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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Educators Honored at Aquarium Banquet**

*Ten Utah Teachers Receive UEA Excellence in Teaching Awards*

A student in Jennifer Boehme's sixth-grade class at Elk Meadows Elementary with a rare genetic disorder that affects mental development and physical abilities loved her class. At the end of the year, he had to decide...either he could spend another year in Mrs. Boehme's class or attend a special school. He chose to stay and had another fabulous year. A year later, the student passed away. A colleague wrote that he "didn't leave this earth without knowing that people cared for him and that a loving teacher was able to open the world of learning to him. Matt was one of 'her kids.' He knew he mattered."

Students in Robert Osborn's class for at-risk youth in Granite School District, portray him as down to earth and caring: "Thank you so much for everything you've done and everything you taught me. You're a cool teacher and you really know how to get through to us 'young adults', I'll never forget you!," wrote one student. "Oz is the Beez-Neez. He's like my favorite teacher...I didn't even like school until I came to (the youth-in-custody program)! He made a huge impact on my life! I'm really glad I got a chance to meet him," said another.

Boehme and Osborn are two of the 10 educators honored with 2016 *UEA Excellence in Teaching* awards during the KeyBank *Superstars in Education* banquet May 13. The event was held at the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium in Draper.

Award recipients were selected based on their impact on individual students or groups of students. Each winner received an award, a poster to display at their school and a check for \$1,500, courtesy of award sponsors EMI Health, Jordan Credit Union, the UEA Children At Risk Foundation and the Utah Education Association.

UEA *Excellence in Teaching* award recipients for 2016 are:

- Jennifer Boehme, sixth-grade teacher at Elk Meadows Elementary, Jordan School District;



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- Robyn Bretzing, PE teacher and soccer coach at Timpanogos High School, Alpine School District;
- Alley Chai, fourth-grade teacher at Upland Terrace Elementary, Granite School District;
- Catherine Douglass, third-grade teacher at Elk Meadows Elementary, Jordan School District;
- Ric Jaggi, sixth-grade science teacher at Fossil Ridge Intermediate School, Washington County School District;
- James Maughan, eighth- and ninth-grade French teacher at West Hills Middle School, Jordan School District;
- Wendi Nelson, social studies teacher at Spanish Fork High School, Nebo School District;
- Robert Osborne, Youth Educational Support Services Program, Granite School District;
- Shannon Richey, third-grade teacher at Old Mill Elementary, Wasatch School District; and
- Shaundell Smith, librarian at Sand Ridge Junior High School, Weber School District.

The UEA has presented more than 140 *Excellence in Teaching* awards since 2000. KeyBank has sponsored the banquet since 2012. As part of a new partnership in 2016, KUED produced a video profile on each of the 10 winning teachers shown at the awards ceremony. (The video profiles will be available online at [kued.org/teachers](http://kued.org/teachers) early next week.)

“It is a tremendous honor to recognize these outstanding educators. They are a shining example of the great work happening in our public schools each day,” said UEA President Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh. “The only thing that could be better is if we could personally recognize each and every teacher for the remarkable work they do day in and day out in classrooms across Utah.”

“We are privileged to support the Utah Education Association as it honors our state’s educators,” said Terry Grant, president of KeyBank in Utah. “These exceptional teachers comprise a vital part of our communities by ensuring our children receive quality educations. Quality education helps our communities thrive and thriving communities benefit all of us.”



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In addition to recognizing the state's outstanding educators, the UEA presented 2016 *UEA Honor Roll* awards to Jim Hofeling, Jordan Credit Union, and Tami Pyfer, education adviser to Utah Governor Gary Herbert.

A *Charles E. Bennett Human and Civil Rights Award* was also presented to Treasure Mountain Jr. High (Park City) teacher Laura Bechdel.

### **About the Utah Education Association**

For more than a century, the Utah Education Association has been dedicated to preserving and enhancing Utah public education. The UEA represents 18,000 active classroom teachers, retired educators, administrators, licensed educational support personnel and campus education students. The UEA has local affiliates in each of the state's 41 school districts, Applied Technology Colleges, and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

### **About KeyBank**

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