

# Utah PTA Awards Workshop

# Awards

I came across an article about the 10 major challenges facing public schools. The author Grace Chen concludes:

“There are many problems in public schools today, but identifying those issues is half the battle.

With a laundry list of challenges to face, now is the time for educators, parents and lawmakers to come together and begin to find solutions – for the benefit of all students in public schools today.”

I had to smile, and wonder if she had ever heard of the PTA!

# Awards

Recognition is a key factor in any successful business/organization as well as a key factor in retaining quality volunteers. Awards and recognition are a necessary priority in PTA at all levels. You will find that awards and recognition will provide your PTA with many great benefits.

# Awards

Purpose: The Utah PTA Awards Program is designed to offer greater opportunities for recognizing those who devote their time and energy on behalf of children.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Advocacy Award

This award is given to a  
LOCAL PTA or Individual for  
excellence in their efforts to  
support and speak on behalf of  
children and youth.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Development Award

This award is given to a LOCAL PTA for excellence in program and/or leadership development. This award is encouraged for programs in schools that are in the first five (5) years of their program – developing and improving the program. Remember this is for a program, not an individual.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Engagement Award

This award is given to a Local PTA for excellence in the area of engagement. This can include engaging the community, businesses, faculty, parents, etc. Remember this is for a program, not an individual.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Outstanding Elementary Educator

This award recognizes a professional educator currently working with students in grades preschool to 5th or 6th Grade (depending if 6th Grade is in your elementary or secondary school). State winners will be selected based on their relationship with students, parents, PTA and the community.



# Awards

## Utah PTA Outstanding Secondary Educator

This award recognizes a professional educator currently working with students in grades 5th or 6th grade (depending if 6th grade is in your elementary or secondary school) to 12th Grade. State winners will be selected based on their relationship with students, parents, PTA and the community.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Outstanding School Administrator Award

To recognize an outstanding school administrator currently working with students on an elementary or secondary level. This can include assistant principals.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Outstanding Support Staff

This award recognizes any school support staff (custodians, secretaries, lunchroom staff, bus drivers, aides, etc.) currently working in schools in grades preschool to 12th Grade. State winners will be selected based on their relationship with students, parents, PTA and the community.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Outstanding Volunteer Award

This award is given to a volunteer who renders volunteer service to children through the education system and is making a positive difference. Nominees will be considered on the basis of quality of volunteer commitment.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Spirit of Inclusivity

This award recognizes an outstanding PTA/Individual who has organized an inclusivity event/activity using the PTA National Standards for Family School Partnerships. Examples: Welcoming families into the school community, communicating effectively, supporting student success, speaking up for every child, sharing power and collaborating with community, involving minority parents in PTA. If an individual, they must be a member of the PTA and exemplify the PTA Purpose and Mission.

# Awards

## Utah PTA Spirit of PTA Award

This award recognizes an outstanding volunteer who has given consistent and outstanding service through PTA. This person must be a member of the PTA and exemplify the PTA Purposes and Mission.

# Awards

## National PTA Awards

Be sure to check the National PTA Website ([www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)) to apply for National PTA Awards.

# Awards

## Local PTA

Local PTAs will submit award nominations online at [www.utahpta.org/utah-pta-awards](http://www.utahpta.org/utah-pta-awards). Local PTAs should honor local winners. Conducting a local awards program is optional, but we have found that local PTAs who also conduct their own awards program/recognition for the awards that were selected to be written and submitted to Council add additional meaning to the process. This allows you to honor awards recipients within the school and community who selected them.



# Awards

## Council PTA

Councils will select winners in each award category. Councils should honor Council winners. The Council winners will be advanced to the Region where region level winners will be selected. Regions will determine the number of Council winners that can be sent onto the Region level.

# Awards

## Region PTA

Regions will select ONE (1) WINNER in each of the award categories to advance to State (for larger Regions with Associate Directors they can select one additional winner per associate in each category).

# Awards

She advocates for children and families everywhere by putting together and supporting Parent Nights, consistently driving efforts for child safety, encouraging parents to participate in school events and volunteer opportunities, and exemplifying raised standards of home life in her own home. She does what she can to “make every child’s potential a reality” as she communicates with families and communities when opportunities to advocate for children are available. She created an amazing Instagram page flooded with information to improve homes, education, and overall culture of our student’s environment.

