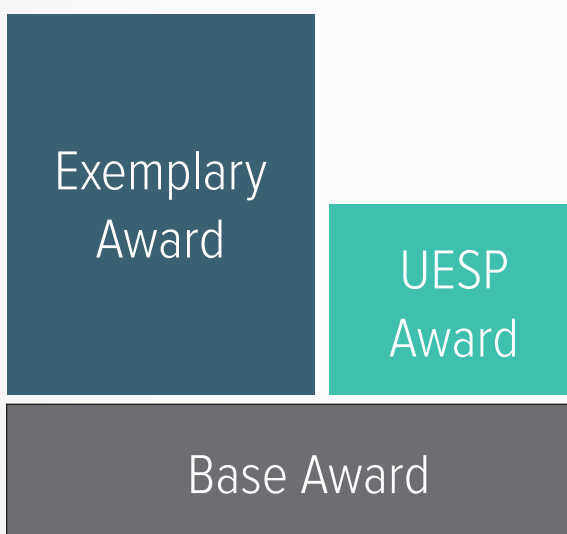


# REGENTS' SCHOLARSHIP

Our sister program, the Regent's Scholarship, provides a scholarship of up to \$6,400 over two years to students who qualify. Students who successfully complete the Utah Scholars curriculum will have met the course requirements to apply for the scholarship. Over 4,000 Utah seniors applied for the scholarships this year, the majority of who came from Utah Scholars partner schools.

For more information, visit [regentscholarship.org](http://regentscholarship.org).

## 2016 AWARD VALUES\*



The Regents' Scholarship offers three awards. A student can earn a combination of awards: the Base Award, Base & UESP, Base & Exemplary, or Base, Exemplary & UESP awards.

### BASE AWARD

- \$1,000 one-time award
- Complete the USI Curriculum
- Earn a "C" or higher in each of the core classes
- Earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Submit an ACT score

### EXEMPLARY AWARD


- In 2015, \$1,250 per semester. May be renewed for four semesters
- Complete the USI Curriculum
- Earn a "B" or high in each of the core classes
- Earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Earn a 26 or higher Act score

### UESP (UTAH EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS PLAN) AWARD

- Up to \$400 match
- Meet the Base Award requirements
- Contribute \$100 or more annually to a Utah Educational Savings Plan during the ages of 14–17

\* Award amounts are determined annually and are subject to legislative funding and the total number of qualified participants. Therefore, award amounts may be reduced, may vary from year to year, and are dependent on when the recipient is enrolled in college.





“I liked how  
the presenter  
told us how we can  
succeed.”

—Bennion Junior High  
Student

“[Utah Scholars]  
opened my eyes.”

—Eisenhower Junior High  
Student

“I liked how she  
treated us like  
adults, like we  
are finally  
growing up.”

—West Hills Middle School Student

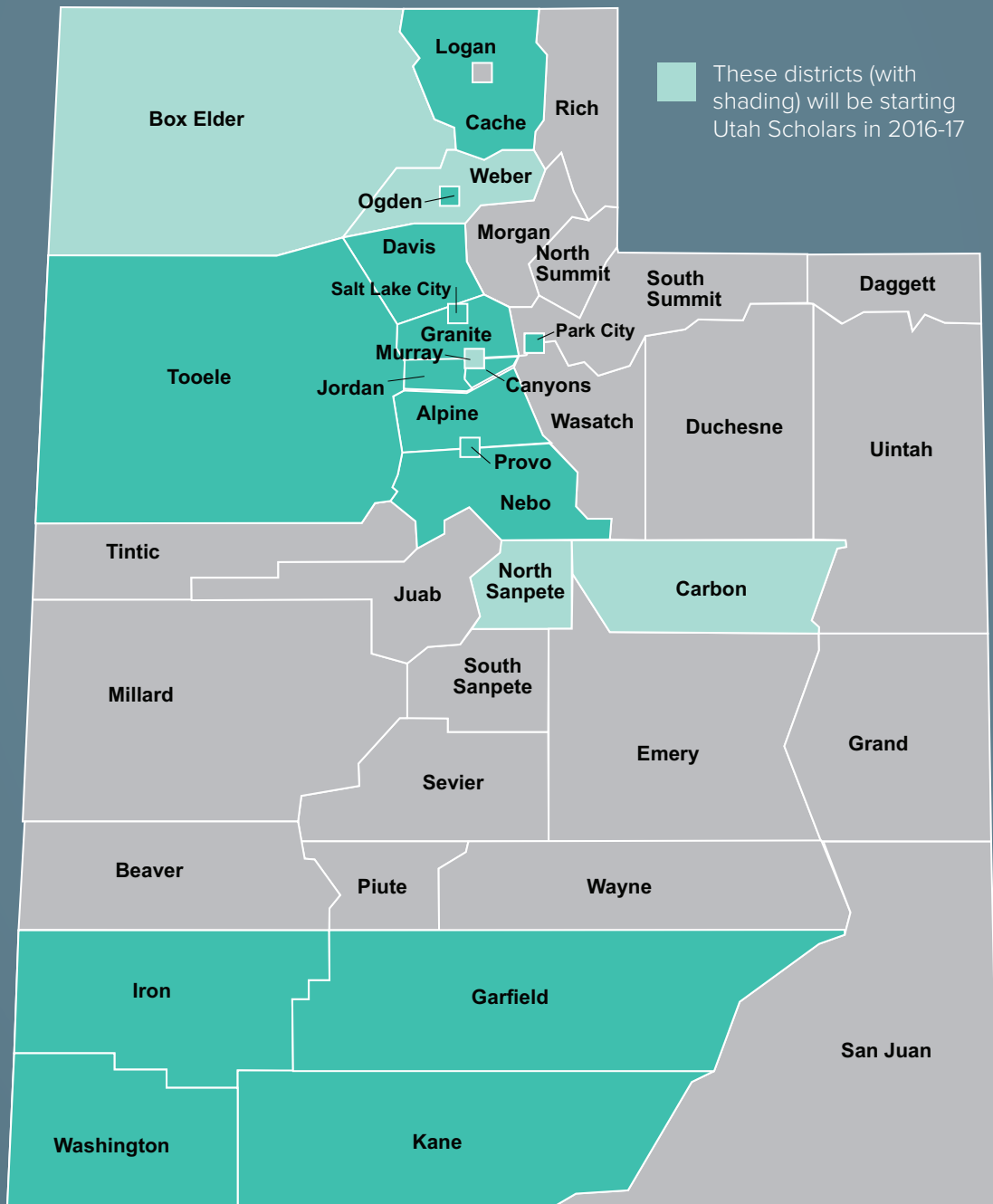


“What I liked best about the presentation was that nothing is impossible and never to give up.”

—Sunset Ridge Middle School Student



## UTAH SCHOLARS PARTNER DISTRICTS





# Utah Scholars™

The first step to college

## STAY CONNECTED



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UtahScholars.org  
StepUpUtah.com

[www.UtahScholars.org](http://www.UtahScholars.org)

[info@utahscholars.org](mailto:info@utahscholars.org)

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