



Charter Connection

April 2019

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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Director's Message

Charter schools (and public schools in general) have lately been the target of some negative news stories. While I would not want to restrict freedom of the press, and I realize that negative news stories sell better than positive news stories, it is disheartening to only see the negative stories when I know that there are so many positive things happening in our schools that do not get media attention. We should never be afraid to share the positive stories happening at our schools. Sometimes it is hard to "toot our own horn," but we need to do just that to counterbalance the more sensational negative headlines that are dominating the conversation.

Despite some negative news, charter schools are flourishing. Some of the highest performing schools in the state are charter schools. Enrollment growth at charter schools has always grown faster than at other public schools. Recently, a charter school, Beehive Science & Technology Academy was selected to represent Utah in designing an egg to represent Utah at the White House Easter Egg Roll. And, the list could go on....

So, while the negative news stories are never something I look forward to, I balance the stories with all the good that goes on. Share your good with us and the rest of Utah.

— Jennifer

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School Spotlight:

The State Charter School Board (SCSB) did not spotlight a school in the March 2019 meeting. We will resume school spotlights for the upcoming meeting in April 2019. This month I would like to review the schools that have been spotlighted this school year.

- **September 2018**-Bonneville Academy and CCID were both spotlighted for their amazing transfer rates
- **October 2018**- Wallace Stegner Academy was spotlighted for their strong math proficiency and math growth
- **November 2018**- Mana Academy was spotlighted for their strong ELA proficiency and ELA growth
- **December 2018**- Spectrum Academy was spotlighted for their excellent retention and enrollment
- **January 2019**- Pinnacle Canyon Academy was spotlighted for the excellent graduation rate, graduating over 95% of their seniors
- **February 2019**- Lincoln Academy was spotlighted for the awesome fiscal management and working hard to keep their school fiscally healthy

Dear Dr. Ed,

I am always looking for a new, great book to help me hone my leadership and inspire me in my daily work. What books do you recommend?

Sincerely,
Never Stop Learning

Dear **Never Stop Learning**,

I love this question because although most leaders are incredibly busy, taking the time to continue your own development as a leader, including being motivated by the words of others, will ultimately result in better outcomes for students. The books in this list are meant for anyone in leadership. The links will take you to a Google Books sample.

1) [Leading Collaborative Learning](#)

A strategic path for leaders and teachers to follow which will help them improve student learning.

2) [From Teacher to Leader: Finding Your Way as a First Time Leader Without Losing Your Mind](#)

Whether you have already made the move into leadership or are wondering whether a role in administration is right for you, will help you make the best decisions for yourself and those you serve.

3) [Visible Learning & the Science of How We Learn](#)

Hattie has joined forces with cognitive psychologist Greg Yates to build on the original data, showing how its underlying ideas and the cutting edge of cognitive science can form a powerful and complimentary framework for shaping learning in the classroom and beyond.

4) [Hacking Leadership](#)

When school leaders join teachers, students, and parents in a collaborative effort to improve teaching and learning, achievement soars and schools turn into vibrant communities, filled with enthusiastic members.

5) [Collective Efficacy: How Educators' Beliefs Impact Student Learning](#)

Collective efficacy (CE)—the belief that, through collective actions, educators can influence student outcomes and increase achievement.

For me the best books are the ones I wake up thinking about—these five books have done that for me lately. I hope you will find the same inspiration. Happy Reading!

Dr. Ed U. Cation

Themes of the Month

Last year the State Charter School Board staff sent out the first annual request for assurances in UCAP. The assurances in UCAP are required by SCSB. These are not the UCA assurances. Governing boards assure that they are following 17 items that are required by rule, statute, contracted in the charter, or considered a best practice. Examples include properly noticing board meetings, reviewing progress on charter goals, and evaluating the executive director annually.

There will be two changes this year. Last year, completing the assurance form was optional and the deadline was later in the year. Assurances will be open earlier. [UCAP](#) will be open for assurances beginning May 1st and closing June 30th. The second change is that completing this form is mandatory for all LEA's.

About one in four schools who completed the assurances last year in UCAP identified an item that was not completed. The most common assurance that was not met was having completed background checks from new board members. There is a notes section to let us know what due diligence has occurred. SCSB staff can provide follow-up or support to help build stronger governing boards.

Opportunities for Schools

- Save the Date. Join Entheos Academy Magna on May 9th at 6:30 PM to celebrate and learn about their Student Service Learning Projects. [Click here for more info.](#)
- On October 24-26 the National Science Teachers Association is holding their Regional Conference in Salt Lake City. All science teachers, Elementary and STEM teachers would find this of great value. There is a grant available. [See link for more info](#)
- Utah Charter Seminars are rapidly approaching. See the details and dates [here.](#)



Outstanding in Our Field

- Tara Merryweather of Utah County Academy of Sciences, was named as the March Employee of the Month of State Charter School Board Authorized Schools! Congratulations! Nominate your colleagues [here.](#)
- 2 AMES students, 1 NUAMES student, 1 UCAS Student, and 1 APA student have received the Daniels Scholarship. Way to go!
- Beehive Academy female students Kimberly, Fatima, Nihal, Sarah and Dua got US Congressional Gold Medal!
- Beehive Science & Technology Academy has earned the College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for attaining female student representation in AP Computer Science Principles for 2018. Beehive is one of only 685 (of 18,000+) worldwide to achieve this.
- On April 22, Beehive Science & Technology Academy (@BeehiveAcademy) will represent Utah in the State Egg Design program at the White House by designing an egg that represents the state. Their egg will be displayed at the event's entrance.
- In 2018-19 STEM School Designation Status, Bonneville Academy has received gold, and Vanguard Academy has received bronze.
- American Academy of Innovation has been accepted in the state's Competency-Based Pilot Learning Program and will begin planning a competency-based education system in order to move to a pilot implementation phase in the 2020-21 school year!

April 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	USBE Meeting	USBE Steering Committee	6	7
Charter Directors 8	9	10	SCSB Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	USBE Meeting	USBE Committees	4
5	6	7	8	SCSB Meeting	10	11
Charter Directors Meeting 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		