



# Uniquely Davis

## Board appoints new superintendent

### Linford vows to work alongside teachers, administrators in doing what is best for students

**V**owing to do his part in continuously working on improvements in education, Dr. Daniel R. Linford accepted the appointment as the 19th superintendent to lead the Davis School District.

The Board of Education unanimously ratified Linford as the next superintendent during a special meeting April 20. Linford succeeds Reid Newey, who announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Linford currently serves as a secondary school director in the Davis School District.

Linford became emotional as he thanked his district family and his immediate family, including wife Shanna.

“I want to express great appreciation and gratitude for

those who work in schools, who work directly in schools — our principals and our assistant principals, our interns and the many wonderful people who make the schools go,” he said. “And most of all I want to thank our teachers – our

teachers who go to war every day and give all that they can and most of the time go home and wish they could have done more....”

“They exemplify our rallying cry, Learning First,” he added. “And to the students and their families. ... We do everything we do for you and you’re worth every bit of the effort and more. Davis School District has an incredibly bright future and I’m so happy to be a part of that.”

Choosing the next superintendent was a rigorous process, Board President John Robison said. It included

community input on the qualities the board should look for, stakeholder reviews of all of the applications and portfolios and interviews by the entire Board.

**See SUPERINTENDENT, Pg. 2**



Dr. Daniel Linford was appointed as the 19th superintendent of the Davis School District during a special Board Meeting on April 20.

## Newey thanks great staff for time working together

*“I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.”*

— Thoreau

**T**hese were the words of philosopher Henry David Thoreau during his stay on Walden Pond in 1845. This quote from Thoreau has been my educational mantra. This is what education can be for all of us. The opportunity to elevate our lives and the lives of those we serve!



As my time as Superintendent ends, I want to take this opportunity to offer my deep and sincere gratitude for the chance I have had to serve the great staff, students and families that make up Davis School District.

I have been so honored and so

fulfilled to be able to work with the greatest, the very greatest people in the world, and to take on the worthwhile task of educating the youth of Davis County.

I love each person in this district and consider myself a better man, an elevated man, for having the opportunity to collaborate with the wonderful team members of Davis District. Thank you for your patience with me and your dedication to kids.

I would like to give special thanks

**See GRATITUDE, Pg. 2**

---

## GRATITUDE, From Pg. 1

to the members of the Superintendency, Dr. Jackie Thompson, John Zurbuchen, Craig Carter, and Dr. Logan Toone for their service as a leadership group, for their example and friendship.

Victoria Hansen, my administrative assistant has been fantastic to work with as has Chris Williams, Director of Communications, and all DSD's great administrative staff.

I want to thank my wife Sue and my own children, Mitch (Whitney), Luke (Heather) and Tess (Austin) for their uncompromising love and support.

Once again, thank you to all the phenomenal team members of Davis School District and our great Board of Education (President John Robison, Vice President Marie Stevenson, Brigit Gerrard, Julie Tanner, Liz Mumford, Cheryl Phipps, and Gordon Eckersley) for your support, love, and dedication. With great love and respect!

---

## SUPERINTENDENT, From Pg. 1

"Linford is highly qualified and well-respected in DSD and across the state for his work ethic and academic rigor," the Board said in a prepared statement. "He has applied his teaching and administrative experience to support schools across the district in his director role. We see Linford as an innovative leader who will utilize his communication skills and open-minded approach to be a problem-solver and relationship builder."

With 23 years of experience in education, Linford began his educational career as an English teacher in 1999 at Viewmont High. In 2005, Linford moved into an administrative role as the assistant principal at VHS and then principal in 2011. He has served as a secondary director since 2016. He is also a product of the Davis School District, graduating from Clearfield High School.

His bachelor's degree is in English teaching from Weber State University and a master's degree and doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy from University of Utah.

"The board recognizes the unique challenges of our time and expects leadership that is accountable and equitable in working with all stakeholders. We look forward to continued excellence and progress in Davis District with Linford's collaborative leadership and commitment to

# District announces top employees

Congratulations go out to Best of Davis Award winners, the highest recognition given to the top educators and support personnel in the Davis School District.

The awardees are:

**Elementary Educators** — Kamie Allen, Layton; Christie Bouy, Windridge; Abigail Bush, Syracuse; Sasha Buttars, Holbrook; Julie Carling, East Layton; Amy Christensen, Snow Horse; Julie Dixon, Bountiful; Kathryn Erickson, Taylor; Taralyn Hadley, Endeavour; Kimberly Martin, Kay's Creek; Tanyss Spicer, Sunburst; Lisa Sweeten, Windridge; Julie Thomas, Burton; Mackenzie Wintle, Sand Springs; and Rachel Wright, Davis Connect K-6.

