



District celebrates accreditation

Team praises innovation, gives district high marks on 30 standards

Davis School District has once again achieved systemwide K-12 accreditation and is still the only school district in the state to hold such a designation.

The accreditation comes after an 18-member AdvancED accreditation team spent four days in October observing 255 classrooms and interviewing more than 700 people, including students, parents, community members and district personnel.

And while the national average of AdvancED’s “Index of Education Quality” rating ranges from 278 to 283, it handed the Davis School District a rating of 339 — a 53-point gain since the district’s original systemwide accreditation in 2014.

As a matter of fact, out of 31 separate standards covering Leadership Capacity, Learning Capacity and Resource



A member of the accreditation team speaks with a student about a book.

Capacity, the district, in its 2019 accreditation, achieved ratings of:

- “Impacting” in 17 areas — AdvancED’s highest possible rating
- “Improving” in 13 areas
- “Initiating” in just one area

AdvancED also uses a standard of “insufficient,” which it did not find in any area.

“Everything that leads up to this data leads back to where the rubber meets the road, which is the classroom visits and what they

saw with our teachers in

the classroom,” said Superintendent Reid Newey during a recent meeting of the Davis School District Board of Education. “I felt like that is what put us over the edge in the accreditation process.”

The district first achieved systemwide K-12 accreditation through AdvancED five years ago. Prior to that time,

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After-school director writes script for movie

Students in the Adelaide Elementary Tigers After School (TASK) program got a unique experience when they took a field trip down to Salt Lake City to see a movie written by their After-School Director, Kristyn Crow.

The animated feature “Accidental Astronauts,” which teaches children basic concepts of space, was released in 2016 and plays every day at the Clark Planetarium.

Crow is a children’s book author in the national market, including the “Zombelina” series, “Skeleton Cat” and “Hello, Hippo! Goodbye, Bird.” From her connections, she was asked to write a movie to help children learn about the earth, moon and sun.

“The challenge was that I had a list of about 50 concepts the movie had to tackle, so I had to write a screenplay that had characters, an engaging plot, and humor, while still demonstrating

these principles,” said Crow.

“For example, we wanted to demonstrate that the earth is round, the moon orbits the earth, and the earth orbits the sun. We wanted to show that stars are like the earth’s sun, show how gravity works, the phases of the moon and how eclipses happen. However, we wanted a fun space adventure rather than a documentary.”

Crow said working on the script
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Theme encourages all to 'Be the One,' make difference

Happy New Year and welcome to a new decade in education! Davis School District saw unprecedented student success in the previous 10 years, and we look forward to more of the same in the next decade.



Newey

Be the One is the theme for Davis School District. This means that every team member looks for and takes the opportunity to "Be the One" for someone each day. Whether it be another adult they encounter or a particular student, we as a team have committed to make a difference in the lives of others.

One mother noted a DSD team member, Rick Walker, making a difference in her son's life this past year by going out of his way, as the head custodian, to relate to her first-grade son who has struggled with school both academically and socially.



Some of the things the mother said were, "...my son didn't like to go to school and had a hard time making friends. Once there, he was fine, but getting him to school was a constant battle.... until he found Rick Walker, the head custodian. At the time, my son loved keys and would collect keys. He liked to hold keys and play

with them. There is one person in the school who has a lot of keys and that is the custodian. Somehow my son met Mr. Walker and Mr. Walker became his motivation for everything. My son had a whole team of people that were 'The One' for him, but Mr. Rick Walker was "The One" that made a huge difference in his life and as a result in our family's life!"

We invite all to join with Davis School District team members and look to "Be the One" for someone this year, to be kinder, more understanding and loving, to go out of our way to make that little difference that we all need to have a better, more fulfilling life. Have a great 2020 and welcome back to school.

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involved numerous meetings at Clark Planetarium with the animators and production teams. Her initial idea started from notes she took during the meetings, which she then developed into plot points for the script.

"During the process, I made new friends and felt like I was part of a collaborative creative effort," said Crow. "My experience as a picture book author helped, because I'm used to writing for visual action."

The process wasn't without challenges. Several of the early ideas had to be scrapped because of the perspective in the planetarium's dome theater. "Too much action can make for a headache, so it was a trial and error process getting the amount of action in the script just right," Crow said.

Since Crow works in the after-school program, she can write early in the day before her afternoon job working with students. Taking her students on a field trip



Kristyn Crow poses with Adelaide Elementary students from the after-school program. Crow wrote the script for Clark Planetarium's "Accidental Astronauts."

to see the movie helped bring her two careers together for a few hours.

Seeing the movie was an adventure for fourth-grader Christopher, who said: "It was cool! My favorite part was when the robot kids traveled to space and saw the sun up close."

