



UVU

CENTER FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

2024
Update

SENIOR DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States as a self-governing republic, we remember the indispensable place of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, created and improved by *We the People* over time. Our constitutional tradition, said Rev. Martin Luther King, is a promissory note to which all Americans fall heir—even for those previously excluded from it.

The best framed constitution will not endure without the attachment of its citizens. James Madison acknowledged that constitutional limits on government were often mere “parchment barriers”—words on a page with no power to restrain would-be tyrants. However, Madison held out hope that “political truths declared in that solemn manner acquire by degrees the character of fundamental maxims of free government, and . . . counteract the impulses of interest and passion” that otherwise tend to lead majorities to violate the liberties of their fellow citizens (Madison letter to Thomas Jefferson, 17 Oct. 1788).

The kind of constitutionally grounded civic education modeled by CCS is not simply an intellectual exercise; it is a civic duty. A healthy attachment to the Constitution requires clear understanding of our history. Without that, allegiance is mere nostalgia, and vocal criticism boils down to cynicism. We aim for a **reflective patriotism**, which links love of country with acknowledgement of both our successes and failures as a people. This kind of attachment teaches citizens to see our shared constitutional tradition as an inheritance to be carefully preserved *and* wisely improved.

—Dr. Matthew Brogdon

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YEAR IN REVIEW

- CCS is moving the needle in a measurable way on **constitutional literacy and civil political discourse** on campus, in K-12 education, and in our community.
- The **Master of Arts in Constitutional Government, Civics, and Law**, developed under the leadership of Dr. Verlan Lewis, equips civics educators with knowledge of the foundations of the American constitutional tradition. A cohort of 25 students begin classes in Orem in Summer 2024.





- We are hiring a **new tenure-track faculty** member with expertise in American constitutional history, law, and political thought, who will serve as program director for the master's degree and teach its core courses.
- To raise our profile, we have established **partnerships with the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation** and the **Jack Miller Center for the Teaching of America's Founding Principles**.
- The **Quill Project**, our research partnership with Oxford's Pembroke College, was recently awarded a **National Archives Major Collaboratives Grant**, closely on the heels of a similar-magnitude award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2019–2023). The Archives grant offers \$350K to support the work of UVU student researchers and our Oxford colleagues to digitize and model the deliberations of eight state constitutional conventions held between 1848 and 1864.
- We are seeking a major gift (\$5M) to allow us to cultivate partnerships with other institutions to carry forward the Quill Project's **50-in-10** initiative, which aims to digitize and model all 50 state constitutions by the end of this decade.

- To mark the completion of the Center's four-year, NEH-funded project modeling western-state constitutions, we hosted an **academic conference at Rhodes House in Oxford** in July 2023, where our student-researchers presented their work alongside political scientists, historians, and law professors from the UK and US.
- CCS and the Quill Project again co-hosted the **Judges Forum at Pembroke College** in July 2023, convening eminent constitutional scholars and jurists from both sides of the Atlantic for two days of dialogue on the judicial use of history.
- The Center's **K-12 Constitutional Literacy Initiative**, led by CCS executive director Scott Paul, extended its impact on civics educators and students in the state. The summer **Constitutional Literacy Institute**, which this year expanded to include fifth-grade civics teachers, brought together educators to examine constitutional history and law with eminent jurists and scholars of law, history, and politics and to learn from master teachers how to carry this knowledge into their classrooms.