**Secondary Educators** — Aimee Anderson, Farmington Junior; Susan Arnita, Syracuse Junior; Jennifer Baker, Sunset Junior; Andrew Bird, Woods Cross High; Adam Blundell, Farmington High; Justin Christopherson,

Syracuse Junior; Jessica Heck, Legacy Junior; Lynaya Hernandez, Clearfield High; Jessica Holtry, Northridge High; Kirstan Johnson, Shoreline Junior; Helen Keddington, Millcreek Junior; Brent Mcknight, Catalyst Center; Bo Roundy, Davis High; Carrie Sonntag, Bountiful Junior; and Amy Wright, Shoreline Junior.

### Classified Support —

Julie Fleming, Holbrook Elem.; Marci Jefferies, New Construction; Laura Jenkins, Bountiful Elem.; Kathy Luke, Foxboro Elem.; Jennifer Manning, Accounting; Shanda Parkinson, Family Enrichment Center; Lani Porter, Davis Connect; Brian Roundy, Maintenance; Kori Solis, Parkside Elem.; and Todd Teasdale, Clearfield High.

### Instructional Support —

Sarah Fager, Legacy Junior; Courtney Geisler, Kay's Creek Elem.; James Gordon, Vista Education Campus; Matthew Timothy, Technology Integration Center; and Peter Vanderlinden, Assessment.



student achievement," the Board of Education said in its prepared statement.

Addressing some of those challenges, including the recent settlement with the Department of Justice, Linford said it will take a community effort to move forward.

"I'm excited to step in the role at this time," he said. "I recognize the challenges and I think we see those challenges all across the country. I think we see some unrest around the world and certainly around the country and certainly within Davis County. I'm glad to be part of the solution."

Linford considers himself a lifelong learner and said he will approach this new role with that same mindset of continuous improvement.

"The most important measure of my success is how students feel in school. And the most important measure of my success is how students feel about their education," he said. "I think the most important thing we can offer to all students of all backgrounds is a world-class education. I believe what Horace Mann said that education is the great equalizer. I think there is nothing better we could do for students, for families of all backgrounds, than just provide an incredible education."

Linford will officially step into the role on July 1. He will take the oath of office during the regular Board of Education meeting in mid-June.

# Employees, students honored for achievements

• The Davis School District Board of Education recognized **Tiffany Caruthers** from South Davis Junior High, **Kavenie Newhart** from Morgan Elementary and **Tim Bircumshaw** from Crestview Elementary school for dedication to students in the district.

• Viewmont Vykelles' Coach **Kayla Bagshaw** received the 5A Coach of the Year award.

• The **Woods Cross High Boys Basketball** team received second place in the state championship tournament.

• Several students became state wrestling champions in their weight class: 5A Girls - **Karla Padilla-Zepeda**, Northridge High; 5A Boys - **Moses Espinoza-Owens**, Viewmont High; **Marcus Espinoza-Owens**, Viewmont High; **Cash Henderson**, Woods Cross High; 6A Girls - **Kristina Kent**, Davis High; Marlie Rigby, Layton High; 6A Boys - Kael Bennie, Layton High; Sam May, Farmington High; Geronimo Rivera Jr., Layton High.

• West Point Junior Latinos in Action students **Lindsay Brown** and **Junior Vazquez** won second and third place West Point's annual Why I Love My City Essay Contest.

• Latinos in Action students received several awards at the Weber State University LIA Conference — Short Film: first place — **Radley Bradshaw**, West Point Junior High; Visual Arts: second place — **Janeth Amaya**, Northridge High and third place - **Elizabeth Astroga Luna**, Mueller Park Junior High; Writing Competition: second place, **Haley Tovar**, Davis High; Performing Arts: first place — **Yami Compos**, Woods Cross High and third place - Syracuse High LIA class choreography



Reid

• **Joy Reid** at Syracuse High was honored with the Latinos in Action Teacher of the Year award.

• The University of Utah Board of Trustees announced that **Dr. Jacqueline Thompson** will receive an honorary doctorate degree from the university this year for her role as assistant superintendent of the Davis School District.

Thompson is recognized as a longtime public educator and leader of statewide multicultural and diversity initiatives.

• Two of the 2022 Wasatch Front Region Sterling Scholar finalists hailed from Davis School District — **Shelby McDonald** from Viewmont High was named a state sterling scholar in Dance and **Stella Wadsworth** from Viewmont High received state runner up in English.

• Northridge High teacher **Kyle Guymon** recently received the top teachers award — the Regina Brown Teaching Award — at the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference. Guymon also received the Richard Notkin Teacher Award and the Daniel Rhodes award.

