REFUGEE FACT-FINDING DISCUSSION November 9, 2006

Background:

Council Members Carlton Christensen and Nancy Saxton have been meeting over the last two years with representatives from the Salt Lake City School District, as well as representatives from the Mayor's Office and various county and state agencies, to discuss refugee issues influencing the Salt Lake City community. These discussions have provided Council Members Christensen and Saxton a glimpse of the needs of the refugees, the programs and funding available to fill those needs, and areas where funding and resources are lacking. Some of the discussion topics have included the lack of adequate housing, the need to teach work skills, cultural issues, conflicts between refugee groups, overcrowded elementary schools, literacy, and language barriers.

During the City Council retreat in January, 2006, the Council agreed to hold a refugee fact-finding discussion during one of their future Work Sessions.

This evening, representatives from various agencies have been asked to provide five-minute presentations to the City Council in order to educate the Council and the public, and provide an opportunity for the Council to ask questions for clarification purposes.

The presenters include the following:

- 1. Jane Willie: Family Involvement Coordinator, SLC School District
- 2. Miro Marinovich: Director, International Rescue Committee
- 3. Steven Haw: Asian Association
- 4. Rosemarie Hunter: University Neighborhood Partners and Hartland Project Director
- 5. John Erlacher: Principal, Mt. View Elem. School, SLC School District
- 6. Larry Broxton: Consultant and Refugee Grant Facilitator



Salt Lake City School District

440 East First South TEL: (801) 578-8599 Salt Lake City Utah 84111-1898 FAX: (801) 578-8685

Refugee Fact Finding Meeting of the Salt Lake City Council November 9, 2006

Family Involvement Program

The job of the Family Involvement Assistant is done for the purposes/s of assisting parents and families of students in schools; conveying information regarding federal, state, and/or district activities and procedures; strengthening relationships between families and schools; assisting with communication with families; and assisting with learning opportunities for parents, families, and students.

Three pressing issues pertaining to our refugee students/families and Family Involvement:

- 1. Need for cultural competency training of all Family Involvement Assistants.
- 2. Language/communication barriers with refugee families; lack of on-site language-specific translators.
- 3. Family Involvement program sustainability needed to continue to meet the needs of refugee families and to continue collaborative efforts with resettlement agencies.

Jane Pasimeni Willie Family Involvement Coordinator Salt Lake City School District 440 East 100 South #209 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Phone: 801.578.8561

Email: jane.willie@slc.k12.ut.us

FAX: 801.578.8291

Salt Lake City School District Refugee Count By Grade Level: 2006-07

Count of Cort olpha	
Count of Sort alpha	
Grade	Total
1	47
2	56
3	75
4	37
5	56
6	50
7	59
8	56
9	62
10	69
11	42
12	48
K	47
PK	12
Grand Total	716

Salt Lake City School District Refugee Count By Country: 2006-07

Country Born	Total
Afghanistan	27
Africa	63
Belarus	1
Bosnia	61
Bulgaria	
Burma/Myanmar	1 1 2 1 26
Cambodia	2
Chad	1
China	26
Congo	12
Croatia	10
Cuba	15
Dominican Republic	2
Ethiopia	16
Gambia	2
Haiti	
Honduras	6
Iran	2 16 2 1 6 12 11
Iraq	11
Ivory Coast	7
Kazakhstan	1
Kenya	7 1 50
Kosovo	7
Liberia	26
Libya	1
Malaysia	1
Moldova	2
Nepal	1 1 2 4 1 23
Nigeria	1
Pakistan	23
Phillippines	10
Rawanda	
Romania	5 1 2 7
Serbia	2
Sierra Leone	7
Slovakia	2
Somalia	159
Sudan	80
Thailand	4
Togo	4 3 28 2 19
Tonga	28
Uganda	2
Vietnam (South)	19
Zimbabwe	1
Grand Total	716

