



# iUTAH

Newsletter, October 2015

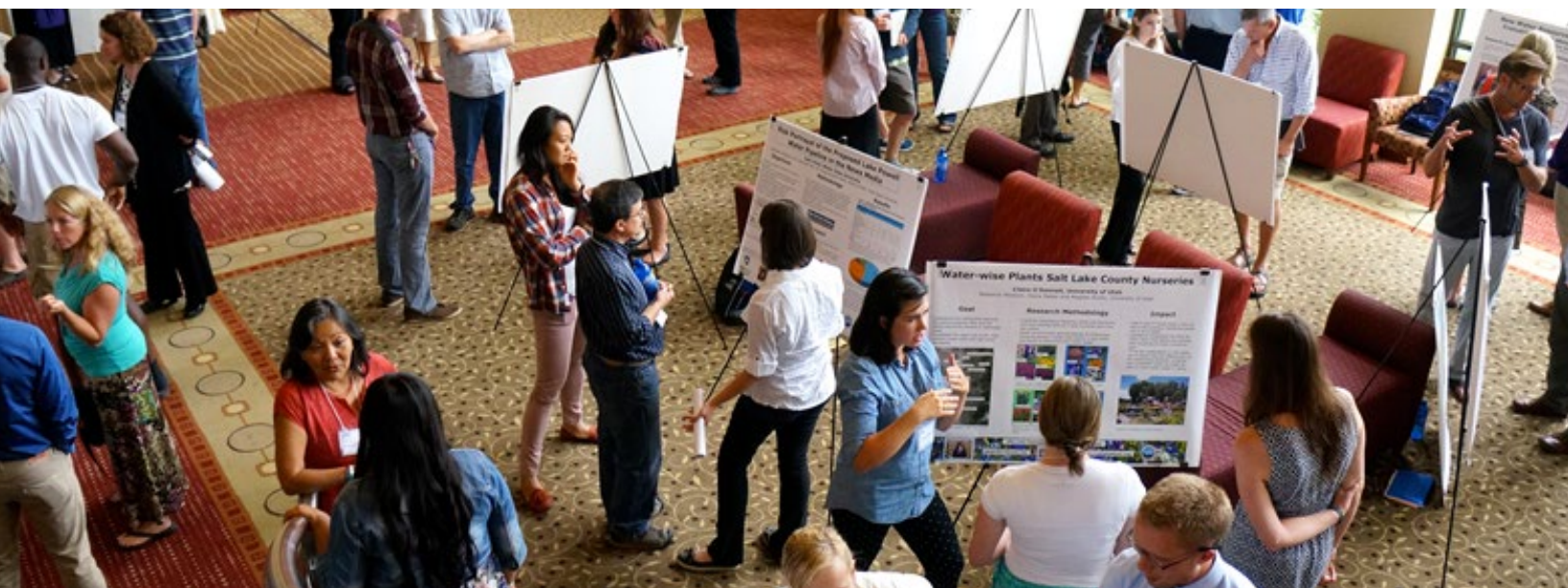
## iUTAH Diversity Conference & All-Hands Meeting

*Friday, November 13, 2015  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm*

*Salt Lake City, UT*

### Inside

Weber State Undergraduate iFellow Presentations at WSU.....	2
WSU Students In Action.....	3
Staff Transitions.....	4
Provo River Festival & Upcoming Events.....	5
Office Administration.....	6



*Preregistration is required!*

*Register now for  
All-Hands Meeting*

# iFellows Inform Through WSU Poster Presentations



**Matthew**  
WSU

As we enter fall, the iUTAH Undergraduate Research Fellows (iFellows) experience of last summer is still fresh in some of the participants' minds. Last week, two Summer 2015 iFellows from Weber State University (WSU) shared their presentations and thoughts on their 11-week experience to an audience that included WSU's president and provost.

Matthew Johnson has completed two years of the applied environmental geoscience program at WSU. Last summer, he worked with faculty mentor Dr. Doug Jackson-Smith of USU on the statewide Utah Water Survey and completed a study of his own: "Landscape Preferences in Utah's Arid Environment."

