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**UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

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## **Juab, Utah, Washington County Educators Named Utah's Secondary Principals of the Year**

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah Association of Secondary School Principals (UASSP) today named Juab High School Principal Rick Robbins as Utah High School Principal of the Year, Mapleton Junior High Principal Suzanne Kimball as Utah Middle School Principal of the Year, and Pine View Middle School Assistant Principal Dana McConnell as Utah Assistant Principal of the Year.

Robbins, who earned his doctorate in education from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, began his education career as a teacher and coach at Copper Hills High School in West Jordan in 1996 and served as an assistant principal at Lakeridge Junior High in Orem and Springville High School, where he also served as principal, before moving to Juab High in Nephi in 2009. Robbins established a Professional Learning Community at Juab which brings together parents, patrons, faculty and students. “Rick is an outstanding instructional leader who is able to establish trust and respect that is essential to the successful operation of a high school. He is able to communicate and present information to all audiences in such a way that the information can be understood and assimilated by everyone. Rick

works diligently to improve student achievement and has been very successful in raising scores thirty percentage points last year.”

Kimball began her education career as a teacher at Springville Middle School in 1992 where she later became the assistant principal before being named principal of Mapleton Junior High. She is currently assigned to Salem Hills Junior High, which is under construction. “Mrs. Kimball truly shines as a principal. She has been a leader in our district in implementing professional Learning Communities, data driven assessments and curriculum development,” said Kristen Betts, a member of the Mapleton Junior High community council and PTA. “As a principal, she genuinely cares for the students under her direction and wants each one of them to be successful. “

McConnell began her career teaching and coaching in the Nebo School District in 1991 before becoming an assistant principal in the Washington School District in 2007. She has served as assistant principal at Pine View Middle School in St. George since 2010. “Dana is a person of integrity and she will not quit till the work is done,” said Pine View Principal Mike Stephens. “She is a gentle giant who loves students and expects nothing but the best from each and every one of them.”

Robbins, Kimball and McConnell will represent Utah in the national secondary principal competitions.

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