Salt Lake City School District Refugee Count By Language: 2006-07

Language	Total
African Acholi	5
Afrikaans (S Africa) Albanian	4
	4 7 2
Amharic (Ethiopa)	
Arabic Bangali	34 2
Bengali Bosnian	47
Burmese	1
Cantonese	2
Chinese	9
Creole	5
Croatian	5
Dari	5
Dinka	19
English	105
Farsi	25
French	13
German	2
Karen	1
Korean	1
Krahn	11
Kru (Liberia)	7
Kurdish	7 1
Lamala	1
Lingala	2
Mabian	11
Madi	1
MaiMai	52
Mandarin	3
Mavi Mavi	8
Mushunguli	5
Nepali	2
Nuer (Sudan)	14
Other	3
Other Slavic	2
Pashto (Pakistan, Afganistan)	5
Persian	3
Philipino/Tagalog	2 5 3 2 4
Punjabi	4
Samoan	1
Serbian	1
Serbo-Croatian	11
Somali	167
Spanish	23
Swahili (S Africa)	21
Talug (Asian)	2
Thai	2
Tongan	17
Twampa	7
Ukrainian	1
Urdu	9
Vietnamese	17
Grand Total	716

Salt Lake City School District Refugee Count By Ethnicity: 2006-07

Ethnic	Total
African American	415
Asian	125
Caucasian	99
Hispanic	25
Other	22
Pacific Islander	30
Grand Total	716

Physical Map of the World, April 2004



School Demographics

- Mt. View serves the largest refugee population in the state
- 87% Minority Rate
- 88% English Language Learners.
- 94% Qualify for free/reduce lunch.



Refugee Groups

- Somalia
- Sudan
- Liberia
- Congo
- Togo
- Afghanistan
- Russian
- Cambodia
- Bosnia
- Thailand
- China
- Russia



- Croatia
- Mexico
- Peru
- El Salvador
- Cuba
- Uruguay
- Ivory Coast
- Lebanon
- Egypt
- Kenya
- Vietnam

What is the impact on the school?



Academic Challenge

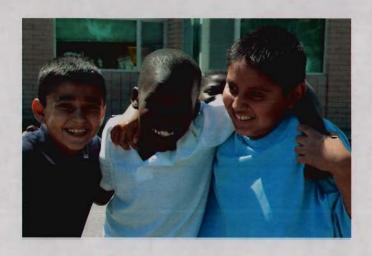






- Lack of literacy on part of parents and students.
- Many students have never had any experience in school environment regardless of their age.





Cultural Issues:

 Corporal punishment which was commonplace in their home countries are viewed as abusive in Utah schools.

Translation:

 Translators are needed to work out issues involving students behavior (either appropriate or inappropriate), which adds an additional layer of communication not found with English only families.

Social

- Being Accepted: The level of acceptance of students from such different cultural backgrounds is very high in an elementary school.
- No Prior School Experience: The older a student is upon entry (without prior school experience) the greater the difficulty in being accepted by their peer group.
- We want students to maintain their cultural pride. Common problem with English language learners is while they master the English language their parents may not be learning as quickly hence causing communication problems within families.







Diet and Health



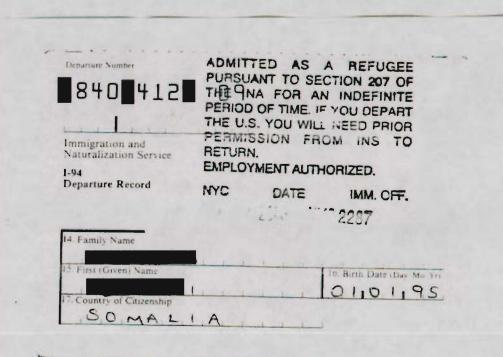
Cultural Issue:

Cultural differences not recognized by the mainstream population

- Students fasting during Ramadan
- Not eating pork

I-9 Form and Birth Certificates

- Students arriving without accurate and official birth certificate needed for appropriate grade placement.
- Students placed in elementary classrooms that are much older or younger than their peers.



