

# Learning, Leading, and Leveraging Opportunities Throughout Your Career

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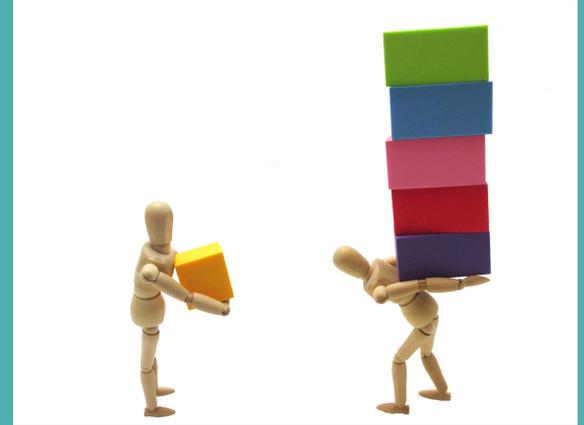


# What does it mean to be a leader in education?





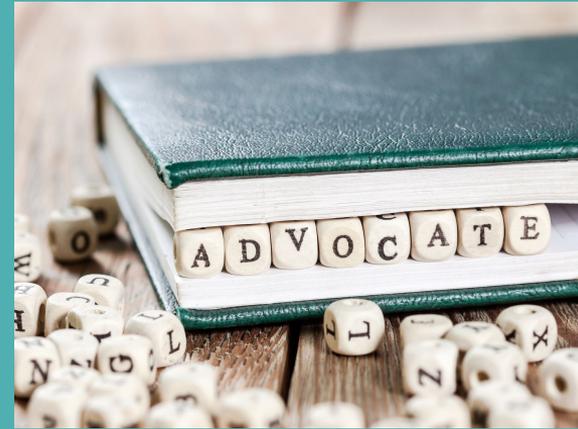
**“It means to facilitate channels of support for teachers without adding a burden to their already hectic workload”**



**“Willingness to take  
time to spend with  
another educator and  
help them with  
something they need”**



**“You are an educator that takes the opportunity to be an advocate”**



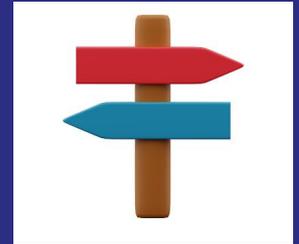
**“To be forward with  
your thinking and  
sharing innovative  
ideas, programs, and  
more with your  
colleagues”**



**“You are an  
example and  
someone people  
can trust”**



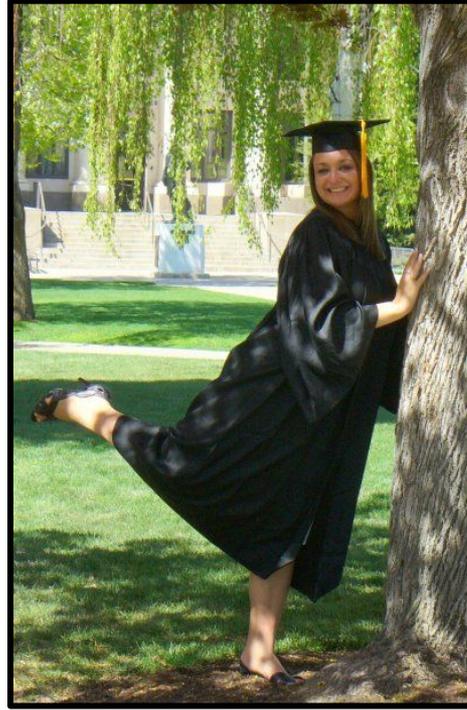
# Learning Leading Leveraging Opportunities



