



## Schools host regional LIA conference

The media center at West Point Junior High School is generally a happy place where students like to congregate. This day, the center has a festive atmosphere.

It's a setting for a portion of the Utah North Region of the Latinos in Action (LIA) Leadership Conference. Dr. Jose Enriquez, CEO/Founder of LIA, has a small audio-visual team with him in the media center.

Sporting his signature bow tie, Enriquez, who was born in El Salvador and grew up in East Los Angeles, is being broadcast live to other schools in the region. A graduate of BYU, he began the LIA program two decades ago.

After he introduces the theme of the 2021 conference as "Be the Change," a few minutes is given to Davis School District Superintendent Reid Newey and Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen, who address all the students from the West Point media center.

Next on the TV screen is U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona. He's providing the keynote address. He's a former elementary school teacher, principal, commissioner of education in Connecticut and the first Hispanic to serve as the nation's top educator. He grew up in public housing and began school speaking only Spanish.

One of the 20 West Point Junior High School students listening to Cardona is eighth-grader Glade Fessler. The soft-spoken and friendly student is the incoming SBO president for the 2021-22 school year.

"Latinos in Action has helped me a lot," Fessler says.

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A student at Woods Cross High School performs during the Utah North Region LIA Leadership Conference.

### Superintendency Message

## Graduates remind us how adversity creates growth

The month of June. A time of transition from last school year to next school year.

The days of the endless summer. Family vacations, long days of sunlight, summer camps, ballgames, farmers markets, the list goes on and on. One thing is certain, there is nothing like the feeling of ending one school year with the summer stretching out ahead.

This past week, we had the pleasure of attending the graduations of our seniors. The Class of 2021 will certainly have many stories to tell about their senior year. Through the many student speech-



Zurbuchen

es, the common themes of meeting a challenge, handling adversity, moving forward, and serving others rang clear and true. Leave it to our young adults to provide the perspective of hope that we leave this school year better for the trials we have endured.

The focus was less on what was potentially lost and more on what was

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## CONFERENCE, From Pg. 1

“We have just done so many different things. ... Mr. Bradshaw (the school’s LIA advisor) always encourages us to always try our hardest. When I first came in, I was a little nervous about LIA because it was brand new for me and I didn’t know what to do.

“But Mr. Bradshaw helped me get out of my comfort zone and taught me a lot, he says. “He taught me a lot about self-confidence, to be kind and outgoing to everyone you meet, no matter their background, no matter their ethnicity, no matter what they look like.”

As the morning live broadcast concludes, Enriquez and his AV crew quickly break down the equipment for their afternoon live broadcast — 24 miles to the south at Woods Cross High School.

As they do that, Bradshaw speaks about how the conference day will proceed, sharing details about workshops entitled “The Power of Self-Resilience,” “Goal Setting and Its Importance” and “Superman Has Nothing on You.” Representatives of Goldman Sachs teach the classes.

Other workshops, including, “What Does it Mean to Be College Ready?” “Preparing and Paying for College” and “Mental Health and Personal Development,” are to be taught by representatives of Utah Valley University, Florida Atlantic University and Utah State University.

Fessler says LIA has really changed his outlook.

“I know some people have to work harder than me, and that I can help them,” he says. “Even just a small simple thing like an act of kindness may help someone.”

LIA offers an asset-based approach to bridging the graduation and opportunity gap for Latino students, working from within the educational system to create positive change. The end goal of everything done in the course is to empower Latino youth to lead and strengthen their communities through college and career readiness.

That afternoon in the little theatre at Woods Cross High School, Enriquez and his AV crew start the second live broadcast of the conference. While students from Woods Cross are joined in the space by south-end junior high schools in Davis School District, students from other northern Utah school districts are participating via Zoom.

Woods Cross High School Senior Juliana Garcia, who serves as the president of her school’s LIA Club, addresses the gathering, as do a host of others. A singer and dancers also hit the stage.

Then filmmaker Eduardo Chávez — grandson of both the legendary civil rights activist Cesar Chávez (on his father’s side) and the Cuban revolutionary Max Lesnik (on his mother’s side) — addresses attendees and takes part in a live Q&A about his film “Hailing Cesar.”



Dr. Jose Enriquez, CEO/Founder of LIA, speaks to the students in-person and joining virtually during the conference.

Enriquez also announces a host of awards to students and schools from throughout the Utah North Region.

“LIA has helped me in many different ways,” Garcia says. “It definitely shaped my identity and helped me be proud of who I am.”

She explains she’ll be attending Weber State in the fall to pursue medicine. She wants to be a role model for others and looks forward to serving fellow Hispanics.

“I’m just really happy that LIA has changed my life completely and it’s definitely made me proud of who I am,” Garcia says.

“It’s helped a lot because sometimes you’ll go to school with a lot of people and you’ll feel intimidated,” she adds. “But when you come to LIA, you feel like this is home.”