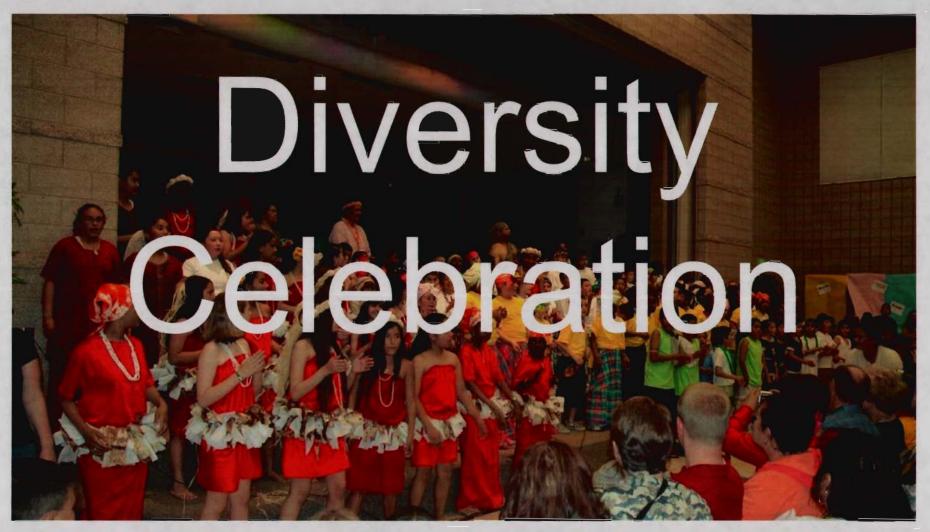
Successes at Mt. View Elementary

98% of classroom teachers are now ESL endorsed

All K-3 teachers will have level I reading

endorsements





May 17th, 2007

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Mt. View Elementary





University Neighborhood Partners **Hartland Partnership Center** 1617 Secret Garden Lane, Apt. #162 Salt Lake City, Utah 84104 (801) 973-6055

University Neighborhood Partners

Hartland Partnership Center



1617 Secret Garden Lane, Apt # 162, Salt Lake City, UT 84104



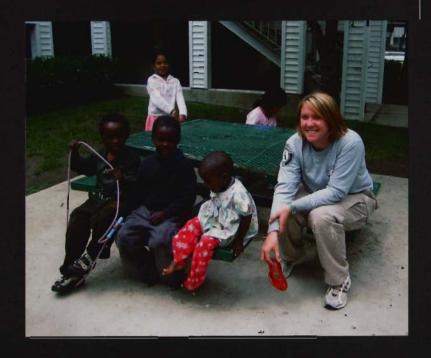


Legal Education

The UNP Hartland Center has partnered with the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah to offer a series of classes on legal issues that are relevant to residents. The College of Law developed a curriculum for courses in areas of law such as immigration, landlord/tenant relationships, and citizenship. Since November 2004, the Hartland Center has offered a class which prepares residents to take the United States Citizenship Exam. The course works with its ESL partners at the Center to prepare residents for the English portion of the exam.

Health Issues

The UNP Hartland Center partners with the University of Utah, Department of Family and Preventative Medicine, and the Community Clinics to assess community health needs. A family practice physician, a pediatrician, and physician assistants provide on-site health screening and referrals. Students from the Department of Family and Preventative Medicine train under the supervision of physicians to better understand the complex issues affecting access to health care.





Life Skills

The Life Skills Program at Hartland conducts classes that help residents transition to life in the US. Under the supervision of a faculty member in the Division of Occupational Therapy at the University of Utah, interns and students offer classes and activities that include home safety, transportation, and employment training. Activities are geared to the specific concerns of the different communities at Hartland and focus on providing the basic tools and skills necessary for living in this society.





Youth Leadership

The purpose of the Youth Leadership program is to create a cohort of young leaders and involve the youth at Hartland in creative activities. In partnership with the University of Utah College of Social Work, the Utah Federation for Youth, the center offers youth leadership activities to youth between nine and sixteen years old.

Early Childhood Education

The early childhood education program, started in September 2005, is a partnership between the Utah Parent Center, Utah Federation for Youth, and UNP Hartland Center Americorps*VISTA member. The goal of this partnership is to create a safe and structured learning environment for children ages 2-5 where they can learn school readiness and other social skills that will increase their success in the public education system. Children involved with this program come to class while their parents simultaneously participate in one of the other various classes offer. Our ESL program is currently working with the new partners on a curriculum collaboration that will provide a weekly opportunity for children and parents to learn together.

Financial Fitness & Homebuyer Education

The goal of the Financial Fitness Program is to help families at Hartland achieve financial stability and independence. Hartland residents have identified predatory lending and consumer debt as critical problems they face in transitioning into American society. Low income families often find themselves in a cycle of debt that is difficult to break. The Financial Fitness Program teaches the residents to manage their money and avoid credit fraud. Learning about educational and credit resources helps residents avoid debt and prepares them for home ownership. Thirty per cent of the residents that leave Hartland do so as first time homebuyers. Because Salt Lake's west side has some of the highest rates of mortgage fraud and early payment default in the nation, the Hartland Center has joined forces with the University of Utah's Department of Family and Consumer Studies, Salt Lake Neighborhood Housing Services, the International Rescue Committee, Zion's Bank, and UBS Bank USA to provide these valuable educational and financial services.