Nikki created an incredible Kindness Program (Hawkeyes on Kindness) that has definitely enhanced the lives of all who have been involved! Each month students turn in tickets for other students who they catch “being Kind” and at the end of the month all tickets go into a drawing for awesome prizes. Students start being kind because they want to win a prize but end up being kind because they feel the difference when they are.

# Awards



## Tonaquint Intermediate School

"A Community empowering students to be their best!"

1310 West Carly Mallon Dr. St. George, UT 84770  
Tel: (435) 468-4250 Fax: (435) 468-4251

January 29, 2021

Dear Nomination Committee,

I am happy to write this letter in behalf of Nikki Nelson, who has served as the PTA president of Tonaquint Intermediate school for the last two years. She came to my rescue when I became the principal of the school two years ago when no one else was willing to take on the task. She has been so great to work with and appreciate all of her hard work and dedication in that time!

Nikki has been instrumental in supporting me in our school goals and helping to boost morale in our school culture while in her role. Our school had not had an active PTA for years, and Nikki made sure that she had a PTA board that helped with White Ribbon Week, Fundraising, Student Appreciation and Faculty Appreciation. She has also been running our PTA social media sites and helping to communicate all of the great things that are happening at our school.

When the pandemic hit and teachers had to teach from home while students had to begin instruction from home, Nikki still found a way to recognize our teachers during teacher appreciation week to show the teachers and staff how much the parents in our community care!

Her help and support has been appreciated and we will miss having her assist at our school when her kids move to the next grade!

Best Regards,

Desirae Boden  
Principal, Tonaquint Intermediate



Volunteer Appreciation



PTA Board Appreciation



Teacher Appreciation



Nikki creates Monthly Themes on the PTA Board



Student Activities

TIS Bucket List Bingo				
Attend a PTA meeting	Take part in an activity	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting
Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting
Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting	Attend a PTA meeting
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**The Student Council loves Nikki Nelson and the PTA**

**The Wonderful PTA!**

Written By: Student Council at Tonaquint Intermediate School

Thanks to our PTA for everything they have done for our school and teachers!

Earlier this year, our PTA president, Mrs. Nelson, and other PTA members organized a fun drawing for watching certain videos and talking with your family every night. This was for White Ribbon Week. White Ribbon Week and the videos showed us the importance of making "healthy choices in media and technology." ([education.com/white-ribbon-week](https://www.education.com/white-ribbon-week)) As a part of White Ribbon week our PTA gave us white ribbons and bracelets as reminders to be mindful of the power of online and technology use. The PTA gave our prizes to students who completed daily challenges.

This year has been challenging to make students feel a part of a school community due to Covid-19. We have had some restrictions and our PTA president and other board members have risen to the occasion to make students feel a part of our school. Our school theme for 2020-2021 has been SPACE ODYSSEY: a new adventure into the unknown. They took this theme and created school T-shirts and water bottles for students to order and use, some can even be customized with your name! They then asked that money to give back to the school.

Also this year, the PTA had a fundraiser to raise money for school supplies. Besides needed school supplies, Mrs. Nelson and our other parent volunteers have helped fund our school Hawk Life awards. Hawk Life awards allow us to go to an in-school shop and get prizes. The awards are earned for being kind, helping, and displaying good behavior. The hawk life awards help motivate students to be responsible, respectful and safe. The prizes are really cool. For example, there is one where you can cash in 50 points for a lunch outside of school! So many kids are working to get it! With the help of our PTA students are working hard to earn prizes.

Our PTA has encouraged us to increase our reading. They put together multiple reading challenges that were really fun. They would take the time to count the minutes that a certain group of people would read, and then compare them to other groups. For example, one competition was teachers vs. students. Another challenge was 5th grade vs. 6th grade. Those challenges were super fun, and it helped to motivate us to read, and we thank the PTA for doing that.

Our PTA has helped us so much. They gave us White Ribbon Week, they gave us reading challenges, and gave us an Odyssey. They have helped us feel safe, happy and make sure we all have a good time. We are so grateful for our wonderful PTA!

Special Thanks to Mrs. Nelson and our other great PTA volunteers,  
2020-2021 Tonaquint Intermediate School Student Council Members:

Brooklyn Shurtliff

Lee Esmer

Kelton Nelson

Emery Cole

Callum Davis

Emery Mackay

Savvy Dene

Pam Jahn

Alicia West, Advisor

Joanette Turley, Advisor

Benny Coleman

Gavin Dene

Pam Jahn

Alicia West, Advisor

Joanette Turley, Advisor

**The Teacher's Love Nikki Nelson**

I really appreciate all that Nikki and the PTA has done for the teachers at Tonaquint. They have made us feel appreciated and valued. They have prepared wonderful treats for us and have recognized our value as educators. Thank you, Nikki, and your PTA for everything.

