**News Release**

Date: September 10, 2012

Contact: Dr. Patti Harrington, Executive Director, Utah School Superintendents Association
pharrington@usba.cc

 801-566-1207

Re: Utah’s Superintendent of the Year for 2013

Dale Howard Lamborn, Superintendent of Schools in the Rich County School District, has been named the 2013 Utah Superintendent of the Year. Superintendent Lamborn was appointed to his current position in 2005. He has served as a teacher and principal in Rich District for many years and was a principal in Cokeville, WY prior to his service in Rich County. Even as the Superintendent, he still assumes principal responsibilities for South Rich Elementary School. Superintendent Lamborn will now represent Utah in the National Superintendent of the Year program hosted by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA).

Superintendent Lamborn oversees the operations of four rural schools in northern Utah with over 400 students, many of whom travel 30 minutes to an hour to get to school each day. In 2007, he was recognized as the Administrator of the Year by the Utah Association of Educational Office Professionals (UAEOP), a nomination that came from the administrative assistants in his district.

A community leader, Superintendent Lamborn believes that “parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff are all in the business of providing learning opportunities for students that will equip them with the skills and desire to become successful in life.” He often reminds students that “the better prepared you are, the more opportunities you will have.” Under Superintendent Lamborn’s leadership, most of the seniors in his graduating classes have taken several credit-bearing courses from college before they graduate from high school, by accessing distance education opportunities.

In addition to innovation through distance education and concurrent enrollment, Superintendent Lamborn has implemented a four-day school week in his schools. With daily transportation challenges and an extracurricular program that frequently pulled both students and teachers (who were also coaches) out of the schools during instructional time, the Superintendent petitioned the Utah State School Board to allow for a four-day instructional school week. While the four days are longer to ensure quality instructional time, Friday is now used for travel to extracurricular events, which may take up to 4 ½ hours one way, thus avoiding the late night travel that was constant in the traditional five-day school week.

In 2005, Rich High School began mandatory testing of its students who participate in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading, music, drama and student government, for illegal drugs. At the time, Superintendent Lamborn indicated few problems existed in his school, “but we hear stories about drug use, especially after students have graduated. “Primarily,” he said, “we want to give students a reason not to use drugs.”

Superintendent Lamborn is best known for his honest, open communication with the board, community and staff that he serves. He spends a great deal of time in schools where he claims that his best days come when he is able to visit teachers and students involved in the learning process.

In addition to work in his school district, Superintendent Lamborn has been actively involved in the Utah School Superintendents Association (USSA). He is currently serving as USSA President. He has also served as the first and second vice-president of that organization. Superintendent Lamborn is the co-chair of a legislative committee representing local school board members and superintendents across Utah, and is currently serving as a member of Governor Herbert’s Educational Excellence Commission.

Superintendent Lamborn and his wife, Wendy, have four daughters.

*Process for Selection: After being nominated for the award by members of the Utah School Superintendents Association, Supt. Lamborn was selected as Superintendent of the Year by the Utah Public Education Coalition. The Education Coalition is comprised of leaders from the Utah Elementary Principals Association, the Secondary Principals Association, the Utah School Superintendents Association, the Utah PTA, the Utah School Boards Association, the Deans Council, and the Utah School Employees Association.*