Information, Referral & Capacity Building

Students from the College of Social Work provide information, intake, and referral services to community organizations as part of their field practicum training. Students work with residents and with local agencies like Catholic Community Services, International Rescue Committee, Asian Association, Department of Workforce Services, Salt Lake School District and others to increase the access of residents to services, and to increase the capacity of these agencies to serve the Hartland community.

This Social Work partnership focuses on providing residents with information and tools for problem-solving in order to empower residents to engage with agencies and services on their own. They focus on strengthening relationships, building links between social service providers and school systems, and enabling residents to navigate complex systems.



Resident Instructor and Committee

A Hartland community resident instructor serves as a liaison between the Center and the residents of the Hartland Apartments. Duties of the resident instructor include serving on the resident committee and teaching a class for the residents, staff, and/or partners based on his or her unique skills. The resident instructor works closely with the UNP coordinating team to encourage resident involvement. For his/her services, the resident instructor receives a small stipend for six months.

The purpose of the Resident Committee is to expand the number of Hartland community leaders and introduce University of Utah representatives, students, and community associates to west side neighborhoods. The group broadly represents the diversity of the Hartland Community, and efforts are made to ensure the different racial, religious, ethnic, and socio-economic groups present in the Hartland Community are included. The Resident Committee provides the essential information used to educate University groups and Hartland partners about the Hartland community. Committee members collect information from the residents that better identify the community's resources, needs, and strengths. Committee members receive a small stipend for six months of service.

Partnership Activities

The UNP Hartland Center offers eight programs that promote recriprocal sharing and learning. The programs are facilitated by partnerships between community agencies, Hartland residents, and seven departments at the University of Utah.



English as a Second Language

The ESL program at Hartland aims to reduce the obstacles that non-native English speakers face. The classes provided at the Center teach students with examples from daily life as they learn to navigate local institutions and find employment. The ESL program uses a combination of classroom and home-based language training which increases the number of residents able to take and complete the classes. Hartland's ESL program is a partnership between the University of Utah Department of Linguistics and the English Skills Learning Center (ESLC), a local non-profit.



Our Community

The Hartland Community is a 300 unit apartment complex located near 1700 South and Redwood Road. Some of the units are subsidized for low-income residents, and Hartland is one of the resettlement sites for the two primary refugee resettlement agencies in Salt Lake. Hartland is home to nearly 800 adults and children from all over the world—Somalia, Peru, Sudan, Central and Eastern Europe, Mexico, and the United States. Over 75 percent of the residents are non-native English speakers, reflecting a rich tapestery of cultural and ethnic diversity. This diversity presents many challenges and great potential benefits for the community.

Internships and Student Placements



The UNP Hartland Center offers opportunites for internships and student placements in all of its activities. Undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of disciplines, including the College of Social Work, School of Medicine, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Hummanities, College of Law, and the College of Education with more partners joining us each semester, participate. They come together to exchange ideas with residents, students, and faculty.

Cluster Seminar

With the support of the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center at the U of U, faculty who have students placed at Hartland teach an interdisciplinary 'cluster' seminar addressing social, political, and economic issues at Hartland from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives. This seminar explores the complexity of social issues within the community – health, education, employment, language, and social services – as they are lived by residents.



Our Supporters

The UNP Hartland Partnership Center is funded with the generous support from the following groups:

University of Utah
College of Social Work, University of Utah
Evergreene Management Group
Zion's Bank
UBS Bank USA
American Express
HUD Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) grant
The Marriner S. Eccles Foundation

Contact Information

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Rosemarie Hunter, PhD
University Neighborhood Partners, Faculty Director
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e-mail - rosemarie.hunter@socwk.utah.edu



Our History

The UNP-Hartland Center opened in September 2004, in a three bedroom apartment generously donated by Evergreene Management Group. The apartment serves as an educational and community center. The center embodies the idea that active collaboration between University and community groups can enhance learning, teaching, and research, benefitting the entire community. University and community partnerships bring the strength of combined resources to address urban issues facing the west side of Salt Lake City.

