

2024-25

UTAH AFTERSCHOOL AWARD WINNERS



Each year, the Utah Afterschool Network seeks nominations for our Utah Afterschool Awards, which celebrate outstanding out-of-school time educators, programs, and individuals for their efforts in the field.

The Utah Afterschool Awards also recognize out-of-school time programs for their success in providing intentional programming and meeting the developmental needs of youth and families in their communities.

Candidates may be from nonprofit, public, private, faith-based, childcare centers, or any other program that supports youth during non-school hours in Utah.



Sydnee Dickson, Ed.D.
Community Champion of the Year
Utah State Board of Education



Lilianna "Sunshine" Rivas
Direct Service Staff of the Year
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Salt Lake



Ana Garcia
Family Engagement Champion of the Year
Promise South Salt Lake



Provost Elementary
Program of the Year
Boys & Girls Club of Utah County



Alyson Kyle
Site Coordinator of the Year
Promise South Salt Lake



Makaio Yeh
Youth of the Year
Wasatch Elementary
Boys & Girls Club of Utah County



Mathilda Uribe
School Personnel of the Year
Escalante Elementary
Salt Lake City School District - Community Education



LeeAnn Parker
School Administrator of the Year
Timpanogos Elementary
Boys & Girls Clubs of Utah County

2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL *Community Champion of the Year*



Sydnee Dickson, Ed.D.

Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Utah State Board of Education



Dr. Sydnee Dickson has been serving the children of Utah as a proud educator for the past 44 years. She joined the Utah State Office of Education in 2007 and was named as State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2016. Prior to joining the Utah State Office of Education, Sydnee served in Utah public schools in roles including teaching, school counseling, school and district administration.

Superintendent Dickson began her own education in a two-room schoolhouse in rural Utah and went on to earn two Master's degrees in School Counseling and School Administration, as well as a Doctorate in Education Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah. This background fuels her passion to ensure all students have opportunities to succeed. She also believes that valuable learning can happen in many places outside of the school room and has been a supporter of out-of-school time programs throughout her career.

Sydnee serves on national boards including West Ed. and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, as well many state committees and councils. She is often sought out as a thought partner on national initiatives involving digital teaching and learning, personalized competency based learning, and innovative practices.

2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL

Direct Service Staff of the Year



Lilianna “Sunshine” Rivas

Youth Development Professional

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salt Lake - Lied Club



Lilianna was once a club kid herself, having attended the Lied Boys and Girls Club during her childhood. Now, all the Lied youth affectionately call her "Sunshine," and it's easy to see why—she truly is a ray of sunshine in everything she does! She doesn't just meet the expectations of the BGCA mission statement—she embodies them. Lilianna also aligns herself with the mission of the Utah Afterschool Network, providing access to high-quality afterschool programs that keep our youth engaged, learning, and safe.

Lilianna has worked in the afterschool field for the past eight years, finding it to be a deeply rewarding and impactful journey. For her, supporting youth through leadership clubs and confidence-building activities has been meaningful and inspiring. Throughout this time, Lilianna feels that she has gained valuable insights from the young people she's served and the colleagues she's collaborated with.

One message that continues to motivate Lilianna - especially on the most challenging days - is: "Your youth are not trying to give you a hard time; they are going through a hard time." This perspective reminds her to lead with empathy and patience in all that she does.

2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL

Family Engagement Champion of the Year



Ana Garcia

Family Engagement Coordinator
Promise South Salt Lake

Ana Garcia is originally from a small town in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. She is the oldest of nine siblings and graduated with a degree in Business Administration in her home country. She is a proud mother of four handsome boys and one beautiful girl.

In August of 1995, she emigrated to Utah. The experience of starting over in a new country—as a mom with school-aged children, learning a new language, and navigating an unfamiliar school system—was both challenging and eye-opening. That journey led her to a position at Woodrow Wilson Elementary in Granite School District, where she worked as a Family Liaison. There Ana had the opportunity to support and connect with families and children in meaningful ways.

Ana's commitment to family engagement has fostered a vibrant community of families, empowering parents to gain a deeper understanding of school systems and access educational resources. Ana is widely recognized within the afterschool community in South Salt Lake, having built strong relationships with youth ranging from kindergarteners to high school seniors. Her ability to connect with parents is grounded in trust and support, making her a pillar of the community. Ana provides essential services such as translation, resource access, and assistance for new families seeking supportive networks.

Through this work, Ana has developed a deep sense of empathy and a growing passion for helping others. She genuinely loves what she does. The relationships Ana builds with families and the community continue to inspire and empower her to give her best every day. She is committed to learning, growing, and becoming the best version of herself—not just for her, but for those she serves.



2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL

School Administrator of the Year



LeeAnn Parker

Assistant Principal, Timpanogos Elementary
Provo City School District - Boys & Girls Club of Utah County

LeeAnn Numbers Parker graduated from Brigham Young University in 1991 and since then, has taught grades Kindergarten and 2nd-5th during her 20 years as an educator.

She and her family lived in southeastern Utah for 30 years, where she volunteered with PTA, School Community Councils, and the afterschool program at Blanding Elementary.

