



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

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### *Utah's Do the Write Thing Announces 2020 Youth Anti-Violence Challenge Winners*

SALT LAKE CITY – THE Utah State Board of Education (USBE) recently announced Utah's two national finalists and honored 26 junior high/middle school students as state finalists for their written anti-violence entries to Utah's 20<sup>th</sup> annual Do the Write Thing challenge as part of the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV).

Utah's national finalists' writings will be included in a book containing students' essays from all over the country that will be placed in the Library of Congress. Both finalists are eighth graders, and each won a \$500 scholarship deposit into a my529 account, gifts, and a certificate signed by Governor Gary Herbert and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. They are:

- **Caleb Buck**, Union Middle School, Canyons School District, Teacher: Krista Edwards.
- **Sophia Parsons**, Fort Herriman Middle School, Jordan School District, Teacher: Meagan Dommer.

Both national runners up are also eighth graders, and each won a \$400 scholarship

deposited into a my529 account, gifts, and a certificate. They are:

- **Nicole Empey**, South Ogden Junior High, Weber School District, Teacher: Kim Irvine.
- **Noah Walters**, North Layton Junior High, Davis School District, Teacher: Melinda Stecklein.

State finalists each received a \$300 scholarship deposited into a my529 account, gifts, and a certificate. They are:

<b>Student</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
<b>Elizabeth Arnell</b>	Cedar Middle School	Iron	Annette Black
<b>Mary Arop</b>	Roy Junior High	Weber	Maria Georgiou
<b>Evan Baker</b>	Roy Junior High	Weber	Dustin Flores
<b>Oliver Bridge</b>	Wasatch Junior High	Granite	Mindy Wallace
<b>Haylie Copeland</b>	North Layton Junior High	Davis	Melinda Stecklein
<b>Porter Cox</b>	South Ogden Junior High	Weber	Kim Irvine
<b>Alexander Julian Cruz</b>	Joel P. Jensen Middle School	Jordan	Paige Dayley
<b>Alysa Evans</b>	Union Middle School	Canyons	Krista Edwards
<b>Daysi Garcia</b>	Northwest Middle School	Salt Lake	Linda Lujan
<b>Demareay Grailer</b>	Northwest Middle School	Salt Lake	Linda Lujan
<b>Henry Heaton</b>	Fossil Ridge Intermediate	Washington	Lorri Munro
<b>Klayre Humphreys</b>	Joel P. Jensen Middle School	Jordan	Paige Dayley
<b>Hazel Ivers</b>	West Jordan Middle School	Jordan	Stacey Sawyer
<b>Jaxon Larson</b>	Butler Middle School	Canyons	Katherine Cance
<b>Abigail Moench</b>	Butler Middle School	Canyons	Katherine Cance
<b>Rosalie Neville</b>	Wasatch Junior High	Granite	Mindy Wallace
<b>Elissa Petrell</b>	Fossil Ridge Intermediate	Washington	Susan Wiese
<b>Jason Rasmussen</b>	Draper Park Middle School	Canyons	Kimberly Carter
<b>Tyler Richardson</b>	West Jordan Middle School	Jordan	Stacey Sawyer
<b>Amelia Streeter</b>	American Fork Junior High	Alpine	Mallory Monson
<b>Austin Taylor</b>	Fort Herriman Middle School	Jordan	Ashley Hauber
<b>Azzrin Westmoreland</b>	Mt. Nebo Junior High	Nebo	Rebecca Reber

More information about the Do the Write Thing Challenge, including [writing from this year's winners](#) and a [video of the April 17 recognition event](#), can be found on the [USB E website](#).

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