Davis School District

45 E. State Street
Farmington, Utah 84025

www.davis.k12.ut.us

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Kudos to staff, students and volunteers



Asst. Superintendent Logan Toone, Board Vice President Liz Mumford and Board Member Brigit Gerrard accept the Employer of the Year Award.

- **Davis School District** was named Employer of the Year by the Davis Chamber of Commerce.

- **Layton Elementary** will be one of 10 schools to participate in the 2020 Leadership Challenge for Elementary Schools. The school was chosen to participate for their dedication to principle-centered leadership education. The event will consist of students competing in various case competitions and group leadership challenges.

Kay's Creek Elementary became the second school in Utah to receive the Microsoft Corporation Showcase School designation. [A video about the designation can be viewed here.](#)

- Five secondary students were recognized for their artistic contributions in this year's Board of Education greeting card contest. The winning painting was submitted by **Northridge High Junior Jetta Lebaron**. Her picture adorned the greeting cards sent out by the Board of Education. **Chloe Stewart, a senior at Clearfield High**, won second place with her entry. The third-place entry went to **Morgan Bailey, a junior at Northridge High**. Honorable mentions go to **Ariana Bevan, sophomore at Clearfield High** and **Makenna Ingersoll, a sophomore at Northridge High**.

- **Farmington High School's Cross Country** team had a phenomenal 2019 season as 5A State Champions, Region 5 Champions, Davis District Champions and fifth place at Nike Cross Regionals Southwest (two spots away from qualifying for nationals). The team ranked in the national top 25 twice during the season.

- Director of Davis Adult and Community Education **Marci Flocken** was honored with the 2019 School Spirit Award, presented by Hustle University.

- Layton High Digital Media students took first and second place in the Better Business Bureau video competi-

tion this year. The CEO, Jane Rupp, presented the students with their awards. The first-place video, "The Cruise Scammer," by **Todd Farnsworth, Boston Painter and Talon Stats**, earned the school a check for \$2,500 and \$500 for the students. Second place, "The BBB Undercover Strike Team," by **Andrew Barss** was awarded \$1,000 for the school and \$250 to the student. **Eric Scholer** is the Digital Media instructor for the class.

- The **Farmington High DECA** received the first-place chapter award at DECA Regions 2020.

- **Tolman Elementary volunteer Oswaldo (Ozzy) Demoura** was recognized as a recipient of the UServeUtah Member of the Year award. Ozzy helps students build their reading skills and coordinates a group of AmeriCorps volunteers at the school.



Oswaldo Demoura receives the UServeUtah Member of the Year Award.

- The Davis County Storm Water Coalition gave out awards to the top entries in their ad competition to educating the public about the importance of water quality and preventing storm water pollution in Davis County. Winners include: **Riley Duggar at Bountiful High, Owen Nielson at Centennial Junior High, Owen Jordan and Brock Deru at Fairfield Junior High, Roman Stephens and Liam Beach at Millcreek Junior High, Brinley Lawson, Lily Heslop, Ally Hansen, Clark Hixson and Elijah Brough at Shoreline Junior High and Zowee Finch at Syracuse High.**

- **Van Price**, Farmington High girls basketball coach, now touts the most wins in the state over his career. His 501st win came during the game against Viewmont High School. Price coached girls basketball at Layton High School for 31 years before moving to Farmington.

ACCREDITATION, From Pg. 1

only the district's secondary schools were accredited. Now, district leaders have chosen to seek systemwide accreditation, which involves its 90

schools being reviewed and rated by an outside educational organization.

Members of the 18-person accreditation team hailed from Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and Utah. The team was

made up of experts in K-12 and higher education leadership, counseling, CTE, curriculum, data, instruction, library media, music, personnel, professional development, STEM, teacher education and technical education.



All SMILES

Going to the dentist for the first time for a kindergartner can be a little scary.

But for students leaving the makeshift dental office at Sunset Elementary, it was all smiles.

Maybe it was the sticker and colorful bag of dental supplies each student received. Or it might have been the way Dental Hygienist Emma DeGrange explained each tool and procedure.

The dental care is provided by Smart Smiles, an oral health program. Teams visit schools a few times throughout the year and are able to see about 10 students over the span of the school day. The program just started at about five schools in the district this year.

Principal Jodi Rees said parents and students love that the cleanings, X-rays and other preventative dental care take place right at the school.

“The kids, they love it,” Rees said. “They feel special when they come because they get one-on-one attention. The ladies that come just treat our kids like kings and queens when they are here.”



Dental Hygienist Emma DeGrange explains what the tool in her hand will do to the student's teeth. Above, the sealant is placed on a student's teeth.



A student explains why she is choosing a certain color of toothbrush.



Dental Hygienist Emma DeGrange explains to a student what she sees on the X-ray.