



Uniquely Davis

www.davis.k12.ut.us | January/February 2019

Lancers lead the Legislature

Now is an historic time in the Davis School District; not only for the school district, but for the State of Utah and even for Layton High School.

For the first time ever, the Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives and the President of the Utah Senate are both from Davis County, both graduates of Davis School District and both alumni of Layton High School.

Granted, Senate President J. Stuart Adams and House of Representative Speaker Brad Wilson didn't know each other in high school — Adams, class of 1972 and Wilson, class of 1987 — but they certainly travel in the same circles now.

With legislative meetings beginning at 7 a.m. and other meetings ending at who-knows-when, the men lead the 75-member House and 29-member Senate respectively during what could be termed as the fastest 45 days on the calendar. That's the length of each general legislative session, which, by midnight of March 14, has to end with — according to the Utah Constitution — a balanced budget.



Gesturing Layton Lancer Pride are House Speaker Rep. Brad Wilson and Senate President Stuart Adams.

Both men acknowledge — sitting in offices adorned with landscape paintings by famous Utah artists — they never envisioned themselves in the positions they are in.

See LEGISLATORS, Pg. 2

Superintendency message

Celebrating achievements of diverse populations

February is recognized as Black History Month. What began as a celebration of important events and people of African descent dates back to 1926.

The celebration began as a week chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas on Feb. 14 and Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12. A gradual migration to recognizing the month of February as Black History Month began in 1970 and culminated in 1976 with President Gerald Ford officially recognizing Black History Month as part of the United States Bicentennial celebration.

Today Black History Month is celebrated across the United States and four other countries around the world. While we take time to recognize the great contributions African American citizens have made over our country's history, we also recognize the tremendous contributions of other Americans of color and nationalities.



Craig Carter

I would like to focus on the amazing accomplishments of our own students of multiple races and ethnicity.

We have over 72,000 students in the Davis School District. Our students of color enrollment is 13,100, 18 percent of our total student body.

That has increased by nearly 1,500 students since 2016. Our students bring a rich heritage that benefits all of our students. The largest population of students of color is our Hispanic population followed by African Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Davis School District's graduation rate of 94 percent is the highest graduation rate of any large district in the state. Juab district, with one high

See MESSAGE, Pg. 3

LEGISLATORS, From Pg. 1

“When I was in high school, I had no idea that I’d be an elected official, let alone president of the Senate,” Adams said.

“I feel a little bit like a young boy who has fallen into a swimming pool. And when a guy pulls him out of the swimming pool, ... he asks the young boy how he came to fall in?”

“And the boy looks up at him and says, ‘I didn’t come to fall in. I came to look, and I fell in.’”

Wilson said, “I never, in my wildest dreams, imagined that I would be in the position that I am now. It is a testament to the Davis school system, (and) it is a testament to Layton High. ...”

Adams actually spent four years as a Lancer because when the school first opened, it had enough room for ninth-graders. He was a member of the school’s third graduating class.

He was also a wrestler, and competed in the 115-pound weight class.

“One of the things I learned as a wrestler was that maybe, when you are at the bottom, if you keep working hard, you are going to end up on top,” Adams said. “And if you are on top, and you don’t pay attention to details, you are going to end up on the bottom. And if you keep working, it’s amazing. Don’t give up; good things will happen.”

When Wilson was initially at Layton High, he concentrated solely on school work, but found himself, during his senior year, involved in student government. It was the student government advisor, Donna Parker, who, he said, made the biggest difference for him.

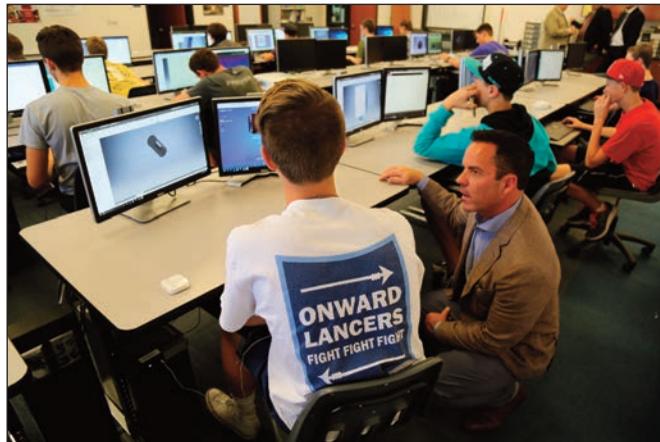
“She expected a lot from us,” Wil-

son said, “and at the time, I don’t think I appreciated what high expectations did for people. ... It was even a little bit frustrating at times to live up to her expectations.

“But now that I look back on that, I really appreciate that a lot,” he said. “So maybe the lesson from that is sometimes, high expectations and being asked to do things that are out of



A Kays Creek student talks to Senate President Stuart Adams about his project.



Rep. Brad Wilson, Speaker of the House, visits with a student at Layton High. Wilson graduated from that school in 1987.

your comfort zone are actually the best thing for you.”

The teacher that quickly comes to mind for Adams is Larry Millward.

“I wasn’t very smart, but somehow got into his calculus class,” Adams said. “... He was a great teacher that cared more about the students than about teaching, and we felt that. Even though I wasn’t good at math, he made me great at math and influenced my life.”

As lawmakers, both Lancers point

out that education makes up the biggest portion of the state’s projected \$19 billion budget.

“There is really no issue more important in this state than education,” Wilson said. “And we demonstrate that as a state by investing as much money into it as we do.