Reflecting on what he learned through the whole experience, Matt said, "the biggest thing for me was learning the whole research process, that is, from start to finish, to finally present the research."

When asked if he would like to continue with the project, Matt said "I would love to continue working with him (Doug Jackson-Smith). He's got a lot of ideas, and is always working on the next project. I would like to jump in on the next one."



Matt and André at WSU



**André**  
WSU

André Valle, a student in the Health Promotion program at WSU, worked with faculty mentor Dr. Courtney Flint, and iFellow Zack Oldroyd, both of USU. His project involved the collection of data and audio materials for the Utah Water Voices project.

When asked about the process, André said that "the sheer and vast size of what collaboration is between universities, and how every little person, or task, or job is very important" impressed him the most.

His takeaway from the project was how "large and stressing science could be" and "how the public is informed about science." He was interested in following "this process and continuing being a researcher" in the future.



# Students in Action at Weber State University

Dr. Gary Johnson is one of the many iUTAH participants across the state encouraging students to get involved in research in the area of water sustainability. He teaches in the political science department at WSU, and the recipient of an iUTAH 2015 Research Catalyst Grant (RCG), which he used to engage students in water policy research.

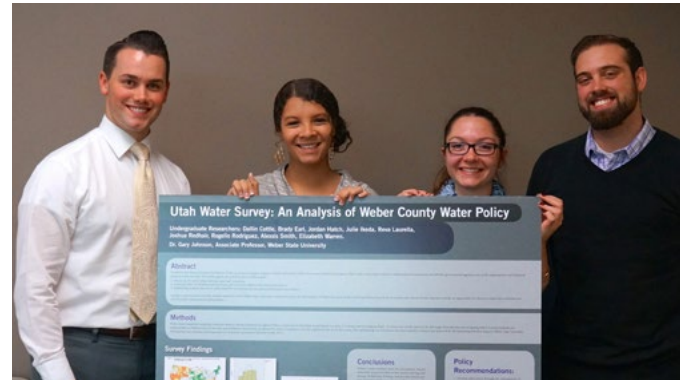
Students of Gary's Urban Government course, also offered in conjunction with WSU's Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL), participated in active education, outreach, and research this past summer. They surveyed 251 Weber County residents about their attitudes on water quality, availability, storage, and pricing, as well as future reserves.

Some of the students from the class, including Dallin Cottle, Joshua Redhair, Alexxis Smith, and Reva Laurella, all seniors at WSU, presented their poster and findings to a group of students, iUTAH staff, and Weber State's president and provost at WSU.

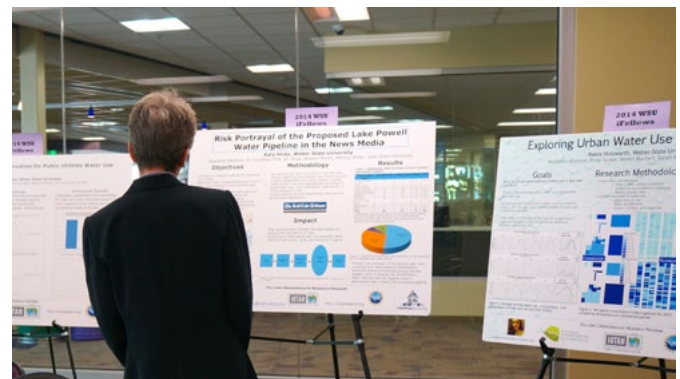
When asked about their experiences, Dallin Cottle spoke for the group and said, "It was surprising the lack of understanding of what people thought about water, especially the pricing... People had no idea what there was when the pricing came around." He added that the group felt strongly that "we can do something about water," stating that "there are ways we can incentivize, inform, or educate them (the public) on water and water pricing."

Dallin said that the students' ideas included to "hand out a flyer with their monthly water bill, and things like that... Applicable things from our survey that directly relate, and are easy to do and implement."

The students will continue to work on a final draft of their report, which will be completed at the end of this semester.