- Our **K-12 Outreach Day** brought more than 600 high-school students to campus Sept. 14, 2023, for our **Constitution Day Conference** to hear from Jeffrey S. Sutton, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, on the importance of state constitutions in our republic.
- The **Federalism Index Project** has extended its efforts to inform citizens and policymakers about the importance of federalism for preserving free and prosperous societies. In 2023, Dr. Andy Bibby and his team launched a new **Federalism Policy Tracker** with the support of the Utah Federalism Commission. This innovative tool keeps Americans abreast of ongoing developments in federal-state relations. We are seeking to secure funding for Federalism Index personnel and operating costs.
- The **Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative** (CTLI), under the direction of Dr. Robert Burton, has flourished and extended its impact on civic education and civil discourse with increased funding from the Utah legislature. CTLI and CCS faculty and staff now contribute substantially to general education at UVU by teaching **American Heritage**, as well as other courses related to civics and constitutional government.
- CTLI's **Civics Educator Conference**, held Oct. 10, 2023, convened educators, parents, and policymakers to consider the importance of home and family life for forming citizens and a healthy civil society. The evening keynote, featuring nationally known podcaster and commentator Sharon McMahon, followed by a Q&A with Dr. Brogdon and Utah First Lady Abby Cox, drew a crowd of nearly 6,000 to the UCCU Center.
- Expanded CTLI funding is enabling the creation of a new **Civics Survey Project** at UVU to administer annual and biannual surveys of K-12 educators, students, and adults to track civic knowledge, commitment to basic constitutional principles, the health of civil society, and the effectiveness of changes in civic education. CCS will partner with peer institutions in Utah and across the nation to replicate these surveys in other states.
- **Dr. Verlan Lewis**, Stirling Chair of Constitutional Studies, has greatly impacted the way Americans think about political division and what they hold in common with their fellow citizens. His book, *The Myth of Left and Right*, has shaped debate and cultivated civil political discourse from institutions of higher education to the pages of *Deseret Magazine* and *The Wall Street Journal*.



250 YEARS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

1776–2026: Celebrating 250 Years of American Self Government

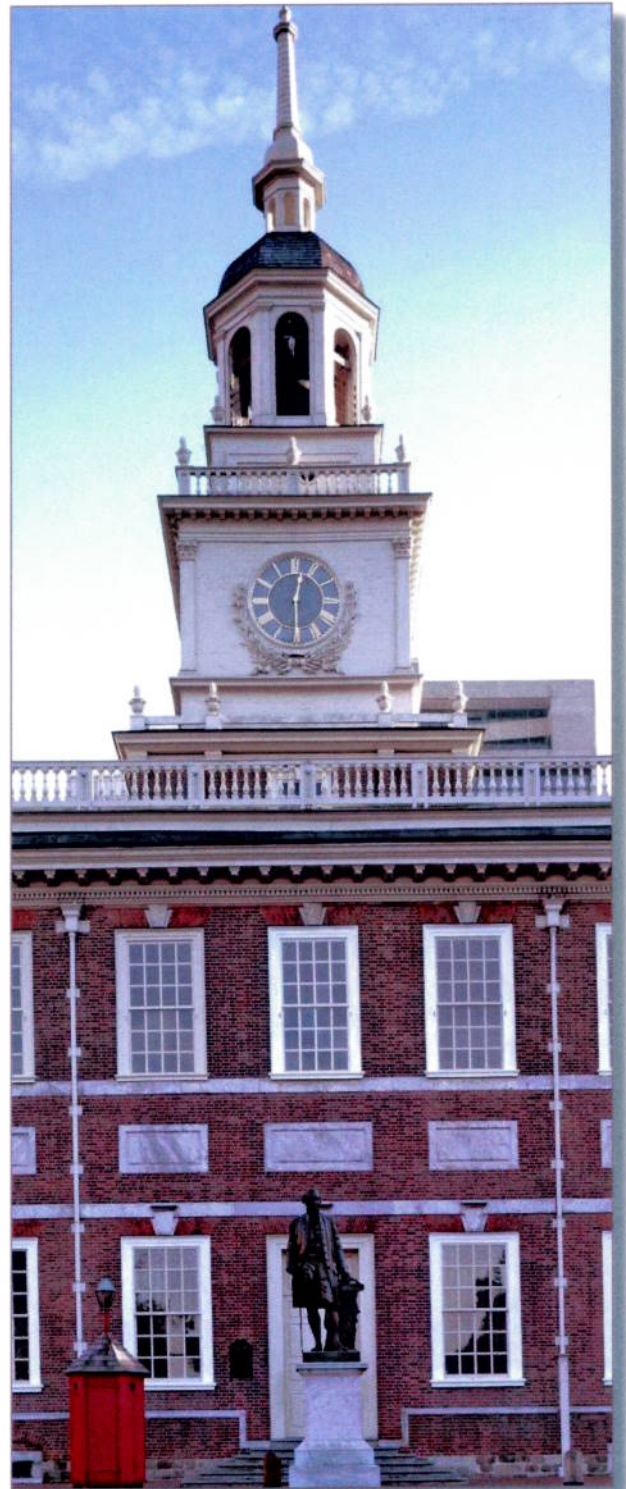
Much as America's celebrations of the Declaration and Constitution's bicentennials in 1976 and 1987 led to a host of scholarship, resources, and educational programs to further American civic education, Utah's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of these Founding events can have a similar lasting impact. Next year, the Center will embark on a decades-long program to further Utahns' understanding of and appreciation for the American Founding and our heritage of independence and self-government.

