

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE UTAH INDIAN CURRICULUM GUIDE

Fellow Teachers,

The American West Center at the University of Utah, along with our partners the Utah Division of Indian Affairs, KUED-7, the Utah State Office of Education, and the American Indian nations that call Utah home, is proud to present the *We Shall Remain: Utah Indian Curriculum Guide* (UICG). UICG provides educators with a comprehensive resource to teach the unique history and culture of Utah’s Ute, Navajo, Goshute, Southern Paiute, and Northwestern Band of the Shoshone nations.

The history of Utah—and, indeed, of the United States—looks significantly different when viewed from the Indian perspective. It is essential for students to learn about Utah’s tribes’ long struggles for survival and why those struggles occurred. It is just as essential for students to realize that while each of these tribes has had setbacks and tragedies, they have also had triumphs. In making their stories the centerpiece of this project, the American West Center has drawn on more than forty years of experience collecting, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating the remarkable histories of the West’s diverse populations, particularly American Indians. The Center’s history of collaboration with tribal communities and commitment to weaving heretofore silenced Indian voices into the historical narrative will be very apparent in these lessons.

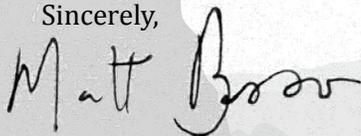
In consultation with K-12 teachers we have developed twenty-four complete lesson plans, eight each for fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth/eleventh grade. At each grade level, the lesson plans are united by a common theme—“culture” in the fourth grade, “ingenuity” in the seventh grade, and “sovereignty” in high school. Each lesson plan is grade-leveled, tied to NCSS Standards, Utah State Standards, and Accreditation Competencies, and has detailed objectives and procedures.

UICG complements and extends the classroom use of KUED-7’s acclaimed *We Shall Remain* documentaries; however, each lesson plan can also stand alone. All lesson plans offer numerous modifications for teachers and come with materials specially designed for students, such as excerpts of primary source documents, and for teachers, including an *At a Glance* section with a strong but concise historical background. Because our goal for this project is to empower teachers to make the history of Utah’s five American Indian nations a central part of their teaching, we have also added a number of introductory resources, including brief histories of each of the five nations and an overview of Great Basin American Indian history.

The online version of UICG replicates the print version, but it also contains a variety of built-in links, including six interactive Google Earth maps that expand a number of lesson plans in highly useful ways. Additionally, as part of our larger curriculum project, we have fully integrated UICG with the Utah American Indian Digital Archive (UAIDA), a research tool recently developed by the American West Center and J. Willard Marriott Library Special Collections. UAIDA—which, like the online version of UICG, is at www.UtahIndians.org—provides keyword-searchable access to thousands of maps, photographs, oral histories, books, articles, and government and tribal documents related to Utah’s American Indian communities. These sources supply teachers and students with a deeper background on the history of the tribes and facilitate student research projects.

There’s no question that extraordinary ingenuity and a deep and abiding respect for their traditional cultures have been the cornerstones for the survival and success of Utah’s tribes. The American West Center and our partners salute you for your commitment to teaching the stories that bring this saga alive and for making the history of Utah’s native citizens a central part of your teaching.

Sincerely,



Dr. Matthew Basso
Director, American West Center