How are OUR working relationships like a bridge??

Many of us have traveled across a bridge in our lives. Have you taken a look to see how the bridge is suspended in the air? It is usually supported equally on the ends of the bridge, on both sides.

Can you imagine what would happen if you were driving on a bridge over a large body of water and only one side of the bridge was firmly rooted and supportive while the other side offered little or no support?

Those who work in the trenches understand because our children’s future is dependent on one another, we cannot solve problems by not finishing the job or not working together. The language of collaboration is very much like building bridges.

In order to be effective, successful relationships must have mutual trust and respect, while sharing responsibilities and rewards. While this may seem obvious to those involved in bringing communities, families and schools together, this kind of bridge-building is not always a common practice.

It is through the process of consciously building bridges of connection, compassion, love, kindness, and understanding, all of us have the power to transform those within our reach. This “reach” can be huge and far spreading.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Commissioners and Specialists of Utah PTA are committed to help "BUILD BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING" throughout the state of Utah. Over the year, we will use this newsletter to offer ideas, suggestions, resources, trainings and programs to help your PTA, Community and Family with issues such as: Bullying, Preschool and School Readiness, Parent Engagement, Student Leadership Opportunities, School Safety, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Student Achievement and High Expectations for All Students.

Each Commission is focused to help your PTA strengthen families in your school community and around Utah by offering programs, resources and tips. We are here to help!! Please reach out to us for any of your needs.

Connect with Commissioners… and Other Leaders of Utah PTA

www.utahpta.org

Facebook - Utah PTA Page, Utah PTA Excellent Elementary Group,
Utah PTA Super Secondary Group, Utah PTA Advocacy Group

Instagram Utah PTA
Twitter @UtahPTAOneVoice
Pinterest Utah PTA
YouTube Utah PTA One Voice
LeAnn Wood  
leann@utahpta.org

Advocacy Resources:
- Legislative VP and Advocacy Training
- Conducting Meet the Candidate Nights
- Fall Advocacy Conference and PTA Day at the Capitol

Committees:
- Chair of Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC)
- Chair of Commissioners and Resolutions Committee
- Member of Utahans for Public Schools (UTPS)

Any PTA member can join LAC! It is the 4th Wed from 12-2 at the PTA Office. (Aug- Nov, April) It is every Wed at 12 (Jan-March) at the capital during session.

Kris Denison  
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Commission Resources:
- Parent Engagement in Schools
- Male Engagement
- Diversity & Inclusivity
- National Standards and Schools of Excellence Programs
- Volunteer recruitment and appreciation
- Teacher Appreciation
- Business and Community Partnerships

Outside Committees:
- Uplift Families Steering Committee
- Family Engagement Workgroup
- Utah Education Coalition

Diversity & Inclusivity Specialist

Sheri Mattle  
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Commission Resources:
- Basic School Preparedness & Protocols
- Digital Threat Assessments
- Injury prevention and Sports Safety
- Teen Driver/ School Bus Safety
- Preventing Sex Trafficking
- Safety within the school

Outside Committees:
- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
- School Readiness Coordinating Council
- Safe Kids Utah
- Utah Gun Coalition

Steve Hirase  
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Commission Resources:
- Educational Programs
- Helping parents advocate for Student and School support
- Family Reading Nights
- STEM grants
- Parent training for working with struggling readers

Outside Committees:
- Assessment & Accountability Policy Action Committee
- ESSA Committee of Practitioners
- Promise Partnership Regional Council
- 3rd Grade Reading Initiative Team
- Utah Public Education Coalition
- Uplift Families Education

Male Engagement Specialist

Cheryl Phipps  
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Commission Resources:
- Red Ribbon Week
- HOPE week
- Suicide Prevention Activities/ QPR Training
- Healthy Kids Events
- Recess/PE Programs

Outside Committees:
- Utah Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Utah Safe UT App Committee
- Utah Tobacco Free Alliance
- SMART Coalition
- Action for Healthy Kids Coalition
- Parents Empowered workgroup
- Coalition for Safe and Healthy Utah
- USAAV/UPAC

Lori Harding  
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Commission Resources:
- Arts Education Grant
- Art Programs
- Character Development
- Citizen Education
- Cultural Arts
- Life Skills Development
- Reflections Program
- Self Esteem
- Values Training

Monthly Celebrations:
- October – National Arts & Humanities Month
- March – Music in our Schools Month

Reflections Specialist

Heidi Grimshaw  
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Commission Resources:
- Family & Child Successes
- Strengthen home & family
- Military Families
- Digital Citizenship
- School Wellness Policies
- Prevent Child Abuse
- Early Childhood Education
- Prevention Education

Outside Committees:
- Uplift Families Advisory committee
- Family Engagement Workgroup
- Utah Foster Care
- White Ribbon Week
- Early Childhood Utah Program
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah

Todd Hougaard  
todd@utahpta.org

Commission Resources:
- How to start a PTSA and Student PTSA Group
- Battle of the Bands
- Teen Safe Driving
- Healthy relationships
- PTSA Student Leadership Conference
- PTSA Student Day at the Capitol

Outside Committees:
- Parents Empowered workgroup
- Teen Safe Driving Taskforce
- Healthy Relationships/ Safe Dating Taskforce
- KUED Reading Program

Interested in a commission or have questions? Wondering about outside resources or partnerships that could help your PTA? If Yes, contact one of the commissioners! We are happy to help, offer ideas and share resources. We are here to support you!