Dear UAGC members,

As newly elected president of UAGC, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who participated in the 2013 UAGC Annual Conference at the Davis Conference Center in Layton this past January. Even though the weather didn’t fully cooperate, it was a successful conference as colleagues and friends gathered to learn, share, and collaborate. We received a great amount of information on the social and emotional needs of gifted students from a very capable and upbeat keynote speaker, Dr. Rick Olenchak. The breakout sessions were expertly prepared and delivered to the appreciative attendees.

I personally have learned from many experts in the field and am cognizant of the fact that there are so many in Utah that truly care to advocate for the gifted and high-ability students in our state. Many of these experts serve on the UAGC Executive Board. New to our board this year is Cindy Braegger, who will serve as an Affiliate Vice President. Please visit www.uagc.org to see a complete list of the executive board members.

I had the incredible experience to travel to Washington D.C. early in March to learn from our national leaders who serve on the board of the National Association for Gifted Children. While there, I had the opportunity to meet with staff members of Utah’s Senate and House Members. The Talent Act is a reality now as a bill in the Senate, S.512, which if passed, will “Aid Gifted and High-Ability Learners by Empowering the Nation’s Teachers Act.” We are still looking for co-sponsors in the House. Wouldn’t it be great if some of those co-sponsors came from Utah? Feel free to contact Senators Hatch and Lee to ask them to co-sponsor the bill. The House does not have a bill, and we are looking for House Members to sponsor or

GINNIE S. SAVAGE
2013 recipient of the Jewel Bindrup Award
The executive board is diligent working to plan a variety of activities and resources to move the UAGC mission forward and grow the organization in 2013. This year, many opportunities will be available to educators, parents, and students. Webinars on Wednesdays (WOW) are designed to offer teachers and district coordinators the opportunity to learn a variety of approaches and explore strategies and practices for implementing the CCSS in the classroom while modifying them for advanced learners. UAGC is purchasing a site license for our members to access these for free. All prior webinars can be accessed through the NAGC Live Learning Center, and upcoming webinars can be accessed live or recorded. We will send out the login to members as soon as we have that information.

In addition, scholarships and grants are available through UAGC. Visit our home page, www.uagc.org, to learn more.

Many UAGC sponsored events are coming soon, so watch for them on our website and through emails. Our next quarterly activity being planned for parents and students is an evening at The Living Planet Aquarium in Sandy. A creativity-themed conference for teachers, parents, and students will also be held in Park City on June 14-15.

The board appreciates your membership and your dedication of advocating for our gifted children. We look forward to planning a great year of events for teachers, parents, and students. Please let us know if there are ways we can better serve you.

Sincerely,
Michele Riggs
UAGC President
Dear UAGC members,

You're invited...

UAGC Families
presents
an educational evening at
THE LIVING PLANET AQUARIUM

Monday, April 15
5:00–8:00 pm

Bring your family and explore fascinating exhibits:
Discover Utah, Ocean Explorer, and Journey to South America

725 East 10600 South
Sandy, Utah

Pre-registration for this event is required and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, please contact Ranae at rramonson@yahoo.com or call 801-446-0994. Please include your name, telephone number, address, whether you are a current UAGC member, and the number of people that will be attending. This event is FREE for current UAGC members and their immediate family. Non-members can attend for $5.00 per person. For a better value, become a UAGC member for only $25.00/year, and receive free or discounted admissions to all future UAGC family events during your membership year. You can also purchase an annual membership online at www.uagc.org or join at the door.

Feel free to invite your friends, and we hope to see you there!

The worst form of inequality
is to try to make
unequal things equal.
~Aristotle

Follow UAGC on Facebook

Dalene Teichert
2013 recipient of the Calvin W. Taylor Outstanding Educator Award

UAGC Mission Statement
Utah Association for Gifted Children advocates for the diverse population of gifted children in the State of Utah.

We advance the understanding of the academic and social/emotional needs of gifted children among community leaders, policy makers, educators, and parents.

We promote the development of quality services to provide educational opportunities for gifted students.

We increase the capacity of educators and parents to be agents of change in their schools and communities and in the lives of gifted children.
Annual Event a Success by Shari Taylor

This year, UAGC’s annual conference themed “Under the Radar: Targeting the Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students” was held in January at the Davis Conference Center. Enduring harsh weather and a lost backpack, keynote speaker, Dr. Rick Olenchak, facilitated Thursday’s “Parent Night” event with an open discussion.

Dr. Olenchak spoke of his personal experiences with gifted education and shared the words of his twelve-year-old son: “If just once a day I got to do something I wanted or was interested in, school wouldn’t be so boring.” Nurturing hope in children by developing their talents was the core of the discussion. Dr. Olenchak explained that by having positive, optimistic, and hopeful outlooks, children can attain contentment first and, inevitably, success will follow.