# Learning



# The day I graduated college ...

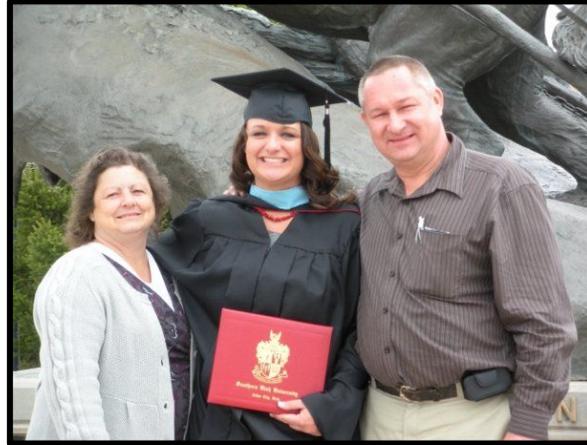


**My mom:  
Are you going  
to get masters  
degree?**

**Me:  
No, I don't  
think I want to**



# Two years later ...



# Sixteen years later ...



# Degrees and programs

Ph.D. Coursework  
Educational Research



M. Ed. Education



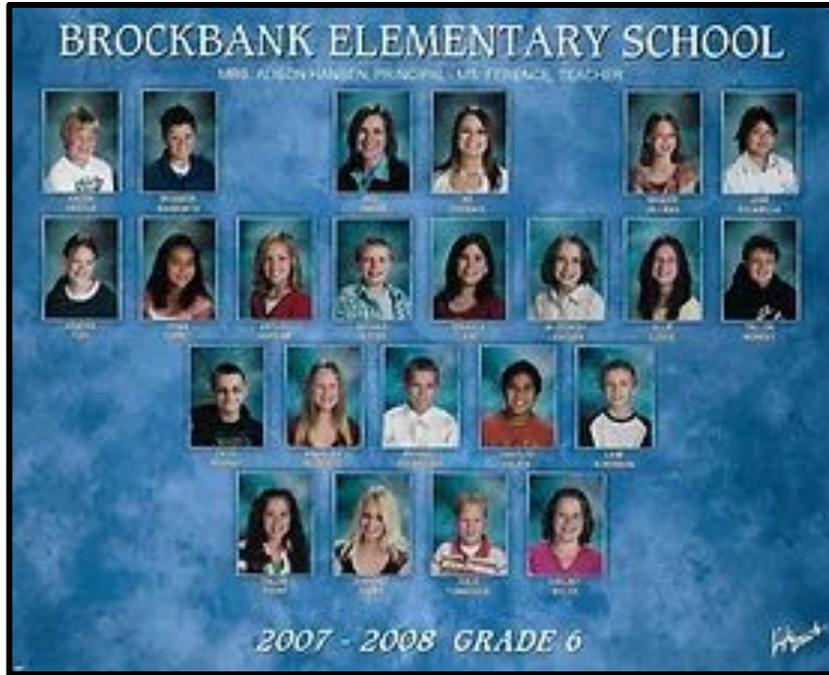
B.S. Elementary Education



M. S.  
Educational  
Leadership



# Teacher and Math Teacher Leader



# Coach and District Math Specialist



**ASD Elementary Math Team**

[Click here to submit a question for the District Math Team](#)

 <b>Dr. Joe Backman</b> <small>Director of Elementary Mathematics jbackman@alpine.k12.ut.us</small>	 <b>Melinda McDanel</b> <small>melinda.mcdanel@alpine.k12.ut.us</small>	 <b>Emily Biggs</b> <small>emilbiggs@alpine.k12.ut.us</small>	 <b>Michleene Johnson</b> <small>mjohnson@alpine.k12.ut.us</small>
 <b>Annette Krueger</b>	 <b>Karla Tanner</b>	 <b>Shannon Olson</b>	 <b>Ellen Andersen</b>



# State-level Specialist



# University Instructor



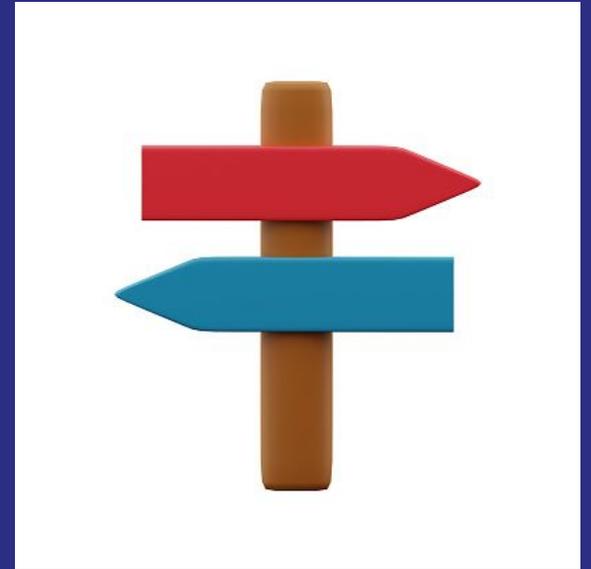
# What opportunities have you learned the most from in your career?