At the Hartland center, teams of professors, students, community organizations, and Hartland residents work together to address the need for English competency, family financial literacy, homebuyer education, youth leadership, employment skills, legal and health care education, and life skills training. The key to Hartland's success is sustainability and reciprocity. While Hartland residents learn valuable skills, University and community partners receive academic credit, practical experience, and increase organizational capacity. The Center is coordinated by a team from UNP, the College of Social Work, and an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer.

Our Mission

The UNP Hartland Center provides space for a broad range of campus-community partnership activities. Bringing these activities to Hartland residents helps equip them with the tools and resources needed to more fully participate in the broader Salt Lake community.

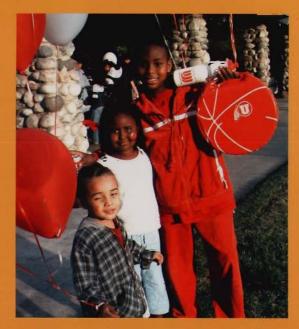
The mission of University Neighborhood Partners (UNP) is to bring together University of Utah and west side resources for reciprocal learning, action, and benefit... *a community coming together*.





...a community coming together.





...a community coming together

Contact Information:

University Neighborhood Partners 1060 South 900 West Salt Lake City, UT 84104 (801) 972-3596 phone (801) 972-3628 fax

www.partners.utah.edu

Purpose

With an office situated in the Glendale neighborhood, UNP provides a credible and sustainable presence for planning and implementing projects together with its neighbors. UNP is dedicated to bringing people together in shared action and mutual respect to build a community infused with a multitude of cultural experiences and perspectives that ultimately enrich and reflect the changing demographics of both Salt Lake City and the state. Now in its fourth year of work, UNP currently partners with various entities to administer the following programs:



"As the facilitator of partnerships between the U and community organizations, UNP helps to foster community pride, assist with educational opportunities, and empower families. The relationships created will have a lasting impact on our community and help us all realize that when we can pool our resources, we can do so much more."

Kay Cameron
Program Manager
Northwest Multi-Purpose Center
Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Department



Programs

Academic Consulting Services: free bilingual information and advising about higher education through individual consultation or group presentations in an accessible neighborhood location.

Community Ambassadors: a UNP advisory and action board comprised of west side residents who share their knowledge about and passion for their neighborhoods in order to help guide UNP's efforts and to become active leaders.

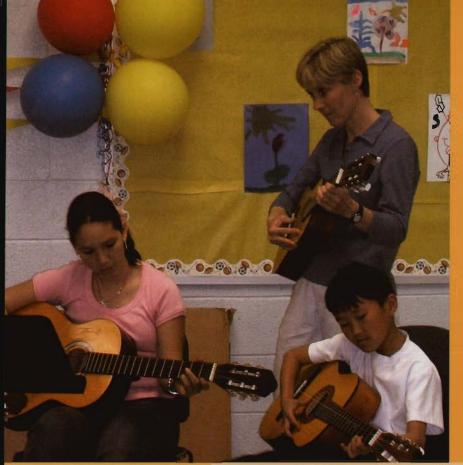
CommUnity Day: an annual fall event that brings west side families to the U of U campus to learn about the University's resources and opportunities, as well as the chance to cheer for the Utes during one of their home football games.

Hartland Partnership Center: a comprehensive capacity-building project that brings a set of resources—family financial fitness, homebuyer education, health access, English-as-a-Second Language classes, and early childhood programs—together in a rental complex for its 800 residents, 75% of whom are non-native English speaking immigrants or refugees.

Neighborhood Involvement Alliance: collaborative work by University faculty and community council members and potential members that addresses barriers to participation in public decision–making for neighborhood residents.

"UNP does a lot of wonderful things. For one, they help to provide University faculty with multiple faces of diversity-ones they rarely see in a classroom. Secondly, they offer west side communities the ability to dream, hope, and believe they can overcome the perceived barrier that low-income kids don't go to college. With an acquired expertise, UNP lights the way for how things should get done."

Victoria Mori Executive Director Guadalupe School



"The west side provides all sorts of socio-economic, political, and immigration microcosms for study to further the education of students interested in building healthy communities."

