

Educating for Citizenship in Utah Highlights of Accomplishments 2008

- Utah lawmakers and state education leaders participated in four years of Congressional Conferences, from 2003—2006 to rekindle interest in the civic mission of schools, K-16.
- Utah was the first of four states in the nation to receive a federal grant in character education in 1995, which allowed the state to do pioneering work in character education, and districts to develop character education frameworks.
- The State Board of Education has demonstrated long-time commitment to character education, integrating it into the state core curriculum and Life Skills frameworks.
- Thirty measures supporting effective civic learning have passed legislatures in 23 states, including Utah. (2004—H.B. 22: "Civic and Character Education in Schools" bill)
- Thirteen states, including Utah, have created officially sanctioned state commissions on civic education or civic literacy. (2006—H.B. 339: "Utah Commission on Civic and Character Education")
- Twenty-six states have held state level summit conferences on the importance of effective civic education. (Utah would like to sponsor a summit in 2009.)
- Every state in the nation, including Utah, has established a campaign coalition to strengthen civic education. Utah created the Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning, which includes over 30 organizations working together to strengthen the civic mission of schools, K-16. Members include the Lt. Governor's Office, Utah Supreme Court, Utah State Board of Education, Office of the State Superintendent, Utah Campus Compact, Utah's Legislators Back to School Program, Law Related Education.
- Five annual Dialogue on Democracy's have been held in Utah with first year attendance at 200, and 2008 numbers at over 535. Educators, legislators, judges, professors, mayors, state and community leaders, etc., have attended the event. Sessions are also held for teachers, and for high school and university students as well. Keynote speakers have been David Skaggs, Charles Haynes, Larry Sabato, Lee Hamilton and Brent Scowcroft. Next year's speaker will be former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating.
- "The Three Branches of Government" workshop is a signature program of the Coalition for pre-service students and teachers where each summer they have a close look at all three branches of state government in action. Next workshop: June 16, 17, 18, 2009.
- A press conference was held in 2007 by the Lt. Governor and the Chief Justice to announce a partnership between the Commission and Coalition to strengthen civic and character education in the state's schools, K-16.
- A Commission website is being developed and sponsored by Utah Education Network to serve as a clearinghouse of resources for educators and pre-service teachers statewide. Information brochures, newsletters and other materials have also been developed.

- Partnerships have included outreach to pre-service teacher education programs, to state courts and judges, to collaboration with organizations on teacher staff development, etc.
- A character education workshop was held in summer 2008, in partnership with Granite, Salt Lake City and Murray School Districts, with over 300 Utah educators attending.