We will first celebrate the Declaration of Independence and its principles of human equality, natural rights, and self-government over the next three years, working closely with Utah's America 250 Commission.

Subsequently, we will carry this focus forward with commemorations of the formation of the Union and Founding-era state constitutions (2027–2034), the Constitution's drafting and ratification (2035–2039), and the Bill of Rights (2039–2041).

In each phase, CCS will lead up to the commemoration with the production of quality academic scholarship on the principles of the Declaration and the law of the Constitution. This will be followed by the production of accessible resources for use by college students, K–12 educators and students, and Utahns more broadly. Simultaneously, CCS will plan and implement K–12 educator professional-development opportunities, public conferences, academic seminars, and other events throughout Utah.

The Center's trio of scholarly expertise, academic programs, and K–12 professional development centered on the constitutional tradition is unparalleled in the state and seldom matched elsewhere in the country. We are well situated to be the leading academic partner in Utah's commemoration of the Declaration and beyond.



CCS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Center currently contributes to UVU curriculum through four academic programs. We partner with the department of History & Political Science to sponsor the minor in Constitutional Studies.

We have just launched our new Master of Arts in Constitutional Government, Civics & Law in partnership with the School of Education. Classes will begin in June 2024. We will be hiring a new, tenure-track faculty member with specialization in constitutional studies to direct and teach in this program.

Aside from these degree programs, our faculty contribute greatly to general-education course offerings. Faculty affiliated with the Center teach several sections of introductory American politics and nearly all sections of American Heritage, which involves students in the study of the American founding and its significance throughout American history. This gives us sustained influence on the education of more than 1,000 UVU students every year.

Finally, the Center hosts two study-abroad programs at Oxford each summer—one on the framing and ratification of the Constitution, the other on civic thought and leadership from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

Looking forward, the Center will fulfill its mandate under the Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative by developing minor and certificate programs in Civic Thought and Leadership to equip students from across the university. The core coursework will include civic-thought courses focused on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and a leadership course cultivating essential skills and virtues through simulations.

Development of this curriculum will require the addition of a faculty member to implement and manage it in coordination with CTLI Director Dr. Robert Burton.



LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR CIVICS

During the 2021 Utah legislative session, Representative Jefferson Burton proposed HB 327, which created the Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative (CTLI) within the UVU Center for Constitutional Studies (CCS) and funded it with one-time money.



Since then, with Rep. Burton's leadership and bipartisan support, the legislature has steadily increased its support for CTLI and its mission to cultivate the knowledge and virtues necessary for citizenship in a just, free, and flourishing constitutional republic.

The Utah legislature's investment in CTLI yielded immediate and profound impact on civic education in the state. Here are some examples of what the CTLI team accomplished in 2023:

- Training more than 300 K-12 teachers, which impacted 200,000 students.
- Teaching American Heritage to more than 1,000 UVU students this year.
- Engaging thousands of citizens in civic thought and dialogue through our public programming.

As tangible and local as these milestones are, the state of civics in Utah and the nation grows increasingly worrisome. Recent events have highlighted disturbing trends in the sentiment of college students toward Western institutions and liberal democracy.

With the approaching 250th anniversaries of the Declaration of Independence (2026) and the drafting and ratification of the US Constitution (2037 and 2039), these documents and the ideas, values, and institutions they animate are in real peril. Additional ongoing funding for CTLI will equip CCS to celebrate and teach our founding documents in a way that will reinvigorate the ideals and virtues of self-government and foster broader trust in American civic institutions.

The **250 Years of American Self-Government** initiative at CCS is extensive and ambitious. It sets the stage for two decades of civic education and programming at the university, K-12, and citizen levels. It models a gold standard for other US states.