• The mock trial teams from **Central Davis Junior**

**High and Legacy Junior High** competed in the state semi-finals. Central Davis Junior High's team moved onto the state championship, where they placed second in the junior high division. **Mackenzie Heffner**, CDJH, won the courtroom artist competition, and the champion journalist was **Lilikoi Nilsson** from Mueller Park Junior High.

• Ellison Park Elementary Principal **David Pendergast** has been elected to serve as the Vice President of the Utah Association of Elementary School Principals.



Pendergast

• Teams from Davis School District received top placements during the Utah Color Guard Circuit state competition, including all three teams from the Viewmont High region receiving championship titles for their respective divisions. Scholastic Intermediate A Division — **Viewmont High Varsity Color Guard**, first place; **Davis High Color Guard**, second place. Scholastic Regional A Advance Division — **Viewmont High JV Color Guard**, first place. Junior Regional Intermediate Division — **Viewmont Junior High Color Guard**, first; **Centennial Junior High Color Guard**, second.

• Syracuse High student **Cristian Rojas** was named the District Multilingual Learner Student of the Year.

• **Braden Farnes** and **Abby Lusk**, Farmington High, were finalists of the Utah Entrepreneurship Challenge sponsored by Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute of University of Utah and received a \$1,000 housing scholarship.

• **Centennial Junior High's National Academic League team** is now the reigning national champion after beating out Snowcrest Junior High in the NAL finals.

• **Team Eat My Bubbles 4.0** with team members from Northridge High and Sunset Junior High has qualified for the second time to compete at the Seaperch International Competition this June at the University of Maryland.

• Several Davis School District students received top awards in the Ritchey Science & Engineering Fair and will compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair — **Josh Hilbig**, Farmington High; **Glenn Thanaphone Shields**, Syracuse High; **Sabrina DiBello** and **Fletcher Murray**, Woods Cross High; **Brady Hill** and **Mason Hymas**, Shoreline Junior High; **Denali Isaacs**, West Point Junior High.

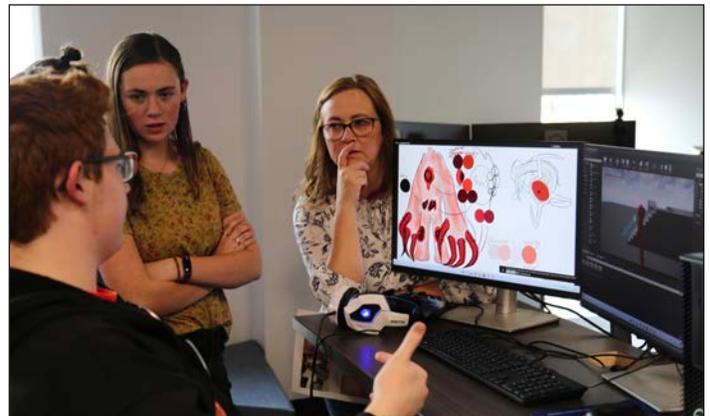
• Two high school seniors from Davis School District were selected as outstanding Career and Technical Education students in the state. **Macy Jensen**, Bountiful High and **Chole Davis**, Syracuse High each received scholarship awards from the Utah State Board of Education for their CTE endeavors.

# Welcome to Catalyst Center



Students and staff members welcome the community to the Catalyst Center with a ceremonial open house.

A medical assistant student takes the blood pressure of another student. Medical Assisting is one of the many pathways students can pursue at the Catalyst Center.



During the Catalyst Center open house, current students had the opportunity to show visitors their projects. The Computer Science pathway includes game design, advanced programming and cybersecurity.

## High school students experience real-world learning

The vision of a center where students can have real-world experiences as they work with industry partners, culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Catalyst Center in Kaysville.

Students, parents, district administrators, community leaders and other dignitaries gathered at the center, which focuses on Career and Technical Education pathways and allows students to work on advanced projects in partnerships with real-world businesses.

Speaking of the many people who

took the idea of a CTE center into a state-of-the art facility, Superintendent Reid Newey talked about a construction sign that said “Finishers Wanted.”

“I’m not into credit, I’m into finishing, ...” Newey said. “I think that’s important. I always kind of operate from the standpoint of ideas are easy and finishing is hard. We are fortunate to have the gamut of those people (here).”

Catalyst Center Director Brian Hunt said students and faculty have already made the school successful since its opening in January. He

invited attendees to explore the center, observe the students and inquire about their projects.

“This is a special place and it’s unique,” Center Director Brian Hunt said. “... I don’t have an assistant principal, I have a business development coordinator, someone who works to facilitate relationships with our students and faculty and industry. We don’t have a soccer coach, we have a professional skills development coach, who helps our students understand the professional skills they need to succeed in the workplace.”