Lisa Yoder West Salt Lake Resident

Partners in the Park: An eight-week summer program with weekly activities designed to bring University members and west side residents together in various neighborhood parks for fun family events and to encourage youth to evaluate the importance of education and college for their future.

See U at the U: Visits to the University campus by various student and neighborhood youth and their families in an effort to increase awareness and access to higher education.

United for Kids: A parent resource center and network focused on empowering west side families with tools that will help parents guide their children's academic success.

- Building capacity of neighborhoods in the areas of health, housing, employment, business, safety, and the environment;
- Creating initiatives to empower and expand community leadership; and
- Overcoming barriers of race, ethnicity, religion, political viewpoint, and geography.

Increasing access to and awareness of higher education for residents of the west side grounds all of UNP's efforts, making it the group's key focus. In a recent six-month period, UNP has coordinated partnerships with over 100 groups, including University departments and local service agencies, involving over 2,000 people, including University members and residents, and accumulating over 6,500 hours of work towards these goals.

U of U Benefits

The alliances formed through UNP enable the U of U to broaden and expand its mission toward civically engaged scholarship, complete with service-learning opportunities and community-based research. These efforts aim to develop an increasingly diverse pool of qualified students for the University's student body, an asset that enriches the educational experience for all students and will help the University to draw a more diverse faculty.

West Salt Lake Benefits

UNP uses an asset-based approach to community development, focusing on the existing strengths of all involved partners. In addition, UNP places the highest priority on needs-assessment by west side community members themselves, allowing those self-identified issues to shape each individual collaboration.



Mission

Bringing together
University and west
side resources for
reciprocal learning,
action, and benefit...
a community coming
together.



"UNP has been an effective catalyst for engagement between the University and the community. The program is making a positive difference in many people's lives and is emerging as a model for campuscommunity programs throughout the country."

Scott M. Matheson, Jr. Dean and Professor S.J. Quinney College of Law The University of Utah

Who We Are

University Neighborhood Partners (UNP) bridges Utah's flagship university with seven ethnically and culturally rich Salt Lake City neighborhoods west of State Street in ways that benefit the west side and the University of Utah (U of U) communities. These neighborhoods include Rose Park, Glendale (West Salt Lake), Westpointe, Jordan Meadows, Poplar Grove, State Fairpark, and People's Freeway. Since April 2003, UNP has forged campus-community partnerships between these west Salt Lake neighborhoods, local community service organizations, and U of U faculty, staff, and students in order to target the following four critical areas:

Goals

Increasing opportunities for youth education and success;

University Information Corner: An on-site information center, featuring University applications, course materials, and financial aid information as well as free access to Utah Mentor, a software program that enables prospective students to explore information on Utah colleges and universities.

Westside Leadership Institute: Offers leadership workshops taught by University faculty and community leaders to west side residents while connecting them to local decision-making bodies, funding sources, and further support.

Westside Studio: Both a University course and physical space that focuses on creating revitalization and redevelopment plans for west side neighborhoods.

Youth Book Exchange: A free weekly program that encourages west side children to trade books for more books, complete with fun literacy activities that promote excitement about reading.



"UNP has been phenomenal in its role as a liaison between the community and the University. It has been effective in identifying needs in the community and then matching those needs with resources from the University and vice versa. UNP is a medium in which the multiethnic residents of the west side come together to build a community. Its presence on the west side is a testament to the University's commitment to these neighborhoods and also represents hope and opportunities for our youth to pursue higher education."

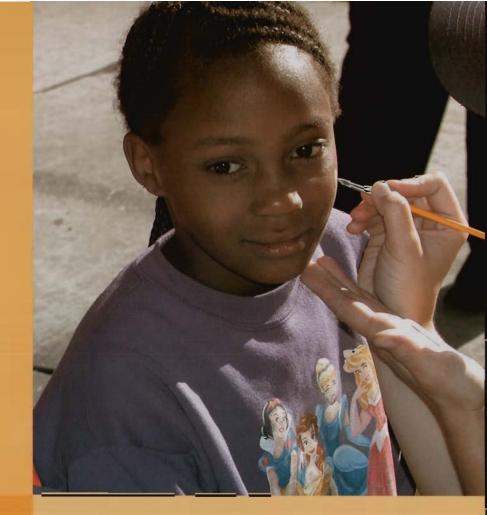
Sela Botchway UNP Community Ambassador "Working with UNP has allowed me to align my research and teaching in ways that have direct resonance outside of academic settings. I feel great satisfaction knowing that my students are working with west side community residents to collaboratively envision better neighborhoods."

