



Utah High School Activities Association

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October 25, 2019—PRESS RELEASE

Letter from UHSAA Executive Director Rob Cuff RE: #LeadTogether Initiative

Dear UHSAA Member Schools—

A press release was sent today by the Utah Jazz, who are joined by other professional sports franchises and athletes, universities and coaches and the Utah High School Activities Association in a long-term commitment to cultivating and promoting a community culture of inclusion and belonging.

I invite you as a UHSAA member school to send this information and the video link to your coaches, teachers and students. The 60-second video introduces “Lead Together,” which I encourage you to share with your school and community. For example, the link can be used by your coaches and teachers with their students, at a parent night, as part of your school video announcements, in a variety of ways on game day and wherever you see possible: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hmpWYy0-WI&feature=youtu.be>.

For more information, please visit leadtogetherutah.org.

The UHSAA joins with those represented in the video by pledging to stand against discrimination, inequality, injustice, racism and other types of negative behavior. Instead, we must demonstrate respect and appreciation for opponents, officials, coaches and fellow team members at all times. Get loud, have a great time, but remain positive by cheering for your team and not against your opponent. Together we can promote the development of character and ensure the teaching of positive values, philosophies and principles of educational value that will last a lifetime. We can do this by creating positive learning laboratories where practical life lessons are taught by enforcing standards of excellence.

We call on all 155 UHSAA member schools to Raise the Bar and make the commitment to education-based activities by teaching, enforcing, awarding and modeling the principles of proper and appropriate sportsmanship and citizenship as found in our new and improved Sportsmanship Handbook. For more information and to find the Sportsmanship Handbook, visit <https://www.uhsaa.org/sportsmanship/>.

Respectfully,

Robert C. Cuff, CAA

UHSAA Executive Director

About the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA)

The UHSAA is the leadership organization for high school athletic and fine arts activities in Utah. Since 1927, the UHSAA has led the development of education-based interscholastic athletic and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The belief is these activities are an essential part of the high school experience and go a long way to improving academic performance and producing better citizens.

The UHSAA reaches 155 member schools and nearly 100,000 participants in high school activity programs. The organization sanctions 14 sports and the activities of music, speech/debate and theatre/drama in six different classifications. The UHSAA is governed by a 15 member Board of Trustees made up of elected school board members, superintendents and principals representing school districts and areas throughout Utah, a charter school representative, a private school representative and a state board of education representative.

The organization is committed to stressing educational and cultural values, improving the participation experience in activities, promoting life skills and lessons involved in competitive activities, fostering sportsmanship and mutual respect and assisting those who oversee high school sports and activities in UHSAA member high schools. For more information, visit the UHSAA website at www.uhsaa.org