LIA awards received by district schools and students during the conference:

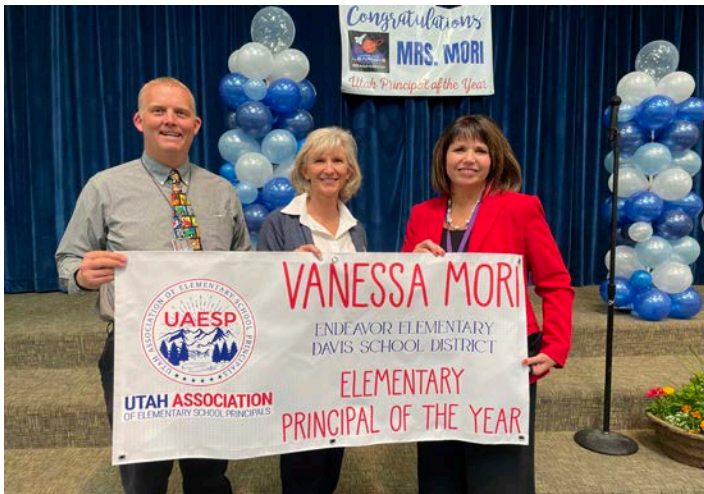
- Gold Award — Bountiful, Davis, Layton, Northridge, Syracuse and Woods Cross high schools; Central Davis, Mueller Park, North Davis, South Davis and West Point junior highs.
- Silver Award — Clearfield High and North Layton Junior High
- Bronze Award — Sunset Junior High
- Short Film Competition — Second place: Agustina Tellachea and Matthew Cuning, West Point Junior High; Third place: Radley Bradshaw, West Point Junior High
- Sam and Diane Stewart Family Foundation writing competition — First place: Mariangel Carta, Layton High School
- LIA Scholarship Award — First place: Ana Paula Mendez-Alvarez, Layton High School

**Davis School District**

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# District applauds students, staff for achievements



Endeavour Elementary Principal Vanessa Mori poses for a picture after learning she is Utah's National Distinguished Principal.

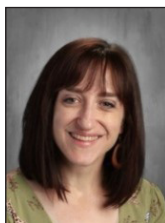
Endeavour Elementary Principal Vanessa Mori was named Utah's National Distinguished Principal. She will represent Utah in Washington, D.C., along with 50 other principals from around the nation.

Central Davis Junior High Student Lydia Garza was named state champion in the state history fair competition.

The Sorensen Legacy Foundation presented Woods Cross High Teacher Todd Campbell the Arts Teacher of the Year award.

Several students were honored in the Davis County Storm Water Coalition contest — First place: Allie Johansen, Centennial Junior High; Second place: Cody Brown, Layton High, Emersen Ingebretsen, Davis High; Third place — Susan Lamb, Centerville Junior High, Ivy Trump, Centerville Junior High, Avery Kemeny, Shoreline Junior High, Sophie Kemeny, Kay's Creek Elementary, Kayli Kemeny, Kay's Creek Elementary, Jaylee Bouwhuis, North Davis Junior High, Ryann Walton, Centennial Junior High, Tayson Wardle, Centerville Junior High.

Angela Stewart at Centennial Junior High has been selected as a finalist for the



Stewart

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) for 2021 in secondary science.

Farmington Junior High Jazz Ensemble was selected by the Downbeat Magazine as the Outstanding Junior High/Middle School Jazz Ensemble in the country, the second time in three years the band has earned the honor.

The Davis High girls golf team won the state 6A golf championship.

Several students were selected as National Merit Scholar winners — Tyler Trommlitz, Northridge High School; Brydie Sigg, Davis High School; Aryanna Holmes, Woods Cross High.

Squid Picnic from Bountiful High was selected as the winning band in the Utah PTA Battle of the Bands. Talyn



Brady



Garlick

Robertson from Layton High took third place in the open mike division.

Brynn Brady of Davis High received best actress and Taylor Garlick of Farmington High received best actor

in the Utah High School Musical Theatre Awards.

Woods Cross Elementary Custodian Lauren Olsen was recognized as the Big Sky Women's Field Athlete of the Week for her performance in the javelin.

Davis School District has half of the state's 16 STEM-designated platinum schools (the highest rating available) — Bountiful Junior High and Canyon Creek, Endeavour, Odyssey, Stewart, Vae View, West Bountiful and Windridge elementary schools. Valley View Elementary is also a STEM-designated silver school.

Several teams from Davis School District placed in the state VEX Robotics Competition — Tournament Champions: Cady Cooper Party of 5 Team, Davis High; Excellence Award: Proximity Fuse Team, Davis High; Teamwork Champion Awards — Checkmate Team, Kaysville Junior High, Dominators Team, Windridge Elementary

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## GRADUATES, From Pg. 1

gained. Each obstacle was an opportunity to grow and learn, to come out of the situation better than we entered. The belief that we have actually benefited from the past 15 months was clear among our senior speakers.

