Teacher Librarians: Putting Utah Students on TARGET for Success!

Students are THREATENED by...

- false, biased or misleading Information online.
- ineffective/inappropriate information searches.
- pressure to share personal information online.

Certified Teacher Librarians TEACH...

- critical thinking skills to evaluate the quality of information and its sources.
- effective information skills, to find, evaluate, and apply information, for independent research.
- online safety and responsibility.

THREATS to Student Success in Utah

Red Flags

- Fewer students embracing reading
- Dropping standardized test scores.
- 80% of Utah students have no access to benefits of skilled Certified Teacher Librarians
- Being unprepared for research in school, college, and career

Research Shows Full-time Certified Teacher Librarians...

- "Schools in states that gained librarians had significantly higher increases in fourth-grade reading scores than schools in states that lost librarians." - NAEP Study
- State impact studies show that access to full-time Certified Teacher Librarians increase standardized test scores, graduation rates, reading levels, and mastery of academic standards. Statistically, disadvantaged students benefited even more.

What do Certified Teacher Librarians do? It is SO much more than checking out books!

- TEACH state library standards
- Information and Research SPECIALIST
- Instructional PARTNER
- COLLABORATE
- Reading and Literacy ADVOCATE

Utah's Reality Is...

- 15 school districts have NO Certified Teacher Librarians to teach and identify appropriate quality resources.
- there are ONLY 211 Certified Teacher Librarians for over 660,000 students.

"The school library program has had a huge impact on my life. The library was always a sanctuary for me and the catalyst for my interests and learning. The experiences I had in the library couldn't have happened in any other way and the influence of the teacher librarian helped make me who I am today." —David Joy, age 30+, secondary school science teacher and USU doctoral student.

The Proposal:

School Librarians Close the Gap

A. Proposal Goals

1. Increase the number of certified teacher librarians in Utah schools;
2. Establish easily accessible school library program "best practices" sites;
3. Provide training that incorporates "best practices" from research in school library programs and reading; and encourages students, especially young women, to be involved in various studies, including STEM studies and/or careers.
4. Demonstrate actual student achievement gains (3% in reading scores) through independent assessment; and
5. Involve cost-sharing partners and stakeholders, i.e., corporations, civic organizations, and four Utah universities.

B. Description of the Proposal: Personnel and Training, at a cost of an average of $1,066,234 per year for three years, $3.2m total

1. Personnel: 20 certified teacher librarians will be placed in 20 schools, currently without CTLs (State and district share a 50%/50% match for salary and benefits); schools retain library assistants (already budgeted); teacher librarian and library assistant accomplish professional and clerical tasks; and the state-wide Project Director guides and coordinates all activities.

2. Training: Principals' Orientation Meeting; Workshops for certified teacher librarians and library assistants; Summer Institute, where school-based educator teams will use Utah Curriculum Standards for information literacy and a variety of subject areas, to create integrated curriculum units to be implemented, edited, and shared through a statewide databank; and Ongoing Training and Mentoring to ensure best practices.

3. Impact Study: An independent team, experienced in assessing the effect of certified teacher librarians on student achievement, will produce hard data and, if results follow other state studies, will show that these professionals effectively raise student achievement in Utah. A specific gain, at least 3% in reading scores on selected standardized tests, is expected. To be funded by an independent donor source.

C. Support for the Proposal

1. Cost-Sharing Partners: 1) Four universities, SUU, U of U (UEN), USU, and WSU have pledged approximately $46,000 in personnel and services; 2) corporate cost-sharing partners, 1 confirmed, and others being identified, to augment funding from the Utah Legislature.
2. The Utah Academic Library Consortium: Members of this professional organization of Utah's higher education librarians, support the concept of improving the level of professional staffing in Utah's school libraries.