

URBAN INSTITUTE FOR  
TEACHER EDUCATION

UITE

NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER  
Welcome Back  
2021  
Volume 15  
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# UITE

URBAN INSTITUTE FOR  
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## Our Mission

The mission of the UITE is to prepare educators to serve urban students and educational communities in all their rich diversity. We conceive of educational diversity as the dynamic engagement of a range of cultural and urban traditions, including individual differences in ability. Our goal is an educational process in which teachers, leaders, and teacher educators draw upon multidisciplinary research and direct urban inquiry to serve all students well.

*WE TEACH* !

*The Future of Education*



*Urban Institute for Teacher Education UITE*

*College of Education*

*801-581-7158 or uite.utah.edu*

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome Back 2021

# Welcome Back to the UITE!



Fall 2021 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> year since the Urban Institute for Teacher Education began as the operational arm for teacher education in the College of Education, at the University of Utah. Within that timeframe, no year had a more profound impact on K-20 education than the 2020/2021 academic year. Like each of you, our work shifted and our worldviews changed.

Though a time of challenge and unexpected twists and turns, we have risen to the challenge and sustained our mission in teacher education. We graduated full cohorts of elementary and secondary licensure students and proudly wished them well through an in-person graduation spectacular at Rice Eccles Stadium, spring 2021.

We are grateful to the teachers, administrators, and community members who allow us to be part of their communities. We are one in this work, and thankful for the wisdom, opportunities, and innovations that inform the preparation of future teachers.

Within this issue of the UITE Newsletter, we share the stories of our work to carry on with linkages to your communities. Your support, generosity, and interests in our work makes a crucial difference in allowing us to meet our goals for excellence in today's classrooms and schools.

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome Back 2021

## UITE Updates

### **SITE TEACHER EDUCATOR FEEDBACK SUPPORTS PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS**

In the spring of each year, the Teacher Licensure Program seeks the feedback of Site Teacher Educators (STEs) through an online survey. We view STEs as partners in teacher preparation. Their work, support, and guidance helps Teacher Candidates to become effective teachers.

The survey focus is to learn about STEs' experiences mentoring Teacher Candidates. In recent years, survey feedback has indicated that the vast majority of STEs enjoy working with University of Utah Teacher Candidates. Also, STEs generally offer high ratings to Teacher Candidates in the key teaching competencies of lesson planning, technology integration, working with Language Learners, classroom management, behavior management, and assessment. We also learned from the feedback surveys that STEs seek more collaboration with University Supervisors and Cohort Leaders. We appreciate the feedback in our efforts toward continuous program improvement.

### **UITE OFFERED APPEL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES SUMMER 2021**

This summer the UITE welcomed educators from across the valley for our Alternative Pathway to Professional Educator (APPEL) Workshop series. The APPEL program reflects a transition from the Alternative Routes to Licensure program through the USBE. This is the second year classes were offered fully online. Participants enrolled in any combination of classes for beginning teachers in K-6 classrooms in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. Teachers from 12 school districts as well as 9 charter and private schools attended the courses. We even had two parents who took the classes to better help their children during the upcoming year!

In addition to the APPEL series, a Digital Literacies workshop was offered as a partnership between the UITE, Department of English, and Digital Matters. Teachers from the Granite and Canyons school district participated in this year's virtual offering.

Finally, a partnership between the UITE, College of Engineering, and USBE resulted in a two-day workshop for educators interested in learning more about the integration of engineering principles in K-12 education. Class information for 2022 will be available in January 2022 with course registration beginning in March 2022.

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## Welcome Back 2021

## Destination CoE



Mary D. Burbank, Associate Dean  
for Teacher Education,  
Professional Development,  
Engagement and Director of UITE



Connor Warner, Career-Line Associate Professor  
Urban Institute for Teacher Education

Associate Dean and Director of UITE Mary Burbank and UITE faculty member Dr. Connor Warner have been awarded funding as part of Dean Nancy Songer's College of Education Post-Pandemic Response Initiative. Burbank and Warner's proposal, titled Destination CoE, envisions the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE) capitalizing on and further developing its capacity to impact and lead teacher learning in multiple venues across Utah, the Great Basin Region, and, eventually, the United States. The UITE has a longstanding history of a strong urban-serving elementary teacher preparation program, licensure program for K-12 teaching, and existing partnerships with public school districts and academic units across campus. A post-pandemic UITE includes a platform designed to foster pathways and connections through stronger collaboration between departments within the College of Education (CoE), departments and various units at the University of Utah, and with stakeholders across the state and region.

The four strands of Destination CoE include: 1) exploration of flexible options for delivering preservice teacher preparation; 2) development of preparation and professional development for teacher educators; 3) production of teacher preparation scholarship; and 4) positioning UITE as a vital waypoint on the pathway between P-12 schools and the University of Utah. The first year of the project will involve data gathering and outreach to educational stakeholders across the state. Funding during the first year will support a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time graduate research assistant. Jessica Totsky, a graduate student in the Department of Educational Psychology has been hired to fill this position.