Mya Semmerling from Northridge High School delivered an address founded on the Robert Frost poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay." Yet, from

a chemical standpoint, she challenged the idea, rightly stating that gold as an element is relatively unreactive and resists degradation by air, moisture or acidic conditions. Also, gold is the most malleable element. Her address summarized by stating that our graduates are gold and perhaps can stay that way, challenging the point made by Frost's poem.

Mya could not have been more on target. Through the experiences of this

past year, we have all become gold, flexible and adaptable, yet resistant and unreactive to our core beliefs. Those core beliefs of compassion, growth through adversity, belief in a better day ahead all remain unchanged, yet shaped by our past experiences.

Enjoy the summer. You all deserve it!

— John Zurbuchen,  
Assistant Superintendent

# District awards 40 Best of Davis winners

Congratulations go out to the 40 Best of Davis Award winners. The Best of Davis Award is the highest recognition given to the top educators and support personnel in the Davis School District. Awardees were chosen from hundreds of nominations sent in by coworkers, supervisors, parents and students. The nomination, application and endorsements were reviewed and scored by a committee and then the final selections were made.

The list of winners includes 15 elementary educators, 15 secondary educators and 10 support personnel. The 40 will be celebrated by a small group at their work location. Each will receive a plaque, yard sign, jacket and a monetary gift thanks to the sponsorship of Chevron and Hogan and Associates Construction.

The awardees are:

Elementary teachers — Cindy Braegger, Mountain View Elementary; Brittany Goddard, Bountiful Elementary; Tiffany Hatch, S. Clearfield Elementary; Marilee Hullinger, Holbrook Elementary; Samantha Johnson, Cook Elementary; Catherine Kelly, West Bountiful Elementary; Ann Kutterer, Syracuse Elementary; Joshua Law, Heritage Elementary; Valerie Lindeman, Canyon Creek Elementary;

Kimberly Mills, Taylor Elementary; Patrick Peery, Wasatch Elementary; Linda Peterson, Knowlton Elementary; Courtney Pirouznia, Odyssey Elementary; Sarah Smith, Davis Connect-Elementary; and Vicky Smith, Muir Elementary.

Secondary teachers — Jeffrey Agnello, Davis High; Kristie Bennington, Shoreline Jr High; Kasey Bradbury, Bountiful Junior High; Noelle Britte, Woods Cross High; Kirsten Gunderson, Clearfield High; Iain Harvey, North Davis Junior High; Heather Holty, Mueller Park Junior High; Jodi Hutchinson, North Davis Junior High; Steve Jorgensen, Fairfield Junior High; Becky Perkins, Legacy Junior High; Eric Pratt, Farmington Junior High; Jenne Talbot, Clearfield High; Haylie Tracy, West Point Junior High; Kristin Van Brunt, Viewmont High; and Heath Wolf, Farmington Junior High.

Support Staff — Andrew Beck, Technology Integration Center; Tamara Bradford, Vista Education Campus; Ted Froisland, Data Processing Department; Margo Hill, Health And Nursing Services; Amanda Horne, Family Enrichment Center; Jodi Mills, Windridge Elementary; Amei Owen, Related Services; Vicky Stewart, Renaissance Academy; Danielle Summers, Evaluation & Quality Staffing; and Travis Warnick, Syracuse Junior High.

## ACHIEVEMENTS, From Pg. 3



Anna Zimmer was awarded Custodian of the Year for the district.

High and Blue Hippos, Burton Elementary; Teamwork Third place: Dark Matter Team, Syracuse Junior High, Woods Cross Wolverines Team, Woods Cross Elementary and The Chillers Team, Creekside Elementary; Innovate Award: Jarvis Team, Bountiful Junior High; Judges Award: YouJustGotVectored Team, Davis High, Think Award — The Yetis Team, Heritage Elementary.

Anna Zimmer, Facility Manager at Stewart Elementary, was awarded Custodian of the Year for the district.

Davis, Viewmont and Woods Cross high schools are among the top 20 high schools in Utah, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Three students from Davis School District placed in the national PTA Reflections finals — Award of Excel-

and South Clearfield Skynet Team, South Clearfield Elementary; Teamwork Second place: Plague Tech, Syracuse Junior

lence; Brooke Lemon (Literature), Foxboro Elementary, Award of Merit — Ethan Rodabough (Music Composition), Millcreek Junior High and Jason Hayes (Film Production), Centennial Junior High.

Adrienne Scott-Ellis, Doxey Elementary, was presented with the Robert “Archie” Archuleta UEA Human and Civil Rights Award for 2021 for her nonprofit organization, Sowing Seeds of Change, which established a community garden that donates its harvest.

In the month of May, the Board of Education of the Davis School District recognized Kay’s Creek Elementary Teacher Jen Johnson and Syracuse Elementary School Teacher Shaney Kingsbury.

The top finalists who placed in the Davis School District spelling bee — First place: Andy Lee, Mountain View Elementary, Second place: Julia Van Orman, Valley View Elementary, Third place: Peter Koecher, Davis Connect.



Lee