Dr. Bryan Bowles, superintendent of Davis School District, officially opened the general session Friday morning, followed by Dr. Olenchak’s keynote address on affective learning of children. Educators cannot simply focus on cognitive skills to help students be successful in school and successful in life.

Conference attendees chose from 17 break-out sessions about meeting the social and emotional needs of children. In addition, there were lessons on teaching creative-thinking skills, school enrichment programs, meeting gifted needs in common core standards, and advancing education in literacy. Friday night included a creative feast for teachers who attended creativity night.

The annual event continued Saturday with various presentations by qualified in-state presenters and teachers. Thank you to everyone who attended this year’s conference, and we hope to see you all again next year.

Save the Date!

Camp Creativity

UAGC Summer Camp
June 14-15
Park City, Utah
Dutch Oven, BBQ

featuring

Dr. Rick Shade
Internationally known consultant, educator, and author of Curiosita Teaching

Register for this event between April 15 and May 3, and receive a free copy of Curiosita Teaching.

Credit will be available.

More information to follow on UAGC’s website.

Paul Nance
2013 recipient of the Sally M. Todd Local Leadership Award

What’s Your Next Move?
AAGC Parent Meeting
Thursday, April 11
7:30 – 8:30 pm
Lindon Elementary School Gym
30 N Main
Lindon, Utah

Alpine Association for Gifted Children (AAGC) invites parents to join us and to hear about program and educational options for your child aside from Advanced Learning Labs.

Wondering where to go from here? Find out how schools and teachers are helping to answer the fourth essential question: “What do you do if they already know?”

Resources for parents & educators
Utah’s High Ability Student Initiative Program
Parent Resource Center
SENG - Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted
Yahoo! Group - UTAH GIFTED
OGTOC - Our Gifted Online Conference
A Gathering Place for All Gifted
Utah Department of Education Gifted Office
UAGC - Utah Association for Gifted Children
NAGC - National Association for Gifted Children
Local Leaders Honored by Teri Mattson

Each year, UAGC honors distinguished leaders in the field of gifted education. These teachers, parents, administrators, and community leaders make significant contributions to gifted education in Utah.

The Jewel Bindrup Award—UAGC’s most prestigious honor—is presented to any person who, while living in Utah, has contributed significantly to the unique needs of Utah’s gifted children. This year, UAGC honored Dr. W. Bryan Bowles, superintendent of Davis School District, as the Jewel Bindrup Award recipient.

The Calvin W. Taylor Outstanding Educator Award, given in memory of one of Utah’s leading gifted educators, Dr. Calvin W. Taylor, recognizes exemplary Utah educators of gifted and talented youth. Dalene Teichert, a teacher in Salt Lake School District, was honored as this recipient.

The Sally M. Todd Local Leadership Award, given for the first time in 2003 in memory of the contributions of Dr. Sally M. Todd, recognizes and honors community members who, while living in Utah, have displayed long-standing commitment to gifted and/or related issues. Paul Nance, Curriculum Specialist in Jordan School District, received this year’s award.

The UAGC Community Contribution Awards are given to individuals and organizations who make Utah a wonderful place to raise children. This year, the Hill Air Force Aerospace Museum was honored for its contributions to families, schools, and children throughout Utah.

Congratulations to the award winners!

Forward this message to a friend

2013 Legislative Update by Sheri Sorensen

This year’s legislature approved a $13 billion-plus budget that will put more money in public education than in recent years. Legislators added two percent to Utah’s per-pupil spending and targeted an additional $47 million to cover the cost of the additional 13,500 students that will enter Utah’s public schools this year. The amount allocated to gifted programs through the Enhancement for Accelerated Students funding was approximately $3.9 million, the same that was allocated last year.

Of additional interest to parents is the Higher Education Scholarship Amendments (SB100) which amended requirements related to the New Century scholarship or an Exemplary Academic Achievement award under the Regents’ Scholarship Program. SB100 “raises the bar” on college students who use the scholarships by requiring them to maintain a 3.3 GPA and a 15-credit-hour schedule. It also allows the Board of Regents to give greater weight to high school credits earned through the International Baccalaureate (IB) program when awarding the scholarships—similar to the current consideration given to Advanced Placement grades.

During the Senate debate of SB100, several senators expressed concerns regarding the International Baccalaureate program and the lack of local control over the program. In an effort to educate the legislators regarding the IB program, an informative handout was developed: “Concerning Myths about the International Baccalaureate Program.” To view the handout click here.

UAGC has gone green!
If you prefer to receive a printed version of UAGC newsletters, please call 801.635.5780 to request a copy.

UAGC members receive this newsletter directly from UAGC. Email information is never sold or shared with outside parties. To change your email address or to update your membership information, please call 801.635.5780.

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