CCS DIRECTORS & SCHOLARS



- Dr. Matthew Brogdon, Ph.D., Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation Senior Director



- Scott Paul, J.D., Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Studies



- Dr. Verlan Lewis, Ph.D., Stirling Professor of Constitutional Studies



- Dr. Andy Bibby, Ph.D., Associate Director, Center for Constitutional Studies



- Dr. Robert Burton, Ph.D., Director of the Civic Thought & Leadership Initiative



- Dr. Hank McIntire, Ph.D., Director of Constituent Engagement



- Dr. Lisa Halverson, Ph.D., Civics Education and Research Fellow



- Dr. Daniel Zoumaya, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Fellow



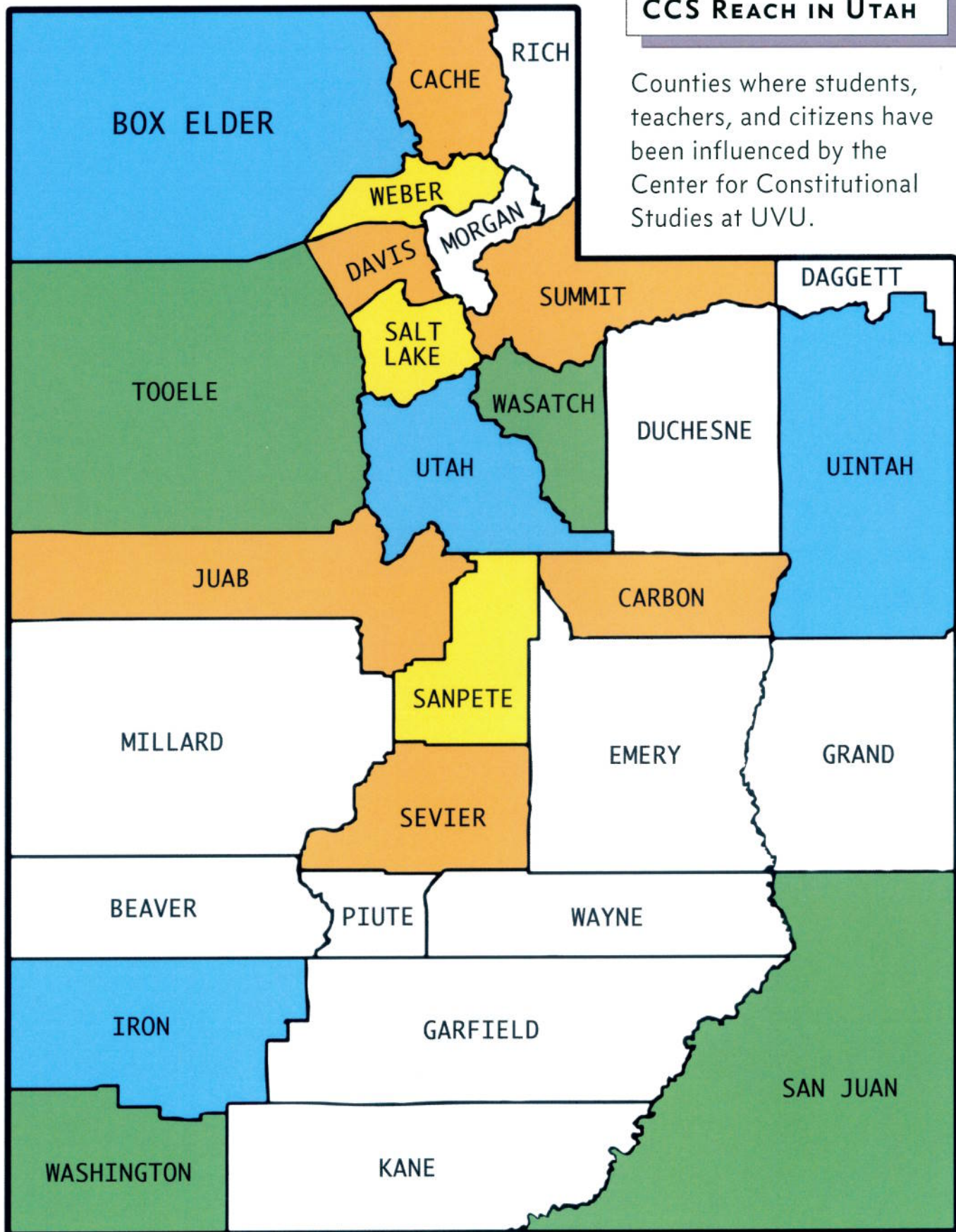
- Eleesha Tucker, M.A., Constitutional Literacy Fellow



- Pam Su'a, M.A., Civics Education Development Specialist

CCS REACH IN UTAH

Counties where students, teachers, and citizens have been influenced by the Center for Constitutional Studies at UVU.