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# Native Education @ the COE



Cynthia Benally, Assistant Professor  
Education Culture & Society

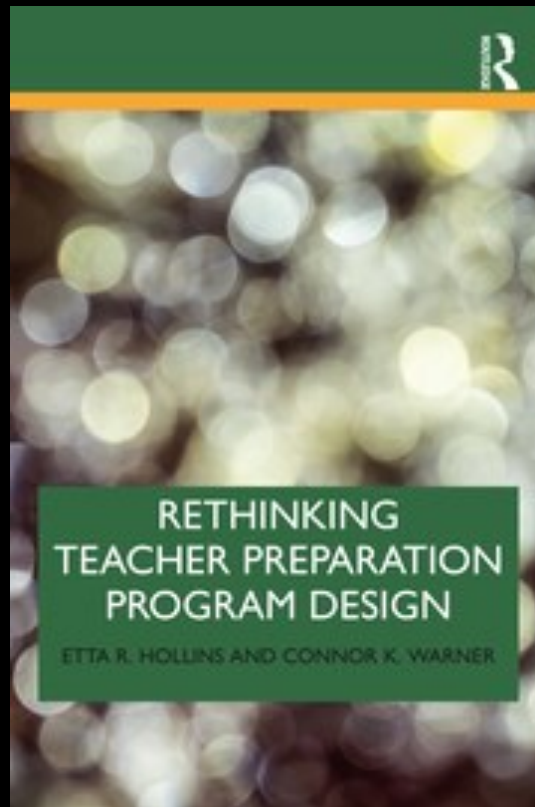


Connor Warner, Career-Line Associate Professor  
Urban Institute for Teacher Education

In July, Dr. Cynthia Benally (ECS) and Dr. Connor Warner (UITE) collaborated to offer a UITE-sponsored summer workshop for teachers called *Developing Accurate and Inclusive Understandings of Indigenous Peoples: A Curriculum Workshop for Elementary and Secondary Educators*. The workshop was held via Zoom, and 25 educators from all across Utah participated. Participants studied Native epistemologies, interrogated existing Native curriculum resources, and dialogued with Native scholars and experts from several disciplines. Guest speakers included Elizabeth Kronk Warner, Esq. (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa), Dean of the SJ Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah; Dr. Christopher Imbeau Heatwole (Quapaw Nation), science educator at Ottawa Public Schools in Ottawa, KS; Maurice Smith (Diné), Executive Director of the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake; and Damien Jones (Diné), Navajo medicine man, former high school mathematics teacher, and educational consultant on integrating Diné ceremonies and Native trades into educational curricula. This workshop is intended to be the first in a series offered by UITE, focusing on Native representation in K-12 curricula. The series is part of a larger effort led by the Native Education @ the CoE committee to improve educational outcomes and opportunities for students across the state by working collaboratively with American Indian/Alaska Native peoples, notably the eight distinct sovereign nations in Utah, to further their educational goals and self-determination.

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## New Book on Teacher Preparation Program



In May, UITE's Dr. Connor Warner and co-author Dr. Etta Hollins (Professor Emerita at the University of Missouri-Kansas City) published *Rethinking Teacher Preparation Program Design* with Routledge/Taylor Francis. The book presents a systematic approach for developing teacher preparation programs characterized by coherence, continuity, consistency, integrity, and trustworthiness, while remaining firmly grounded in collaboration between faculty, community members, and K-12 practitioners. More information on the book can be found at <https://www.routledge.com/Rethinking-Teacher-Preparation-Program-Design/Hollins-Warner/p/book/9780367713904>

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## Welcome Back 2021

## PPAT and CAEP

### **THE TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAM CHOOSES PPAT AS ITS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT!**

Effective September 1, 2021, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has mandated that all Teacher Candidates complete a pedagogical performance assessment to be eligible for professional teaching licensure in the State of Utah. The University of Utah will use the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) to meet this requirement.

PPAT evaluates Teacher Candidates on their ability to gather and analyze student data, use that data to plan instruction, assess the impact of that instruction on student learning, and reflect on the effectiveness of their teaching. It is based on InTASC standards and is aligned with the Utah Effective Teaching Standards. PPAT is externally designed and scored by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Every Teacher Candidate must complete and submit 4 PPAT Tasks to be recommended for a teaching license.

The Teacher Licensure Program has piloted PPAT for the last two years. Teacher Candidates have reported that PPAT has helped them in the areas of reflection and applying data to their work as teachers. They also said that PPAT was sometimes a challenge to their time management and data skills.

### **CAEP ACCREDITATION UPDATES**

The University of Utah's Teacher Licensure program is fully-accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for its initial licensure programs in Elementary, Secondary and Special Education. The University of Utah's program is among a select group of preparation programs in the nation with CAEP recognition.

The Teacher Licensure Program will experience its next accreditation review in 2023. Throughout this year, the Teacher Licensure Program will write a self-study report that highlights our Teacher Candidates' Content and Pedagogical Knowledge; our partnerships with P-12 students, schools, families, and communities; our systems and processes for supporting Teacher Candidates; and program impact on alumni and their students.



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## Welcome Back 2021

# Fall Newsletter Stories

### **Our Fall Newsletter will feature:**

- Teach for Utah and the Noyce Program
- Induction with First-Year Teachers
- Coaching Students Showcase their Capstone Projects
- CEEDAR and Teacher Observation Trainings
- Virtual Supervision
- Redd Center Award



## **Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarships**

*Supporting students through  
scholarship*

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## NEED TO KNOW

### **UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS DEADLINE February 1, 2022**

### **GRADUATE ADMISSION DEADLINES Fall 2021**

- Elementary/EDPS & Elementary/SPED November 1, 2021
- Secondary /ECS October 1, 2021

### **GRADUATE ADMISSION DEADLINES Spring 2022**

- Elementary & Secondary Graduate UITE February 1, 2022
- Secondary/ECS February 1, 2022
- Secondary/ELP March 1, 2022

### **SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE March 1, 2022**

Students should consult the COE scholarship page at: <https://education.utah.edu/students/scholarship-guide.php> for specific deadline and application information.

Students are encouraged to use the Teacher Education Workshop Series to help them in the admissions and scholarship processes: <https://uite.utah.edu/programs/teacher-education-workshop-series/>.

The main UITE office is located on the second floor of the Sorenson Arts and Education Complex (SAEC) Suite 2260. The office is open Monday-Friday 8-5 with staff available to answer questions and provide assistance.

### **CONTACT US**

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