Dallin, Alexxis, Reva, and Joshua from Dr. Johnson's Urban Government course



iFellow posters on display at WSU



Students get a chance to share information after the poster presentation at WSU

# iUTAH Says Goodbye to Caitlyn

Caitlyn Lewis, our outreach assistant, has moved on to pursue an advanced



degree in communication studies as a graduate student at the University of Montana.

When asked about her time with iUTAH, Caitlyn said she

“developed a deeper love and respect for the environment and its natural resources,” and will miss the “amazing people working on some of the most important issues in our watersheds today.” As a communication studies student, she plans on studying environmental justice issues, and hopes “to understand how discourse surrounding water issues has the ability to effect change in our society.”

We would like to thank Caitlyn for all the many projects and programs she worked on during her time with us, and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.



Visit the iUTAH booth at Science Unwrapped (more under upcoming events)

She is excited to be joining the team, and adds “as a naturally curious person, I am excited to meet and talk with as many students and professionals across the state as I can in the coming year.”

While working at USU over the past eight



years, Jeannine was also a student, and completed a master’s degree in the English department focused on folklore and the letters of Roald Dahl. She originally hails from the Midwest, where her first real job was as a

summer guide at a local nature center in Janesville, Wisconsin. She has called Utah home for over two decades, and enjoys an active life with her husband Charlie, two teenager children, Hana and Ben, and her faithful dog Maggie.

## Welcome iUTAH’s New Communications Specialist

During this transition, iUTAH welcomes Jeannine Huenemann to its staff as our new communications specialist.

Jeannine comes to us with a background in communication, having worked for the Fluvial Habitats Center, and prior to that at the Center for Integrated BioSystems, both at Utah State University.



# Provo River Watershed Festival



Fun in the sun--learning about the Provo River Watershed

The Provo River Watershed Festival is a yearly event held by the Provo River Watershed Council to engage families with local wildlife and water science. Natasha Griffin, an undergraduate student at Brigham Young University and recent iFellow, ran a festival booth for iUTAH. She talked about iUTAH's mission and research, and used USU's Stream Hydrology Trailer to teach about how watersheds work.

## Upcoming Events

### 24th National NSF EPSCoR Conference

November 2-3, 2015  
Portsmouth, NH

### Science Unwrapped, Michelle Baker

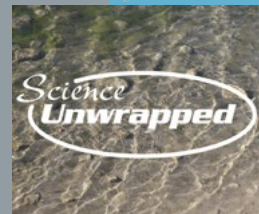
November 6, 2015, at 7 p.m.  
Logan, UT

### iUTAH Diversity Conference & All-Hands Meeting

November 13, 2015  
Salt Lake City, UT

### AISES National Conference

November 19-21, 2015  
Phoenix, AZ



Don't forget to check "Related Opportunities" and "Events" on the website for information about internships, seminars, assistantships, workshops, fellowships, and much more.

## Are you doing interesting iUTAH Research, Education, or Outreach?

We are committed to communicating your successes. In addition to the resources found on our website, our staff is eager to photograph and write about what you are doing. Contact Jeannine Huenemann, (435-797-0984 or [jeannine.huenemann@usu.edu](mailto:jeannine.huenemann@usu.edu)) for details.

# iUTAH Project Office Staff visit with PUI Partners

iUTAH Assistant Director and Project Administrator Andy Leidolf and EOD coordinator Ellen Burns used an invitation by the Biology Department at Southern Utah University to visit and give a seminar on iUTAH's work to spend some additional time visiting with our PUI partners across the state. Over the course of three days, Ellen and Andy met with faculty and administrators at Dixie State University, Snow College, Utah Valley University, and SUU to discuss opportunities for involvement with iUTAH research and EOD programs, and to solicit feedback on past and future engagement. We hope that a number of productive relationships, with both new participants and "old hands" alike, will originate from these visits. Stay tuned.



Contact Us:  
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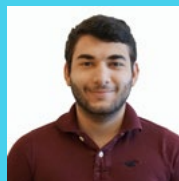
Check out [iUTAHEPSCoR.org](http://iUTAHEPSCoR.org)  
or follow us on Twitter or Facebook  
for new announcements and related  
material.

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