- **Observing other teachers**
- **Professional learning (facilitated by teachers)**
- **Conferences**
- **Being a mentor**
- **Graduate courses and degrees**
- **Leadership meetings**
- **Being in the trenches**
- **Challenges and failures**



# Leading



# What opportunities have best prepared you to lead other educators in your career?



# From teachers and leaders ...

- **Observing teacher leaders and administrators**
- **Professional learning (from and not from districts)**
- **Learning what not to do from bad experiences**
- **Being a mentor or coach**
- **Graduate courses and degrees**
- **Leadership meetings**
- **Experience**



# From my experience ...



- **Volunteer to help with projects and events, then organize projects and events**
- **Participate on committees, then chair committees**
- **Learn about organizational boards, then serve on them**
- **Take courses specific to leadership, then teach them**
- **Attend conferences, then present with someone, then present by yourself, then try a different type of presentation**
- **Speak up on your team, at your school, in the district, and in any opportunity you have**



# Leveraging Opportunities



UCTM CONFERENCE

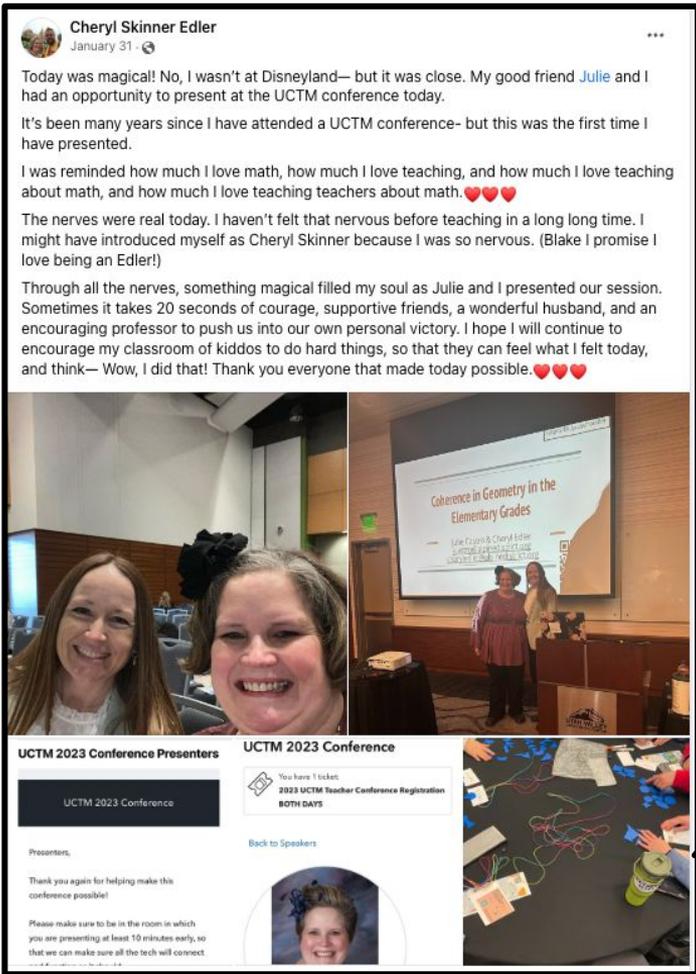


Jan. 31st- Feb. 1st, 2023

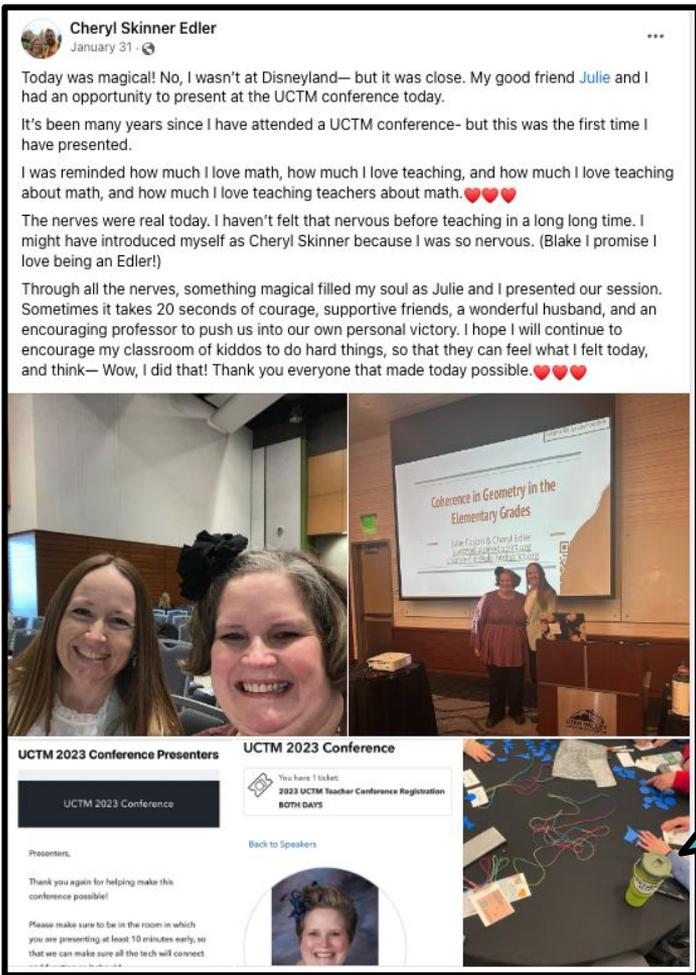


**“Presenting isn’t as scary as you would think, and it’s a great opportunity to challenge yourself professionally.”**





**Today was magical!  
This was the first time I  
presented. I was  
reminded how much I love  
math, teaching, and  
teaching teachers about  
math. ❤️❤️❤️**