-Mary Jensen, M.Ed.

I have seen several PTA presidents, but Nikki Nelson stands out. Her dedication and enthusiasm was infectious (maybe a poor word choice during these times!), and she was always trying to come up with new ways to help and fundraise. She would ask and analyze what worked and then come up with new ideas to replace the things that didn't. I especially appreciated her willingness to reach out and listen to teacher inputs. Nikki Nelson is a great PTA leader, and a champion for students.

-Matt Gonzalez, 7th Grade Language Arts

When Nikki Nelson walks into a room, it is a sure thing that awesomeness will follow! Nikki has served as the Tonaquint Intermediate School PTA President for the past few years and has gone over and above in everything she has done. Nikki is a master organizer, campaigner, and includer. Nikki has organized fundraisers from lollipops, out-of-this-world t-shirts and water bottles (which she helped design), and many other fundraising events. Some of these fundraising funds have been used to buy prizes for the PTA Kindest campaign that encouraged kindness at our school. As the mother of a handicapped child, Nikki knows the importance of inclusion, and her presence at our school has truly made a difference. Nikki is always willing to volunteer when asked. As a Language Arts teacher, our team was truly grateful when she volunteered to count hundreds of reading minutes when we hosted a school-wide reading challenge. She counted and then organized the minutes by teacher on a spreadsheet. This saved our teachers many hours of extra work and the kids had a blast reading! Nikki truly is an inspiration and I am honored to work with her at TIS.

Sincerely, Cara Whitehead  
Language Arts Teacher

# Awards

Q: How does a school choose who to nominate for the awards?

A: There are a few different factors that you will want to take into consideration.

The first one is, do you have someone that is willing to write the award(s)?

If you have more than one (1) name submitted for a specific category, then it is best to discuss the names among your board and make a decision together.

Take into consideration the details of the person or program.

# Awards

Q: Who can write the awards?

A: Anyone can. If you have an awards chair, it is great to start with them and see which ones they would like to write. It is always best to have someone who knows the program or the individual well. They are able to put a lot of details and specifics in the award. There might be someone who just reaches out to the PTA and asks if there is a certain type of an award to nominate someone they think is doing great things. If you don't have anyone entered for that specific award it is a great way to get others involved.



# Awards

Q: What things are required?

A: Each award has selection criteria and technical requirements associated with it which have to be met for the award to be judged and continue on. It is very important that these are carefully read and followed so that every award in a specific category has the ability to be judged equally.



# Awards

Q: What things are you looking for when judging the awards?

A: Everything that is listed on the award application has points when being judged. It is encouraged to cover all of the different points that are on the award. It should be more of a natural thing when writing the award, because overall the people and programs you are writing about have all of the things that the award is looking for. It is important to note that only one (1) supplementary item is required to continue on and to be judged, but up to three (3) supplementary pages will have a possibility for points.

# Awards

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Utah PTA

About • Leadership • Commissions • Programs • Events • Advocacy • Members

## Welcome to Utah PTA!

### 2021-2023 Slate of Nominees for Utah PTA Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee announces the slate of nominees for the Utah PTA Board of Directors for the 2 year term of 2021-2023.

President-elect - *Corey Fairholm*  
 Advocacy Vice President - *LeAnn Wood*  
 Secretary - *Julie Cluff*  
 Director of Leadership - *Heidi Grimshaw*  
 Director of Membership - *Alexis Beazer*  
 Administrator Representative - *Dr. Anthony Godfrey (Jordan School District)*  
 Education Commissioner - *France Barral*  
 Individual Development Commissioner - *Christi Call*  
 Student Leadership Commissioner - *Todd Hougaard*

Notice of Intent to run from the floor:  
 Article X, Section 7, j:  
 Nominees for office or positions of Director, Commissioner, or Representative, other than those nominated by the Committee on Nominations, must file with the Secretary of the Utah PTA at least 15 days prior to the annual convention. (April 20, 2021)

Respectfully,  
 The Utah PTA Nominating Committee, Karen Beebe, Chair  
 Cheryl Phipps, Stacy Bateman, Jeannette Bowen, Lee Ann Brocious, Betty Shaw, Kris Denison

