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For Immediate Release

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Utah State Board of Education Announces the 2025 Utah Preschool Conference

SALT LAKE CITY—The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is pleased to announce the *2025 Utah Preschool Conference (UPC)*, a free, virtual event for early childhood educators, administrators, parents/guardians of preschoolers, and other stakeholders throughout Utah. Hosted via Zoom Events by the Utah Education & Telehealth Network (UETN), the conference will take place on Friday, November 14, and Saturday, November 15. The UPC aims to foster collaboration, encourage the exchange of ideas, share best-practice resources, and discuss current research to improve early learning opportunities for Utah's children.

The 2025 UPC will be a rich learning experience featuring a diverse lineup of keynote speakers, panel discussions, and interactive workshops designed to address the most pressing issues in early childhood education. This year's conference will focus on *"Bridging the Gap: Building Stronger Connections for Early Learning Success."* We understand the importance of accessibility, which is why we are offering virtual attendance with online sessions. This format ensures that all attendees can learn from leading experts, engage in meaningful discussions, and gain valuable insights to enhance their professional practice.

On Friday, November 14, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., Kelly Noorda of Promise Partnership Utah and Meridith Karppinen of Weber State University will co-present the keynote session. They will introduce

"Utah's Kindergarten Readiness Pathway," the state's official definition for kindergarten readiness, followed by a Q&A with the audience. According to Kelly Noorda, lead partnership director for Promise Partnership Utah and chair of the Early Childhood Utah Early Care and Education Subcommittee, the overarching goal is to foster a community-wide approach to kindergarten readiness.

The Utah State Board of Education is honored to announce Dr. Rich Nye, Senior Advisor for Education to Governor Spencer J. Cox, as the keynote speaker for Saturday, November 15, at the 2025 Utah Preschool Conference. His keynote address, scheduled from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom Events, will center on this year's theme, "Bridging the Gap: Building Stronger Connections for Early Learning Success."

Key Highlights of the Conference:

- **Keynote Speaker Sessions:** Esteemed speakers will share their insights on the challenges and opportunities in early childhood education.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Sessions covering a range of topics, including innovative teaching strategies, family engagement, and inclusive practices.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The conference provides numerous networking opportunities, allowing you to connect with fellow educators, administrators, and advocates. These connections will help you build a supportive network dedicated to early learning, making you feel part of a larger community committed to the success of Utah's children.
- **Exhibitor Showcase:** Explore the latest educational resources, tools, and technologies from leading vendors in the field.

"Every child's early learning journey begins with connection, curiosity, and care. At the Utah Preschool Conference, we celebrate the power of collaboration—bringing together educators, families, and community partners to build strong foundations for lifelong learning," said Cristina Barrera, USBE Preschool Education Specialist. "When we work together, we ensure that every child in Utah has the opportunity to thrive, discover, and succeed."

Registration for the 2025 Utah Preschool Conference is now open. For more information and to register, please visit [the Zoom Events online registration page](#) or contact USBE Preschool Executive Assistant Teresa Hartvigsen at Teresa.harvigsen@schools.utah.gov or 801-538-7679. We invite you to join us at the 2025 Utah Preschool Conference. Be a part of this inspiring event dedicated to the future of

early childhood education in Utah. Your participation will contribute to the success of the conference and the advancement of the field of early childhood education.

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