“When I think about opportunity and what it takes to have success and prosperity in this state, not just now, but down the road, if we don’t get education right, nothing else is really going to matter.”

Adams adds, “There is no more important thing for the State of Utah and for the Legislature than education and education funding. It makes a difference in so many people’s lives.

“Right now, one of the biggest questions we have and one of the biggest challenges we have in Utah is finding people to work, finding people to fill the jobs,” he said. “Our economy is doing very well. The unemployment rate is low.”

Adams said it’s a challenge to align the workforce with the needs of employers. The education community helps bridge that gap by helping students obtain the skill sets they need to be successful beyond high school.

He later added, “We have lots of educators who spend a lot of time, and we are so appreciative of all of the things that are done. Just thanks for all of the great time and effort in all the things that they do for the state and for the kids, because we couldn’t do it without them.”

Davis School District
45 E. State Street
Farmington, Utah 84025
801-402-5261
www.davis.k12.ut.us

District applauds staff, students for great work

• **Stacy Williams**, a third-grade teacher at Windridge Elementary, received the Heidi Martin Heart of an Educator award. The award grants \$10,000 to Windridge Elementary to be spent at the honored teacher's discretion for the betterment of the school.



Stacy Williams poses with the students in her class.

• **Viewmont Head Basketball Coach Jeff Emery** earned his 250th career win recently. All of those wins were as the head coach at Viewmont. He was honored in a brief ceremony during the final home game. [See the video at https://youtu.be/wah8XN4Wf7I](https://youtu.be/wah8XN4Wf7I).

• At the Utah Music Educator Association Mid-Winter Conference, **Melanie Wilcox**, Sunset Junior High Choir teacher, was selected as the Utah Junior High Music Educator of the Year. **Brek Mangleson**, Farmington High band teacher, was given the Superior Accomplishment Award. Additionally, the **Central Davis Junior High Central Singers and Harmony**, under the direction of Jason Campbell, were awarded the Outstanding Performance Award.

• Bountiful High student **Emmalyn Aline Pykles** will represent Utah in the nation's capital during the 57th annual USSYP Washington Week. She was selected to be part of the 104-national student delegation. She also received a \$10,000 college scholarship.

• The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) appointed **Max Eiting** of Bountiful High as one of 15 students who will be voting members of the newly created Student Advisory Council. The students will advise the USBE on issues relevant to high school students throughout the state.

• **Debra Perry**, a counselor at Woods Cross High School, has been named Utah School Counselor Associa-

tion Counselor of the Year.

• **Bruce Illum**, teacher at Legacy Junior High, was named the Utah Hunter Education Instructor of the Year by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

• Davis School District language immersion students wowed the judges at the **National Chinese STEM Competition** held in Las Vegas. The competition included 150 students from around the nation, ages 8-17. Twenty-one district students came home with various awards. For a full list of winners go to <http://bit.ly/2VrHLVb>. [See a video about the local competition at https://youtu.be/cvwwwvE36894](https://youtu.be/cvwwwvE36894)

• Hundreds of students recently competed in the **district STEM Fair**. For a full list of winners, go to <http://bit.ly/STEMFairresults>

• The **Farmington Junior High Jazz Ensemble** was invited to perform at the Midwest Clinic which is the equivalent of the Super Bowl of bands. [See a video about their preparations at https://youtu.be/fZE_oHbFnkQ](https://youtu.be/fZE_oHbFnkQ)

• Speaking of great bands, **Central Davis Junior High's** bands received the National Band Association Division Winner of the Programs of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award. The Blue Ribbon requires bands to demonstrate excellence in all areas of the band program over a four-year period.

• **Central Davis Junior High National Academic League** is heading to nationals. The team won the district final competition against Centennial Junior High.



Members of the Central Davis Junior High National Academic League team pose with the district trophy.

MESSAGE, From Pg. 1

school, is 95 percent. However, our students of color populations have the highest graduation rates of any district in the state. Our African American students equal 94 percent, Hispanic students equal 92 percent, and Pacific Islander students equal 92 percent. Our subpopulations have experienced tremendous academic growth over the past several years.

Where we have need to improve is hiring more teachers of color. Seven

percent of our workforce identify as non-Caucasian. That compares to 18 percent of our student population. We are focused on recruiting and retaining more employees of color to our district.

Our employees become role models for many students. We need role models for all students. Those recruitment efforts begin with our own students in encouraging them to pursue careers in education.

To conclude, I share an excerpt

from Dr. Martin Luther King's speech given at Cobo Hall in Detroit, Mich., on June 23, 1963. He stated that, "... every man from a bass black to a treble white is significant on God's keyboard."

We have the greatest students in the state attending our schools. The richness of our diverse backgrounds brings so much to the educational process that books can't provide.

—**Business Administrator
Craig Carter**

Closing the gap

Wasatch Elementary receives national recognition



A student celebrates as he receives his "We are Wasatch" medal.

Hard work at Wasatch Elementary paid off recently with the school's recognition as a National Title I Distinguished School.



The recognition follows the school's efforts to close the achievement gap among its students.

A recent assembly celebrated the recognition. Each student received a medal to help them remember they are each a part of a great school.



Kindergarten students join in on a cheer for Wasatch Elementary. The school was recognized as a National Title I Distinguished School.



Principal Robert Kinghorn presents a medal to a student after the student spoke about what "We are Wasatch" means to him.



Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen congratulates the students on their hard work.