### Register for 2021 Utah PTA Leadership Convention

Wednesday and Thursday, May 5th and 6th, 2021  
 Davis Conference Center in Layton  
 In person and virtual options

Quick Links

- Utah PTA Leadership Convention
- Nomination for Utah PTA Board of Directors Positions
- MemberHub Helps and Instructions
- Local PTA Report #2
- Utah PTA Bylaws
- Contact Us or Visit our Offices

Visit our new Virtual Exhibitor Hall

Join Utah PTA

- Join a local PTA unit
- Join the Utah PTA Beehive unit
- Start a new PTA unit

My account  
 Reflections  
 Awards  
 Judging  
 Log out

# Awards

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [utahpta.org/awards](http://utahpta.org/awards). The page features a dark blue header with the Utah PTA logo and navigation links: About, Leadership, Commissions, Programs, Events, Advocacy, and Members. Below the header, a light gray bar contains a 'My Account' link. The main content area is titled 'Utah PTA Awards' and includes a welcome message: 'Welcome to the new Utah PTA Awards system! This system is designed to be used by PTA leaders, from local to state, to participate in and manage the Utah PTA Awards program. As this is a new system, please feel free to send feedback or comments to [kids@utahpta.org](mailto:kids@utahpta.org). Please select one of the sections below to get started.'

The page lists four main sections, each with an icon and a description:

- My Awards Entries**: If you are a local PTA leader, use this section to submit your awards entries or view previously submitted entries. A blue button labeled 'Submit Awards Entries' is visible.
- Awards Judging**: If you are an awards judge, use this section to view and score award entries. A green button labeled 'Go to Awards Judging' is visible.
- Awards Admin**: If you are a Council, Region, or State PTA leader, use this section to view and manage units, judges, and award entries. A red button labeled 'Go to Awards Admin' is visible.
- Awards Information**: Get information about the Utah PTA Awards program, such as rules, forms, and previous awards winners. A blue button labeled 'Learn more about Utah PTA Awards' is visible.

The footer contains links for 'Contact Us', 'Resources', and 'Follow Utah PTA', along with the Utah PTA logo.

# Awards

My Awards Entries | UtahPTA.org

utahpta.org/awards/my

Utah PTA

About Leadership Commissions Programs Events Advocacy Members

My Account / Awards / My Awards Entries

## My Awards Entries

Awards entries you submitted are listed below. For information on how to submit entries, see the [Utah PTA Awards page](#) or click one of the links below.

[Utah PTA State Awards](#) | [Membership Awards](#) | [Gold Star Awards](#) | [L.E.A.P. Awards](#) | [Arts Grant](#) | [Student Scholarships](#)

Year: 2021 Search: Type: - Any - Apply Reset

Title	Type	Council	Region	Year	Created	Updated
No entries found						

Contact Us

[kids@utahpta.org](mailto:kids@utahpta.org)

Phone: 801-261-3100

[More contact info](#)

Resources

[About Utah PTA](#)

[Calendar](#)

