



Mission

We network to create educational opportunities, connect citizens, and collaborate with partners, serving Utah communities.

Vision

Be Utah's most recognized, trusted, and accessible partner for innovation in educational technology.

Values

Caring – Supporting our co-workers, customers, and community
Leadership – Advancing relationships and encouraging ideas
Integrity – Keeping our promises
Communication – Listening to meet needs
Service – Benefiting our partners

Organization

The Utah Education Network is a consortium of public education partners, including the Utah System of Higher Education and its ten universities and colleges and Utah Electronic College; the Utah State Office of Education, local school districts and the Utah Electronic High School; and the state's Library system.

Need

Utah's public schools, colleges, and universities depend on the Utah Education Network to perform their missions. UEN provides Internet and network connectivity to every public school and college and university through the UEN wide area network; manages two video conferencing systems; hosts enterprise-level software applications for our public and higher education partners; offers instructional programming through a 24/7 television station; supports a growing range of rich educational resources at UEN's Web site, www.uen.org; and supports the technology professional development needs of Utah teachers. By providing these services, UEN has enriched the lives of hundreds of thousands of students who take classes, earn degrees or professional certifications, or receive their GED.

The Internet is the data and communications distribution system used to deliver hundreds of administrative, academic and student support applications affecting every student, educator, and staff member countless times each day. For thousands of Utah students and educators, it is their school, classroom, meeting place, and library. The Internet must be accessible to every educator, student, administrator, and staff member from any location and at all times. UEN must provide a single point of access for educators and students to easily and reliably gain access to those Internet resources that support educational needs

identified by our stakeholders to be provided at a statewide level through www.uen.org. The demand for increasing network capacity in public and higher education is proven by the fact that UEN network traffic has been doubling every 18 months to 2 years.

Providing technologically delivered classes and programs for thousands of students and hundreds of educators every day is an increasingly important responsibility of Utah's schools, colleges, and universities. In the Utah System of Higher Education, enrollment in online, technology-enhanced, EDNET, satellite-delivered, and KUEN classes has grown dramatically for the past several years. About one in four college students now enrolls in at least one technologically-delivered course each term. Enrollment in the Utah Electronic High School has also increased enormously. There are now more than 50,000 enrollments in the Utah Electronic High School.

Because of the trends described above, educators, public and higher education staff members, and UEN employees must be technologically competent. UEN must play a key role in providing training to its own staff members, and to teachers, faculty members, and technology staff members in educational organizations throughout the state.

UEN is driven by the needs of education. As it responds to more diverse needs, it grows in complexity, and supports more services at more locations. The result is increased pressure on all of us to coordinate, plan, and make decisions collaboratively for the mutual benefit of all regions of the state and all levels of education. Improved coordination of IT policies and backbone infrastructure will guarantee effective sharing of resources, lower prices through joint purchasing, and assure efficient use of technical support and training as UEN staff members work collaboratively with their public and higher education colleagues. Gaps in effective coordination, planning, and governance must be identified and eliminated.

There continue to be significant challenges facing us during the coming year. It is our goal to complete the final phases of our network infrastructure and EDNET conversion projects which were begun several years ago. These projects position us to effectively respond to growing Network bandwidth demands and to meet the need for essential, technology-based educational services. The economy of Utah is sound, but state financial resources must be carefully prioritized to meet numerous compelling needs that compete for available state resources. UEN must achieve the greatest value possible from limited state resources, and continue to aggressively seek grants and other revenue sources to augment state funds. And we must carefully prioritize Network projects to gain the greatest benefit from the dollars we spend.

