We are iUTAH

SCIENCE FOR UTAH’S WATER FUTURE
Dear Friends of iUTAH,

What follows is a collection of reflections about what iUTAH has meant to all of you. My favorite quote that has come out of all of this contemplation came from Courtney Flint as she said, “We expanded our horizons to include each other’s science.”

iUTAH has been doing water science research, education, training, and outreach in Utah for five years, thanks to the generous support of the National Science Foundation through the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). As our eligibility in this program comes to a close, we are now considered a graduate state, joining the ranks of Iowa and Tennessee, and no longer eligible for new EPSCoR awards.

We have worked hard over the past five years building capacity for further funding, sharing knowledge, inspiring dialogue, and have seen the broader impacts of our efforts to reach a diverse audience through education, training, and outreach. Before we move on and go our separate ways, we should reflect on this success and find ways to continue to be included in each other’s science for Utah’s water future.

Sincerely,

Michelle Baker
iUTAH EPSCoR Project Director
NSF EPSCoR awards funding to the iUTAH project beginning on August 1 for five years

Household survey conducted to learn public perceptions of water use in the state

Published iSAW model, an integrated framework for human-water system sustainability

Researchers and students engage in “synoptic sampling” of two study streams

Data from GAMUT network of three study streams first available online

The Leonardo museum opens long-running water exhibit engaging over 270K visitors

Collaborations brought Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science to Utah

How did we get where we are today?
$29.5 million in funding from 80 research proposals as a result of award.
JACKIE GRANT
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
Faculty/Researcher

“Participation in iUTAH helped set the direction for my teaching-through-research program at Southern Utah University. Through iUTAH I was able to develop research partnerships that benefited undergraduate students in and out of the classroom. Because of iUTAH’s strong emphasis on education, outreach, and diversity, I was also able to bring water conservation programming to the local community in Cedar City through outreach at the Garth and Jerri Frehner Museum of Natural History.”

GREG CARLING
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
Faculty/Researcher

“Over the past five years I have built much of my research program around the iUTAH project. The monitoring infrastructure and outreach program have been a critical foundation for getting additional research grants to study snowpack, air quality, and water quality in northern Utah. iUTAH has given me the opportunity to network with students, researchers, and water managers across the state, which will continue to provide benefits long after the project is finished.”

JIM EHLERINGER
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Faculty/Researcher

“Building bridges that strengthen connections among Utah’s outstanding universities and colleges has been the highlight of my iUTAH experience. It is so rewarding to see outstanding inter-institutional and interdisciplinary research and training emerge. And it is even more gratifying to know that such connections will persist in coming years as new opportunities emerge.”

GREG CARLING
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
Faculty/Researcher

“Able to bring water conservation programming to the local community in Cedar City”
Communicating science through 210 publications in peer-reviewed journals.
"iUTAH has provided a platform for my research to flow into rivers and lakes. As a microbial and ecosystem ecologist, much of my research used to center around water, more in the direction of bacterial responses to water in soils. iUTAH has provided a platform for my research to flow into rivers and lakes. I am committed to water quality research and will continue in this research vein for years to come. I am indebted to the people of iUTAH, and am continually impressed by the knowledge, willingness to share, and enthusiasm for high-quality research expressed by my collaborators."

"As an iFellow, I studied human-environment interactions, and learned all about research methods, data collection, and analyses. I also had a few really fun and interesting days of working with iUTAH researchers in other areas, learning how to sample water and understand river hydrology. My research became part of my honors thesis on water scarcity concerns in the Utah population. I am so grateful for the wonderful opportunities I received through iUTAH."

"An unsung success from iUTAH has been the cultural shift among researchers to recognize and engage a vast array of ideas, methods, data, and possibilities across water science disciplines. I don’t think it’s stretch to say that most iUTAH researchers think more broadly about the water system and what can be done when we integrate social, built, and natural structures and processes."

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INSPIRING DIALOGUE

543 scholarly presentations and posters

and 155 collaborations

Credit: University of Utah Office of Undergraduate Research
We are iUTAH

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engaging diverse audiences through education, training, and outreach
DYLAN DAISTRUP
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
GAMUT Technician

“I have enjoyed connecting with state and agency groups, and am actively involved in working on harmful algal blooms in Utah Lake.”

“You could say that I have grown up with iUTAH. I started my experience with iUTAH as an undergrad at UVU working on a research catalyst grant. Currently, I am the Provo Watershed GAMUT Technician. In this role, I have enjoyed connecting with state and agency groups, and am actively involved in working on harmful algal blooms in Utah Lake.”

ADRIENNE ANDREWS
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Diversity Enhancement Advisor

“I have learned a great deal about the complexity of water and the impacts it has on all of our communities, with a special emphasis on communities of color. Perhaps most importantly, I have developed relationships with educators and practitioners across the state who are interested, willing and ready to come together to solve the problems we all face – together!”

“Through my experience with iUTAH, I have gained knowledge and skills in ecology and hydrology. New opportunities have arisen with conferences, collaborations with other scientists, and graduate school. All of these have helped me develop my career path and goals for the future.”

MADLYN RUNBURG
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF UTAH
Education/Engagement Advisor

“iUTAH has been a unique and rewarding professional experience. Being part of a diverse team of participants to better understand and communicate an important area of scientific research – with a strong focus on local issues – itself has been fulfilling.”

Being part of a diverse team of participants to better understand and communicate an important area of scientific research

SIMONE KA-VOKA JACKSON
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Undergraduate/Graduate Researcher

“I have developed relationships with educators and practitioners across the state who are interested, willing and ready to come together to solve the problems we all face – together!”
“My favorite part of the iUTAH project has been meeting and working with water resources experts throughout the state. In fact, I continue to collaborate with water researchers that I have met through iUTAH for ongoing projects funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and National Science Foundation. I will most miss working with the diverse group of students involved in iUTAH’s water sustainability research.”

— SARAH NULL

“iUTAH really helped me become a part of a culture of collaboration, at all levels. Because of the project, I have collaborative relationships with colleagues in multiple disciplines at institutions all up and down the Wasatch Front, as well as on my own campus.”

— DAN BEDFORD

“My favorite part of the iUTAH project has been meeting and working with water resources experts throughout the state.

— YUSUF JAMEEL

“Besides helping me in my own scientific research, support from iUTAH has provided me with a chance to look at research questions from different points of view, and allowed me to appreciate the importance of collaboration and holistic approaches to answer real life research problems.”

— MAURA HAHNENBERGER

“Participating in iUTAH has given me opportunity to connect and collaborate with colleagues at a variety of institutions. These cross-institution relationships have allowed me to get involved with large-scale projects that focus on research.”

— CROSS-INSTITUTION RELATIONSHIPS