

# Innovations High School

Salt Lake City, Utah



*Cultivating a Personalized Education for Every Student*

Next Generation Grant

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June 8, 2012



## OUR MISSION

To provide a student centered, personalized education by utilizing the power and scalability of technology to customize education; where students will learn in their unique manner and pace and constraints of traditional classrooms and barriers to educational innovation are removed.



## FOUNDED

Innovations High School was founded January 2012. Classes begin August 2012. 51 students have registered as of June 8, 2012, 65 more are scheduled to tour the school and have a personalized session with our counselor.

## PLANNING

Extensive planning went into the design of all aspects of the school—from analyzing and selecting the appropriate digital curricula to breaking down educational barriers.

The design and construction of the building and its' programming was also planned and built in conjunction with our higher education partner, Salt Lake Community College, with whom we share facilities and resources.

## OUR TEAM . . .

We work as a team—our greatest strength. Every whiteboard synergy session focuses on student needs and how we can change the future for them in meaningful ways. We believe in creating disruption in the educational system if it is good for our students and parents. We are committed to the vision, philosophy, and success of our ideas.

Our members bring years of experience from all levels of secondary leadership, instructional leadership, and curriculum support. We also have put together a team of highly innovative techies with the capacity to manage complex IT, LMS, and data systems. We have a proven capacity to implement, administer, and sustain successful programs.

Kenneth Grover  
Principal

John Craigle  
Teacher Specialist

Lars Anderson  
Technology Specialist

Cindy Beynon  
Administrative Assistant

Jan Hedberg  
Guidance Counselor

Elaine Toronto  
Dean of Students

Nick Hamilton  
LMS/Digital Curriculum

Yadira Burgoyne  
Receptionist

# SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**POPULATION**            **26,000**

Caucasian	42.5%
Hispanic/Latino	41.2%
Black	5.2%
Asian	4.3%
Pacific Islander	4.8%
Native American	1.9%

**BELOW POVERTY**    **62.1%**

**ELL**                        **36.7%**



*Over 100 languages  
spoken in the  
Salt Lake City School District.*

## THE PROBLEM

Our three district urban high schools collectively lose 10% (350) of the students from their rolls every year. These students do not engage in alternative school options. When interviewed, these students state their reason for leaving is that they feel disconnected. Instruction moves too fast or too slow and teachers don't know me. School "just doesn't work for me."

Additionally, students and parents are seeking out more personalized learning environments offered by online schools, both private and charter, to meet their needs which are not being met in the traditional high schools.

## OUR CREATIVE SOLUTION

This urban school is designed to meet the needs of a wide variation of learners and students. The promise of digital learning provides access to the best courses and the best teachers regardless of zip code. We take it a step further by providing the most at-risk students with access to career paths and post-secondary education.

Whether a student desires full-time online from home, full-time blended learning with bricks and mortar courses available in CTE Pathways, the community college across the hall, or a chorus class at their boundary school, the sky is the limit for customization; a compilation of learning services, shifting the focus away from systems and directly to the student.

## FIRST OF IT'S KIND IN THE NATION—A PARADIGM SHIFT, A GAME CHANGER.

This new state-of-the-art digital learning facility allows maximum customization for every type of learner. Designed to facilitate premier blended learning, Innovations High can accommodate complete flexibility to best meet the academic goals of each individual student.

# ACADEMIC MODEL

- ☑ Administer assessments for interest and talents with UtahFutures and discuss career path choices and class options.
- ☑ Personalized Education Plan (PEP): a sequence of courses to support career pathways
- ☑ Evaluate credits and sequence core classes monthly and set academic progress goals
- ☑ Schedule a sequence of courses taking career path and college readiness in consideration. Establish a goal for finishing each course.
- ☑ Teachers individualize instruction to address gaps in learning
- ☑ Explore CTE industry certificates or foundation classes for college in career pathways
- ☑ Discuss college readiness and courses required.
- ☑ Advisor/teacher will alert counselor and parents if student is falling behind their goals
- ☑ Curriculum is leveled to remediate learning gaps
- ☑ Seamless transition to college campus seamless-a simple walk across the hall to meet with their college financial and academic advisors



## Customized **LEARNING**:

Fully online, blended, brick and mortar, higher education, industry certificates



## Self paced **LEARNING**:

Self directed and self paced



## **LEARNING** to explore the future:

Identify career pathways and higher education options

# WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

- ☑ Full school board approval and support – April 2012
- ☑ Community open house held April 24, 2012
- ☑ Individual student/parent meetings ongoing
- ☑ Pre-registered 52 students as of June 7, 2012
- ☑ Website created and continually updated
- ☑ Enrollment process determined
- ☑ Curriculum selected
- ☑ Budget established
- ☑ Student food services arranged
- ☑ Teacher hiring committee formed
- ☑ Professional development scheduled
- ☑ Computers and related technologies purchased
- ☑ Process of collection of district data determined
- ☑ Marketing portfolio completed and campaign ongoing
- ☑ IT infrastructure and wireless in place to connect students to the internet
- ☑ Registration form and assessments ready for website upload July 16, 2012





## OUR STRATEGY



- ☑ Identified and visited the best online or blended schools throughout the country.
- ☑ Attended iNACOL to understand the larger educational community successes and failures—and learn from them.
- ☑ Worked as a team to design and create Innovations High pedagogically and architecturally.
- ☑ Submitted and presented our proposal to the board of education.
- ☑ Developed preliminary budgets with budget director to determine future funding.
- ☑ Developed a robust and multifaceted marketing campaign
- ☑ Presented to key state representatives and senators to discuss ideas and seek seed monies.
- ☑ Collaborated with community stakeholders such as:
  - Parents for Choice in Education,
  - Utah State Office of Education,
  - the traditional high schools in our district,
  - private businesses and regional advisory boards, and the
  - Salt Lake Community College.
- ☑ Informed secondary school administrators and counselors of our progress monthly.
- ☑ Educated our students and parents about this new learning environment available to them.
- ☑ Followed-up individually with each student and parent.

# SUSTAINABILITY

- Multiple funding streams to maintain the sustainability needed from the following sources:
  - State
  - Federal
  - Higher Education
  - Local
  - Private
- Innovations High School shares the facility with the Salt Lake City School District Career and Technical Center. This partnership reduces by half the portion needed to pay for all related building costs.
- Teachers will be paid hourly when possible. This allows the flexibility this model requires.
- Digital curriculum is readily available for free from the Utah State Office of Education. When needed, digital curriculum from vendors has been negotiated at reduced rates.
- Technology purchased with the grant will be used to update and supplement software, wiring and equipment. CTE can help with technology costs in the shared lab.
- Each team member has other district responsibilities. As such, part of their salary is paid through another budget.
- Write for grants and influence the political environment which is favorable to change.
- Grow our partnerships with business.



## OUR GROWTH PLAN

We anticipate a steady growth of 100 students a year until the fourth year and then a slowing of student enrollment.

We anticipate a high retention rate. If students are successful they will stay.

Innovations High School capacity is 425 students, however we are exploring expanding our model in different parts of the city as the demand grows.



# Innovations High School

Salt Lake City, Utah



*Reach for it!*

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