Utah PTA Advocacy Conference

"Strong Families Build Strong Students"

November 9, 2022
9:00-2:00 PM
Mountain Ridge High School
14100 South Sentinel Ridge Blvd in Herriman, Utah

Pre-Registration will open September 15, 2022
Registration $15 (includes lunch)
Virtual Registration is $5. If you register to attend virtually after November 7, 2022 recordings will be emailed to you after the event, but you will not be able to attend live. Onsite registration is $15 with no lunch.

Schedule:
8:00-9:00 On-site Registration
9:00-10:30 Welcome & Keynote Speakers
  ● JD Barnes: Overcoming challenges through family connections, past and present
  ● Dr. Ali Crandall: What are ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and Counter-ACES and what is their role in building strong families?

10:45-11:30 AM Session 1 (Choose 1)
  ● Building Strong Families Through Family Engagement
  ● Building Strong Families Through Digital Wellness
  ● Building Strong Families Using Community Resources

11:45-12:30 Session 2 (Choose 1)
  ● Building Strong Families using Mental Health Strategies
  ● Building Strong Students using Utah Education Standards
  ● Building Strong Families through Positive Civic Engagement

12:30-12:45 Lunch Pick-up
12:45-2:00 Utah PTA Fall Business Meeting/Lunch
Keynote and Session Information:

**JD Barnes: Overcoming challenges through family connections, past and present**

JD Barnes is proud to be called Dad, Pops and Coach to his 6 children and 9 grandchildren and nearly 500 student athletes he has served over the last 20 years. JD is a devoted husband and partner to his high school sweetheart and wife, Jenn, of 33 years. Professionally, JD has served as a strategic business consultant and executive leadership coach to hundreds of companies nationally and internationally. He has a passion for developing people, teams and organizations through all phases of business, helping to enable rapid and sustainable growth. JD has spent his life trying to create powerful relationships and cultures that serve teams and had an exciting adventure as Team Black on season 6 of BYU TV’s Relative Race, where he developed new relationships with his newly discovered family across the country.

**Dr. Ali Crandall: What are ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and Counter-ACES and what is their role in building strong families?**

Alice Ann Crandall is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health at Brigham Young University (BYU). Dr. Crandall received her bachelor’s degree in Community Health Education from BYU, her MPH from Loma Linda University, and a PhD from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Prior to her PhD program she worked for eight years in domestic and international settings on various public health programs focused on strengthening individual health through family interventions. Her primary research interests include family health measurement, understanding how childhood experiences affect lifelong health, and mental health in adolescents and adults. She has published over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles. She teaches undergraduate and graduate classes in program planning, evaluation, and family health. She currently serves as the BYU MPH program director.

10:45-11:30 AM Session 1 (Choose 1)

**Jana Hyatt: Building Strong Families Through Family Engagement**

Family Engagement in Education has been found to be one of the most effective ways to improve student outcomes. The three pillars of family engagement discussed in this class will be family engagement with elected officials, family engagement at the school, and family engagement at home.

Jana Hyatt is a mother of 8 children and an advocate for family engagement in education for many years. She earned her BA from BYU in Biology Composite Teaching and taught in the Nebo School District and has served as PTA President at the Elementary and Council level. She currently serves as the Family Life Commissioner with Utah State PTA and works with the National PTA on Family Engagement. She is also involved with the following organizations, Parents Empowered, Early Childhood Utah, and Saepa.

**Melinda Rosevear and Linda Zenger: Building Strong Families Through Digital Wellness**

Do you find yourself fighting with your children over screen time? Do you feel like your child is suffering from excessive social media use, gaming or just being on their devices too much? Join us as we discuss how adults can find solutions to empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. We will be viewing excerpts from the award winning film Screenagers, where experts in medicine, psychology and behavioral sciences share the impacts of the digital world on our children’s mental and physical well being and how we can help them to overcome these challenges.

Melinda Rosevear is an attorney, PTA volunteer, and mother of four children ranging in ages from 9-15. She has spent years researching this subject and serving on various digital wellness committees.