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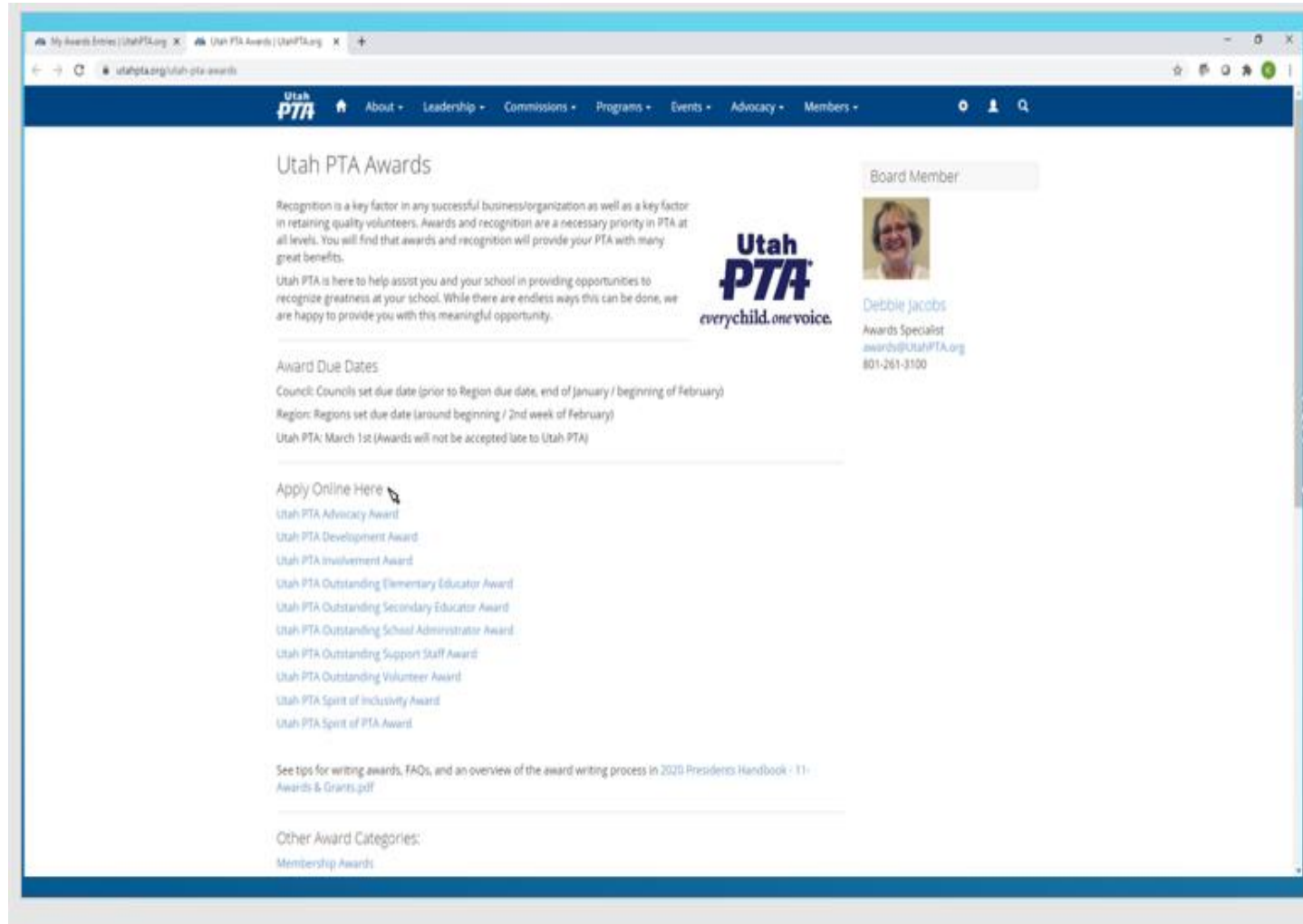
[Pinterest](#)

Utah PTA

everychild.one voice.

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# Awards



The screenshot shows the Utah PTA Awards webpage. The header includes the Utah PTA logo and navigation links: About, Leadership, Commissions, Programs, Events, Advocacy, and Members. The main content area is titled "Utah PTA Awards" and contains the following text:

Recognition is a key factor in any successful business/organization as well as a key factor in retaining quality volunteers. Awards and recognition are a necessary priority in PTA at all levels. You will find that awards and recognition will provide your PTA with many great benefits.

Utah PTA is here to help assist you and your school in providing opportunities to recognize greatness at your school. While there are endless ways this can be done, we are happy to provide you with this meaningful opportunity.

**Award Due Dates**

Council: Councils set due date (prior to Region due date, end of January / beginning of February)

Region: Regions set due date (around beginning / 2nd week of February)

Utah PTA: March 1st (Awards will not be accepted late to Utah PTA)

**Apply Online Here**


- Utah PTA Advocacy Award
- Utah PTA Development Award
- Utah PTA Involvement Award
- Utah PTA Outstanding Elementary Educator Award
- Utah PTA Outstanding Secondary Educator Award
- Utah PTA Outstanding School Administrator Award
- Utah PTA Outstanding Support Staff Award
- Utah PTA Outstanding Volunteer Award
- Utah PTA Spirit of Inclusivity Award
- Utah PTA Spirit of PTA Award

See tips for writing awards, FAQs, and an overview of the award writing process in 2020 Presidents Handbook - 11- Awards & Grants.pdf

**Other Award Categories:**

Membership Awards

**Board Member:**

  
Debbie Jacobs  
Awards Specialist  
awards@UtahPTA.org  
801-261-3100

# Awards

# Question and Answers

# Awards



*DH:*

# Follow Utah PTA



## Facebook

Groups you can join:

- Utah PTA Advocacy
- Utah PTA Super Secondary
- Utah PTA Excellent Elementary
- Utah PTA Treasurers
- Utah PTA Reflections
- Utah School Community Councils



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