



Tooele Education  
**FOUNDATION**  
 SERVING TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Chalk Talk

## HOPE Squads - Help, Serve, Build Hope

By Ed Dalton

Hope and education, they go hand in hand. Each new school year begins with feelings of hope that students will do well, have friends, like their teachers and learn and succeed. Unfortunately, sometimes that is not the case and school and other factors can also be a source of despair, discouragement and failure.

Thankfully, educators and parents alike are becoming more keenly aware of students in need. Each school year the school district's Safe School Teams (HOPE Squads) focus efforts to provide a support network for students.

With each new school year the Hope Squads focus on being a source of help and intervention. They learn suicide prevention strategies, listening and communication skills and model pro-social behavior. They use the skills and information learned to spread hope throughout the school year.

These efforts include service projects, awareness activities and participation in school and community sponsored events. On an individual basis, student



Hope Squad students learning and serving.

members of HOPE Squads act as the eyes and ears of the school. They watch for warning signs and are in tune with the needs and feelings of others.



Hope squad members - eyes and ears of schools.

They are trained to immediately refer any struggling student to an adult. That can be the Hope Squad Advisor or others in a position to act immediately.

Recently, the Hope Squad Kick-off Event took place.

It brought together students district-wide for special training. More than 180 students and 20 advisors from nine schools met at the Ophir Canyon Education Center and interacted with

peers in this inspirational setting.

The Tooele Education Foundation was thrilled to be a small part of this wonderful program. The training included team building sports and recreation. Lance Allred, the first legally-deaf player in NBA history was the keynote speaker for the evening. His message was one of perseverance, compassion, being a good example and committing to work hard and doing what is right.

TEF would like to ring our educational bell and recognize the great work of HOPE squad students and advisors. Special thanks to Kara Strain for her hard work and excellent leadership.

TEF extends special thanks to Insurance Network, LC for their donation to help pay for the dinner.

If you would like to know more about Hope Squads please visit <http://hope4utah.com>.



Lance Allred addressing members of nine school Hope Squads.



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