Linda Zenger has a BS in Computer Science, is a mother of seven and grandmother of thirteen, and adores children! She has been advocating for children’s safety online since 2002, and has volunteered in Utah PTA since 1993 in many capacities, including Utah PTA’s Digital Citizenship Specialist.

**Steve James and Barbara Smith: Building Strong Families Using Community Resources**

Did you know that there is a FREE program available to Utah families to help teach and encourage resiliency skills such as optimism, teamwork, and self-confidence to your kids? Did you also know that there is a vast FREE database of vetted articles, resources, and programs that can help you gain the knowledge and skills needed to raise loving, helpful, and happy children? Join Steve James and Barbara Smith for an informative, fun-filled, musical session all about strengthening Utah’s kids and families. There will be a prize drawing for attendees.
Steve James is CEO of Something Good Inc. and serves as Executive Director for “Uplift Families”. He is also the founder of the state-wide program “Resilient Utah” that recently transitioned to the global brand, “Resilient YOU”. An award-winning Songwriter and Music Producer, Steve has recorded hundreds of his original songs in studios from Nashville to Hollywood. He is known for his national music series “Something Good for Kids”.

Barbara Smith served Utah PTA as the Leadership Vice President and Education Commissioner. She was elected to the Davis Board of Education seven times, serving for 24 years. She was president of two national organizations and currently serves on the board of the Davis Tech College Foundation and on the First Lady of Utah’s Uplift Families Board of Directors.

11:45-12:30 Session 2 (Choose 1)

Dr. Aaron Fischer: Building Strong Families using Mental Health Strategies
Mental Health is a top pressing need in our schools and families. In this class we will learn where we are mental health wise from statewide data. We will learn how mental health is a foundation for educational success, and what positive action we can take as parents and leaders, including school screenings, local advocacy efforts, and resources for parents in the school and community.

Dr. Aaron Fischer, a psychology and psychiatry professor at the University of Utah whose focus is to provide mental health support among families and schools in Utah.

Dr. Jennifer Throndsen: Building Strong Students using Utah Education Standards
Do you feel informed about what your children are learning? Are you able to talk with them at the dinner table about what they learned in school that day? Do you understand the grades they receive compared to what they learned? The Utah Core Standards provide guidance to what Utah students should learn for each grade and subject matter. The teachers create the curriculum to match these standards. In this workshop, we will give parents all the information that they need to know where to find the standards, review the summary standards so that you can help your child succeed academically.

Dr. Jennifer Throndsen is an experienced educator currently serving at the Utah State Board of Education as the Director of Teaching and Learning. Driven by impacting student learning, she takes pride in developing and designing policy, resources, and supports to help other educators serve students as best possible. Prior to arriving at USBE, Jennifer worked as an elementary and middle school teacher, instructional coach, adjunct professor, and district office specialist. She earned her PhD in Mathematics Curriculum and Instruction from USU in 2018. In addition to her primary job functions, Jennifer has been recognized for her extraordinary commitment to early learning.

Judi Hilman: Building Strong Families through Positive Civic Engagement
Bring it Home: Engaging Families in Civic Teaching and Learning– Among the findings from the Utah Civic Learning Tour’s listening tour with >400 teachers and educational leaders, several touch on the role of parents and families in building on civic learning at the dinner table. With so little time devoted to civics and social studies at school, parents should help young people develop and practice the knowledge (of the Constitution, for example) beliefs (e pluribus unum and our democracy are worth defending), and behaviors (voting, serving the community, weighing in on public policy, civil dialogue, media literacy) needed to participate in civic life. In this workshop we will explore some of the challenges and opportunities to partner with families in preparing all youth for civic life.

Judi Hilman co-facilitates the Utah Civic Learning Collaborative, an informal alliance of educators, administrators, nonprofits and academic partners, and others dedicated to preparing all youth for civic life. Her company, Policy Catalyst, provides public policy research and development, strategic planning and support for collaborative efforts, and consumer engagement to help nonprofits and state agencies articulate and pursue the change that needs to happen for deeper impact on the issues at hand. In Utah Judi is best known as the visionary founder and first executive director of Utah Health Policy Project and chief architect of Take Care Utah, Utah’s first consumer health assistance program.