**“Through all the nerves, something magical filled my soul. Sometimes it takes 20 seconds of courage, supportive friends, a wonderful husband, and an encouraging professor to push us into our own personal victory. Wow, I did that! Thank you everyone that made today possible.”**

## Meadow Elementary teacher named finalist for national award

Published 12 months ago on March 22, 2022

By Nicole Kunze



**“It is really humbling to be a finalist. After being nominated, I was filmed teaching a lesson and then had the opportunity to write reflectively. The process has really allowed me to improve my practices and think deeply about teaching and learning. I have also seen that the growth I've experienced has only been possible through high quality mentoring, which I hope to pay forward in the future.”**





**“I follow lots of teachers on social media. Social media changes things!”**



# What are the pathways to becoming a leader?



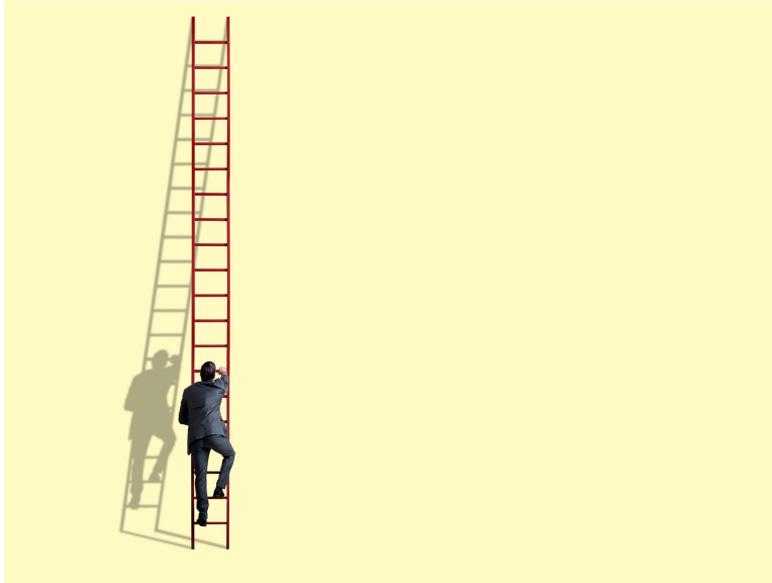
# Learning trajectories of children



# Leadership trajectories of adults



# Leadership trajectories of adults



**“Lots of educators think vertically...  
be a classroom teacher, then a coach, then  
admin or district office ...**

**You don't have to climb that ladder to be an  
influential educator ...**

**Some teachers have influenced WAY MORE  
teachers than coaches or admin have.  
You don't have to leave your classroom to  
influence other teachers.”**

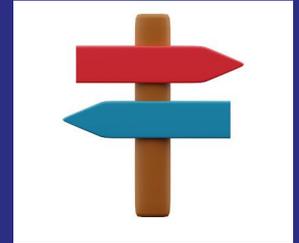


# My Advice ...

- **Be brave**
- **Take risks**
- **Be open to change**
- **Follow your instincts**
- **Build and maintain relationships**
- **Take advantage of opportunities**
- **Know when to say no to opportunities**
- **Try new things, and then try other things**



# How will you learn, lead, and leverage opportunities?



# Thank You!



## Connect with me



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