For many of those years, she ran her own before- and afterschool program called "Treehouse Learning Center" as a Utah-licensed childcare provider and taught parenting and early childhood education classes with the Utah Child Care program. A resident of Provo, Utah, LeAnn now feels she has found her happy place in Provo City School District.

After earning a Master's degree in Elementary Education (USU) and Administrative /Supervisory Certification (SUU), she treasured her first administrative experience as Instructional Facilitator at Sunset View Elementary and spent five years with the SSV Dragons, including the most challenging year during COVID school closures. While at Sunset View, she worked closely with the Boys & Girls Club of Utah County.

She is currently the Assistant Principal at Timpanogos Elementary, continuing to work closely with the Boys & Girls Club of Utah County.

She sees afterschool as an extension of support for academics and behavior and often encourages programs to follow in specific directions for specific students, impressing upon staff their ability to impact club members.

Her greatest adventure has included raising five daughters, Haley, Kendra, Madison, Hannah, and Joy, with her best friend, Steve. They love to go skiing, hiking, and off-roading in an old FJ-Cruiser.



2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL *Site Coordinator of the Year*



Alyson Kyle

James E. Moss Elementary
Promise South Salt Lake

Alyson Kyle has worked in the out-of-school time field for over seven years. She started as a volunteer nearly a decade ago at the Promise South Salt Lake Meadowbrook STEM Center where she later worked.

She also worked part-time at Hser Ner Moo Community Center, before moving to a full-time coordinator position at James E Moss Elementary in 2021, where she is passionate about building strong relationships with youth and their families as well as community partners and other staff.

Alyson has a strong team at Moss, and it starts with her empathy-led leadership. Alyson builds strong relationships with her team showing she cares not just for their success at work, but in their lives outside as well. This creates a culture where staff trust her leadership and are able to come together to run a high quality program and support families well.

Alyson also supports her staff in building relationships with school day teachers - specifically those of the grades of the youth in their afterschool group. This has helped with school day alignment for academics and given staff additional tools to run a high quality program.

Alyson is a strong advocate for her staff and will fight for what is best for them. She supports them in receiving all relevant professional development. Alyson works with staff to set goals and follow their professional goals whether it is in the OST field or not. She leads her team with passion and kindness, supporting their growth and well-being every day.



2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL *School Personnel of the Year*



Mathilda Uribe

Teacher, Escalante Elementary
Salt Lake City School District - Community Education



Mathilda Uribe has been a teacher in Salt Lake City School District for 31 years. She currently teaches Kindergarten at Escalante Elementary where she also facilitates the Family Garden Gathering, in partnership with Wasatch Community Gardens.

During her time as a teacher, Mathilda has had the honor of being a 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching recipient. She also received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Westminster University in 2022.

For the last 3 years, Mathilda has been a huge help and support to the Escalante afterschool program. She's always present and has the most fun STEM activities for the students. Mathilda is committed to working and improving the Escalante community. After teaching for 8 hours, she works in the afterschool program until 6:00 pm everyday. She has helped model great teaching practices for the Escalante staff - such as attention getters, behavior management solutions, and positive praise.

Mathilda also works as an academic liaison in the summer at Rose Park Elementary. The students and staff still remember all the fun STEM lessons she facilitated every week that correlated with weekly field trips.

Outside of her professional career, Mathilda enjoys gardening, being outdoors and spending time with her four adult daughters who support her endeavors.

2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL

Youth of the Year



Makaio Yeh

Wasatch Elementary

Boys & Girls Club of Utah County - Provo Clubhouse



Makaio Yeh is a 4th grader at Wasatch Elementary in Provo School District and attends the Boys & Girls Club of Utah County's Provo Clubhouse. He has been a participant since Kindergarten.

Makaio has always shown respect for his teachers and peers, set and held boundaries, and has even helped to improve the program at the Provo Clubhouse.

Makaio has also been improving in his social emotional learning. It is evident that in the last year alone he has grown to respect leadership figures and has built lasting friendships with his peers at Boys and Girls Club.

Makaio has stepped up to the plate. When he and his peers weren't having as much fun at club as they used to, he wanted to do something about it. His input encouraged staff to hold club elections. Staff agree that Makaio has helped to shape the program into what it is today!

2024-25 UTAH AFTERSCHOOL

Program of the Year



Provost Elementary

Provo School District
Boys & Girls Club of Utah County

The Boys & Girls Club of Utah County program at Provost Elementary was built by the school librarian, who recognized a deep need for students to reconnect, build confidence, and rediscover joy through afterschool activities.

Serving between 250 and 300 students each year, Provost's program offers a variety of student-driven clubs—from musical theatre and sewing to Dungeons & Dragons, science, mock trial, and coding. Every semester, students take part in a showcase that celebrates their growth, talents, and hard work. They also perform a musical with a cast of 65-70 students for the entire school and other audiences.

Visitors to the program are amazed at how much confidence the kids in the program have after being tutored by amazing staff. Teachers have reported that students day time attendance and testing scores have improved because of this program.

Their impact as a program is evident through recent parent feedback:

"This is the first time my son has ever been in an afterschool program and I see a change in him. He is more confident and is already asking me if I can sign him up again. Thank you for your program.

It has made a difference in my son's life."

"...I hope the school and the Boys and Girls Club recognize their incredible value here so that we can continue this special program and allow future students to be enriched in the same way that our child was this year."

