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Murray, St. George and Midvale Principals Named Utah Secondary Principals of the Year

SALT LAKE CITY – The assistant principal of Hillcrest High School and the principals of Fossil Ridge Intermediate School and Murray High School today were named Utah's 2011-12 Secondary School Principals of the Year by the Utah Association of Secondary School Principals.

Paul S. Kirby of Midvale's Hillcrest High School, Robert Sonju of St. George's Fossil Ridge Intermediate School, and Scott Bushnell of Murray High School will represent Utah in the MetLife Principal of the Year competition.

Kirby began his public education career as an advanced placement Spanish teacher in 1992 and previously served as assistant principal at West Jordan High School and Brighton High School before joining the staff at Hillcrest. He was instrumental in bringing a Chinese language program to Brighton High and in linking his students with students from around the world in Tony Blair's "Face to Faith" education initiative carried out through EDNET.

In addition to serving as principal of Foss Ridge Intermediate School, Sonju is also an adjunct professor at Dixie State College, teaching education classes in the evening. At Fossil Ridge, Sonju initiated personalized intervention for students who were struggling that focused on their individual needs. The result is shown in academic progress at the school.

"Every student, every day, every opportunity," is Bushnell's motto for Murray High. "He is a student's principal," Murray District Superintendent Richard Tranter said. "He is a tremendous instruction leader and excels most in his ability to relate to people." Bushnell has been principal at Murray since 2004 and previously served as the district's career and technology education director. Under his leadership Murray High has formed a School Leadership Tam, School Success Model, Five-year Technology Plan, business partnerships and a school community council.

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