

UTAH CIVILITY AND COMMUNITY

February 9, 2012

Dear Utah Educator:

As co-chairs of the Utah Civility and Community (UCC) Initiative we invite you and your school to join us in our efforts to enhance civility throughout our great state. Here in Utah we are committed to respectful discourse and behavior toward all people. Further, we are committed to doing our part to promote welcoming, inclusive and caring communities.

The UCC Initiative encourages school and community activities that highlight civility as a ground rule in our shared public discourse and strengthens, as a core value, the quality of our communities, state and nation. Over the last year, many Utah organizations and groups participated in the Initiative in a variety of ways. We invite Utah schools to join in.

To better support and give you some ideas on how to get started, we have created some resources to serve as guideposts as you get involved. Please visit www.utahcivility.org to view a short video spot that highlights a variety of conversations schools could have at the elementary, middle or high school level. (A special thanks to Salt Lake City School District for allowing classrooms to be filmed as students participated in this project.)

Attached, you will find two short handouts (PDF files) that provide a roadmap on how classrooms or schools might host a student forum or class meeting to discuss civility and the importance of welcoming others into the school community. The handouts outline possible conversations and provide logistical information. The discussions can be a powerful step toward creating a culture of civility, respect and excellence in the school community, which in turn can encourage young people to share ideas, work together toward a common goal and create positive dialogue, relationships and friendships throughout the school.

You can also download a copy of the handouts online by visiting www.utahcivility.org, and clicking **Teaching Civility in the Classrooms** on the left hand side of the main menu. We would like to hear your ideas and stories of success. Please mail those to P.O. Box 9163, Salt Lake City, UT 84109, or email utahcivility@gmail.com.

A special thanks to the Utah Civility and Community Advisory Council, Salt Lake City School District students and teachers and the Utah State Office of Education for their ongoing support on this project.

Sincerely,

Greg Bell
Utah Lieutenant Governor

Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City Mayor