Maged Senbel Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning The University of Utah UNP Community Scholar in Residence



Campus & Community Benchmarks

- Counseled over 100 potential college students
- Provided books to over 300 kids through the Youth Book Exchange Program
- Trained over 60 community leaders through the Westside Leadership Institute to take up positions on local nonprofit
 Boards of Advisors, community councils, and city government committees
- Trained 20 Spanish-speaking parents as Community Advocates working towards academic success through United for Kids
- Reached over 800 attendees at Partners in the Park with messages promoting higher education
- Supported nearly 400 Hartland Apartment residents to acquire survival English, amass down payments on homes, find employment, pass U.S. citizenship tests, and enroll in higher education
- Through these partnerships, UNP has provided research opportunities, data collection, and training sites for over 100 students from almost every college on campus
- These partnerships have also enabled over 30 faculty to publish journal articles, develop conference presentations, and implement new courses



"Young people who are growing up in west Salt Lake neighborhoods may help us cure cancer, or find new energy sources, or teach, or create a prize-winning novel. We want to help build the opportunities these youth need to reach college and achieve their potential. Great communities and great higher education systems go hand in hand. I'm proud the University of Utah is engaged with the Salt Lake community through University Neighborhood Partners."

Michael K. Young President The University of Utah



Administration

Irene Fisher Director

Sarah Munro
Assistant Director

Sonya M. Alemán

Communications Director

Blake Benson
Hartland Child Care Coordinator

Betty Dyer

Administrative Financial Officer
Maria Martinez

Academic Information Consultant
Marcia McClurg

Partnership Facilitator
Andrea Page

Administrative Assistant

Kate Rubalcava Program Coordinator

Gerlinde Ruth Website Maintenance

Kim Schmit Hartland Coordinator Susan Vorkorper

Program Coordinator

Anita Watson United for Kids Coordinator

Venis Weaver Program Assistant

Board of Advisors

Alene Bentley

Economic Development Director Utah Power

Jacob Brace Executive Director Neighborhood House

Barbara Brown U of U Professor Family and Consumer Studies

Kay Cameron Program Manager Northwest Multi-Purpose Center

Karen Dace
U of U Associate Vice President for Diversity

Fred Esplin
U of U Vice President for Institutional Advancement
UNP Board Co-Chair

Ila Rose Fife West Salt Lake Resident

Maria Garciaz
Director, Neighborhood Housing Services
UNP Board Co-Chair

Norma Gonzalez
U of U Associate Professor
Education, Culture & Society

Sam Guevara Chief of Staff Office of the Mayor Salt Lake City

Alisha Giles
Executive Director / Attorney
The Multi-Cultured Legal Center

Mike Harman Emerson Elementary School Counselor and West Salt Lake Resident

Norma Harris Social Research Institute College of Social Work

Ali Hasnain
President
Associated Students of U of U

Lynn Hollister U of U Assistant Professor College of Nursing

Carolynn Hoskins West Salt Lake Resident

Lt. Rusty Isakson
Assistant Division Commander—Liberty Patrol
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Victoria Mori Executive Director Guadalupe School

Dena Ned Executive Director Indian Walk-In Center

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Alicia Suazo West Salt Lake Resident Clifton Uckerman
U of U Student Representative

Joyce Valdez
Marketing Coordinator
Salt Lake Community College

Lisa Yoder West Salt Lake Resident

Key Partners

University
Alumni Association
College of Architecture and Urban Planning
College of Education
College of Health
College of Humanities
College of Law

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
College of Social Work
Continuing Education
David Eccles School of Business
Lowell Bennion Community Service Center
School of Medicine

Student Affairs
Institutional Advancement

Community
Bridge Investment Group
Comunidades Unidas
English Skills Learning Center
Evergreene Management
Guadalupe School
Neighborhood House

Neighborhood Housing Services Northwest Multi-Purpose Center Salt Lake City Corporation Salt Lake Weed and Seed Salt Lake School District & Schools Salt Lake Community College Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center Utah Federation for Youth

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The University of Utah