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### Nebo, Provo, Alpine District Educators Named Utah Principals of the Year

SALT LAKE CITY – The principals of Nebo School District’s Salem Hills High School and Provo School District’s Dixon Middle School, along with the assistant principal of Alpine School District’s American Fork High School, were named 2017 Utah Secondary Principals of the Year by the [Utah Association of Secondary School Principals](#) in a ceremony recently in St. George.

The Utah Association of Secondary School Principals will later determine whether Salem Hills High Principal Bart Peery or Dixon Middle School Principal Jarod Sites will represent Utah in the national Secondary Principal of the Year competition. American Fork High Assistant Principal Ryan Nield will represent Utah in the Assistant Principal of the Year competition.

Peery previously worked as both assistant principal and principal at Payson High School before moving to Salem Hills High. He implemented a five-by-five modified block schedule at Salem Hills that allows additional time and resources for math students. He has also implemented a standards-based grading system at the school.

“He refuses to accept failure from any student in any aspect of life – not just academically,” said Bart Thompson, a psychology teacher and track coach at Salem Hills. “He truly believes, at his deepest core, that he can change the world and he encourages others to gain this same vision and act accordingly.”

Sites was formerly a principal at Centennial Middle School in Provo before taking over as principal at Dixon Middle School in 2011. He instituted a one-to-one device initiative at the school using iPads and adopted a pre-AP English curriculum. He also helped initiate coding classes and a new STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) cohort at the school.

“One of his highest priorities is making sure that Dixon Middle School is a safe and inviting school with high expectations for student learning,” said Dixon After School Program Professional Charity Williams. “This was not the way Dixon was always perceived.”

Nield began his career as a teacher in the Davis School District. He has been the assistant principal at American Fork High since 2007. While there, he helped implement a Tier 3 intervention program targeting credit remediation, which helped to increase graduation rates to over 96 percent.

“Ryan Nield has been our constant cheerleader and guide at American Fork High School,” said AP French teacher Rachel McFarland. “He has redefined for many of us what it means to be a progressive administrator capable of true leadership.”

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