CCS AT A GLANCE

A nonpartisan academic institute that advances understanding and practice of constitutional government, ordered liberty, and the rule of law through these resources:

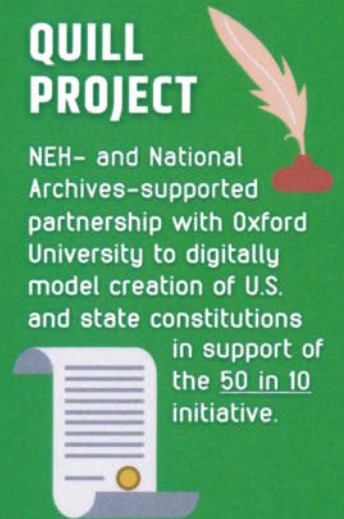
CIVIC THOUGHT & LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Develops the next generation of citizens and civic leaders, instilling knowledge, skills, and virtues to build a more vibrant and just society.



QUILL PROJECT

NEH- and National Archives-supported partnership with Oxford University to digitally model creation of U.S. and state constitutions in support of the 50 in 10 initiative.



FEDERALISM INDEX PROJECT

Helps educators, students, judges, legislators, and citizens have access to data and scholarly analysis of current and past federal and state legislation and regulation.



CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY INSTITUTE

Professional development for K-12 teachers to grow personal understanding of the Constitution, which they then share with students in the classroom.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Master of Arts in Constitutional Government, Civics & Law
- Minor in Constitutional Studies
- American Heritage courses
- All taught at UVU/Oxford



MORE INFORMATION @ uvu.edu/ccs

CIVIC THOUGHT & LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE 2024 AND BEYOND

CCS envisions increased support of UVU students, communities, K-12 teachers, administrators, and students.

UVU STUDENTS

MASTER'S DEGREE



A new M.A. in Constitutional Government, Civics & Law helps Utah social-studies teachers advance education and gain content expertise.

TOCQUEVILLE FELLOWS



UVU undergraduate fellowship gives opportunities to work on civic research, conferences, and other projects.

K-12 TEACHERS & STUDENTS

CIVIC-EDUCATOR CONFERENCES

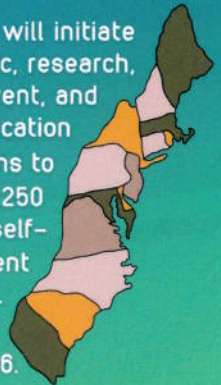
Expand scope and scale of campus conferences to reach 500 teachers per year and their 200,000+ students.



COMMUNITY

AMERICA'S 250TH

CTLI will initiate academic, research, public-event, and civic-education programs to mark 250 years of self-government in the U.S. from 1776 to 2026.



CIVICS SURVEY



A UVU-based research project will increase CTLI's ability to understand and address regional, state, and nationwide civics challenges.

ON-SITE CIVICS



Provide every school district outside of the Wasatch Front area with professional-development training in civics.

WE THE PEOPLE



Grow *We the People* partnership via teacher training to better understand and teach founding principles.

UVU CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

2023 RECAP



1,080

University students taught in American Heritage and other civics-related courses by CCS teaching fellows



90+

UVU undergraduate students who have worked as Wood Research Assistants or Tocqueville Fellows at CCS since 2011.



53,000+

K-12 students impacted by Utah teachers taking part in CCS trainings

2,391

K-12 teacher-training hours via CCS events and workshops



23/41

Utah districts receiving support from CTLI or other CCS entities out of the total statewide

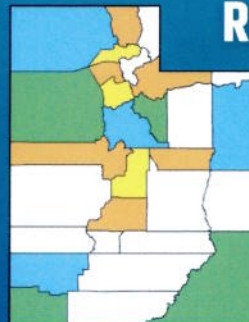


State constitutional conventions of ID, IL, ND, SD, WA, and WY digitally modeled as part of 50 in 10 project

6,000+



Attended CCS-sponsored events



REACH



Counties where students, teachers, and citizens have been influenced statewide by CCS in 2023

MORE INFORMATION @ uvu.edu/ccs