



March 22, 2011

Dear Charter School Directors,

We are all engaged in the work of advancing student achievement. As the world's need for highly skilled and well-educated workers increases, and as a moral imperative, we are also engaged in the work of transforming and refining our schools to ensure that **all** students are successful. To this end, the USOE, in collaboration with the Equity Assistance Center (EAC), the Office for Civil Rights, the University of Utah, local districts, and community groups, is pleased to announce the **2011 Equity in Action Conference**.

The goal of this conference is to assist teachers, principals, district administrators, board members and parents to examine the policies, practices and programs necessary to create equitable and excellent schools. The conference will address ways to reduce and eventually eliminate achievement gaps through establishing *systemic equity*. Conference topics will center on this definition of equity:

**Education equity: the educational policies, practices, and programs necessary to**

- a) Eliminate educational barriers based on gender, race/ethnicity, national origin, color, disability, age or other protected group status; and
- b) Provide equal educational opportunities and ensure that historically underserved or underrepresented populations meet the same rigorous standards for academic performance expected of all children and youth; and
- c) Implement equity strategies which are planned, systemic, and focus on the core of the teaching and learning process (curriculum, instruction, and school environment/culture).

**The conference will be held at the University of Utah on June 10 and 11, 2011.** Friday, June 10 is geared for educators and Saturday, June 11 is geared for parents. Parallel presentations will be provided to both groups to ensure transparency in standards. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that American Express will be teaming with us to train school-based parent groups on **UtahFutures**—a statewide program aimed at empowering parents and students to make informed and timely decisions about courses and careers. Please see the enclosed information for a more detailed description of courses offered.

You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to hear from leading experts and build the capacity of your stakeholders to ensure educational excellence for all students. District directors of Title I, Title III and Title VI will also receive information about this conference. Please contact Richard Gomez, Educational Equity Section of the USOE, at (801) 538-7643 for further information.

Sincerely,

Steering Committee,  
Equity in Action Conference