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For Immediate Release

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USBE Honors 13 Utah Educators and School Leaders with First Ever Science of Reading Awards

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has honored 13 Utah educators and school leaders with the first ever Science of Reading Awards. These awards were distributed to teachers and school leaders who have gone above and beyond to implement the Science of Reading through instruction and interventions. To advance reading outcomes in their schools and classrooms, these educators and school leaders have continued to examine and adjust reading instruction based on data, participated in personal learning and professional development opportunities, and worked to create a supportive culture within their schools and classrooms.

Beginning in 2021, USBE has invested in professional learning for K-3 general education teachers, special education teachers, coaches, principals, and local education agency leaders in the Science of Reading in order to improve literacy instruction and student outcomes across the state. As educators began completing their professional learning, USBE began observing classrooms across the State, looking at how that learning was being implemented.

In May of 2023, USBE created a rubric to determine the level of implementation. Those educators scoring 90% or higher were recognized with a Science of Reading Award. The recipients of this award are key to helping Utah reach its goal of 70% of third grade students reading on grade level (or more).

Please join us in celebrating the following 2023 Science of Reading Award recipients:

- Science of Reading District Leader
 - Jed Grunig, Logan School District
- Science of Reading Principal
 - Neesha Killpack, Valley View Elementary, Davis School District
- Science of Reading School Leader
 - Jenn Malan, Valley View Elementary, Davis School District
- Science of Reading Coach
 - Marisa Oviatt, Logan School District

- Harmony Langford, Guadalupe School, USBE Coach
- Science of Reading Teacher
 - Isabelle Cahoon, James Madison Elementary, Ogden School District
 - Angie Maag, Orchard Springs Elementary, Weber School District
 - Angela Bothwell, Mary Jackson Elementary, Salt Lake City School District
 - Angie Richardson, Valley View Elementary, Davis School District
 - Jen McIlrath, Valley View Elementary, Davis School District
 - Mindy Simon, Valley View Elementary, Davis School District
 - Trudi Brown, Valley View Elementary, Davis School District
 - Wendy Cowan, Valley View Elementary, Davis School District

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