

## NEWS RELEASE

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**SALT LAKE CITY** — Utah Career and Technical Education (CTE) is pleased to announce Granite School District and Washington School District as the winners of the first annual 2017 Utah Excellence in Action award. The Utah Aerospace Pathways program in Granite School District and the WashK12 Internships program in Washington School District were selected based on their uniquely inventive and effective approaches to stimulating student learning, offering extensive work-based learning experiences, maintaining strong partnerships with industry and community organizations, and preparing students for postsecondary and career success.

The Utah Aerospace Pathways program and the WashK12 Internships program represent two of the best CTE programs in the state of Utah. These high-quality programs serve a combined 67,523 Career and Technical Education students in the Wasatch Front South Region and the Southwest Region, providing all learners with a world-class education. While each program is unique, each offers a rigorous sequence of courses beginning with foundational skills to subject-matter, real-world, hands-on experiences in the classroom led by dedicated educators, and meaningful work-based experiences facilitated by industry partners.

Granite School District and Washington School District, in collaboration with industry partners, have created a unique career pipeline for high school students by offering programs that meet industry needs.

**The Utah Aerospace Pathways program in Granite School District** was developed by a group of industry partners who joined together, in collaboration with Granite School District, to determine how to create a talent pool for the Utah aerospace industry. The program began in the 2015-2016 school year with 21 students. Within one-year, the program more than doubled to 49 students in the 2016-2017 school year. Students involved in the program take courses at their high school that align with the requirements found in industry. The Utah Aerospace Pathways program combines coursework with work-based learning experiences to support student exploration and skill development.

Students completing the courses in the Utah Aerospace Pathways program receive a Utah Aerospace certificate. This certificate guarantees students an interview for entry-level positions in aerospace manufacturing.

[uapathways.com](http://uapathways.com)

**The WashK12 Internships program in Washington School District** was developed in partnership with the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS). The program provides high school students the opportunity to participate in an internship with a local employer in order to increase employability after graduating from high school. The program is the first employer driven workforce model leveraging existing education and DWS pathways and resources.

The program began in the fall of 2016 with 10 participants and zero employer agreements for intern placement. The program has now grown to include 140 participants and 115 employer agreements, offering more than 230 internship opportunities in areas such as human resources, mechanical, legal, and graphic design.

WashK12 Internships give high school students the opportunity to try a career field they are interested in by serving as an unpaid intern in a community business. Students develop critical skills that enable them to succeed in the workplace.

[washk12internships.org](http://washk12internships.org)

On September 12, 2017, Granite School District and Washington School District were honored at an awards ceremony for their Excellence in Action.