

# Local Content and Services Report

2024

uen

UTAH EDUCATION NETWORK



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### About Utah Education Network

The Utah Education Network (UEN) is a broadband and broadcast network that serves public education, higher education, libraries and community partners throughout Utah. UEN works to improve access for Utah learners to resources, tools and content to educate and inspire, including educational programming on UEN-TV Channel 9.1, FNX Channel 9.3 and NHK World-Japan Channel 9.4.

Cover: Thor's Hammer is an iconic hoodoo in Bryce Canyon National Park. Educators can find lesson plans, videos and more on the Utah National Parks page at uen.org.

# Welcome Friends

On behalf of the Utah Education Network (UEN), I am proud to share this **Local Content and Services report** highlighting our work in 2024. It shows our ongoing commitment to support education throughout Utah with robust content and services that:

- Connect 3.3 million Utahns to quality broadcast programs
- Support educators with productions that amplify their inspiring stories and best practices
- Create world-class professional learning opportunities
- Connect K-20+ schools and public libraries to high-speed broadband internet
- Collaborate with stakeholders and community members to advance our shared public service mission

We're honored to continue our vital role supporting Utah education. I hope you enjoy reflecting with us on these accomplishments from 2024 and look forward to further opportunities in the year ahead.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Laura G. Hunter, PhD  
Station Manager, UEN



Education programs for lifelong learners of all ages



Native American and Indigenous entertainment and news



English language programming from Japan

# Productions

## Youth Voices



Katie Neal brings valuable insight to her work as producer and host of **Students In Focus**, which features exceptional student media. The program's first season featured 16 episodes and included interviews with Jerusha Hess, co-writer of "Napoleon Dynamite," and Virginia Pearce, Director of the Utah Film Commission.

**STUDENTS  
IN FOCUS**

## Education Podcast

**UEN Homeroom** fosters a community of learning by showcasing the innovation and dedication of Utah educators. UEN produced 12 episodes of the podcast for Season 6. In addition, the program hosted a pop-up studio where educators could record their own podcasts at the Utah Coalition of Education Technology's annual conference.

**4,987**

downloads of **Homeroom**  
in 2024



## Teacher Takeways

In "PDTV: Project-Based Science with Bluetooth Technology," a student discusses Coriolis currents with the program's host, Katie Blunt. Season 8 featured 11 new episodes spotlighting how Utah teachers are practicing Utah's Ed Tech competencies. Each episode is accompanied by a toolkit related to the featured competency.

**27K**

online views of **PDTV** to date



I love what I learned from **PDTV**. I emerged with renewed enthusiasm to try new strategies in my role training other teachers."

— Alan Rhees, Digital Teaching and Learning Specialist, Weber School District

## Engaging Art



"Art Connection: Champions of Change" tells the story of the Girl Scout troop that persuaded Utah legislators to send a statue of Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon to Washington, D.C. for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. UEN's **Art Connection** segments air nationally and spotlight the role of art in Utah communities.

## Local Stem Stories



As featured in "SciTech Now: MOTUS Bird Tracking," the Eccles Wildlife Education Center has implemented an innovative approach to gathering insight into the migration of small birds in Utah. UEN's **SciTech Now** productions delve into the latest advancements in science, technology and innovation.

## Software for Education

UEN manages enterprise licensing for more than 30 educational software tools for K-12, higher education and libraries serving 900K+ students and save \$4.4M in state funds. Through our work, Utah learners are able to access the same value-focused software regardless of where they live.

**12,320**

teachers launched sessions across 938 schools



**10M+**

media plays



**682,406**

learners, educators and other users



**4M+**

views



"[M]y students...always cheer when I say to open Nearpod. I'm grateful for this powerful resource!"

– Nancy Underwood, Teacher, Tintic School District



"Kaltura is the primary video platform for the University of Utah and has contributed greatly to our strategic efforts to establish a stable teaching technology ecosystem."

– Jon Thomas, Director of Digital Learning Technologies, University of Utah

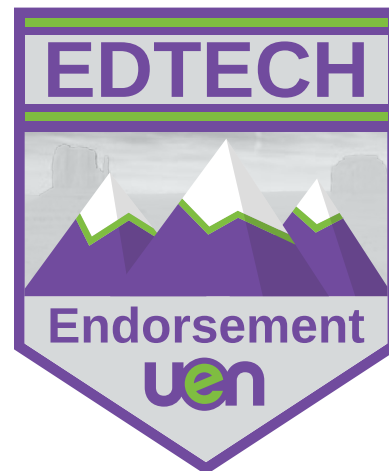
## Impactful PD

UEN-designed courses deliver comprehensive training in education technologies for teachers that support Utah's education standards. To date, 600 teachers have enrolled in the **Ed Tech Endorsement Program**.



"In my UEN Professional Development courses, I learned so much more than how to use apps and programs in my classroom. They opened my mind to a new way of sharing and showing knowledge. I feel strongly that if teachers can begin to incorporate more creativity in their lessons, then students will develop more creative and open critical thinking skills."

– Cassia Peeler, Utah Educator



## High-Quality Digital Media to Go



UEN eMedia helps Utah teachers like Jennifer Burt create lessons that ignite learning. The digital collection has 26K+ digital resources and 11 content hubs that are aligned to Utah Core Standards.



"The thing that I love about eMedia is that if I'm looking for a specific standard or specific activity, I can find it through there, and I can make sure that it's standards-aligned."

– Jennifer Burt, Teacher, Syracuse Junior High

## Award-Winning Partnership

UEN's work with the Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU) helped Research Quest achieve 135,000 logins by 600 teachers and their students. Collaboration on this innovative science education program earned the partners the 2024 Public Media Award for Digital Media by the National Educational Television Association.

**RESEARCHQUEST**

Critical Thinking. Serious Fun.



"UEN's dedicated team has provided essential leadership and support at every phase of the program's development. By enabling students to engage directly with the same complex, real-world questions that drive scientific inquiry, UEN has helped foster a deep connection to the scientific process, empowering students to develop the critical thinking skills necessary for success both in and out of the classroom."

– Madlyn Larson, Associate Director of Education Initiatives at NHMU

## Helpful How-Tos

UEN Teacher Tips provides timely, practical strategies to inspire fresh and effective teaching practices. This year's 24 episodes covered topics including digital literacy, podcasting and more.

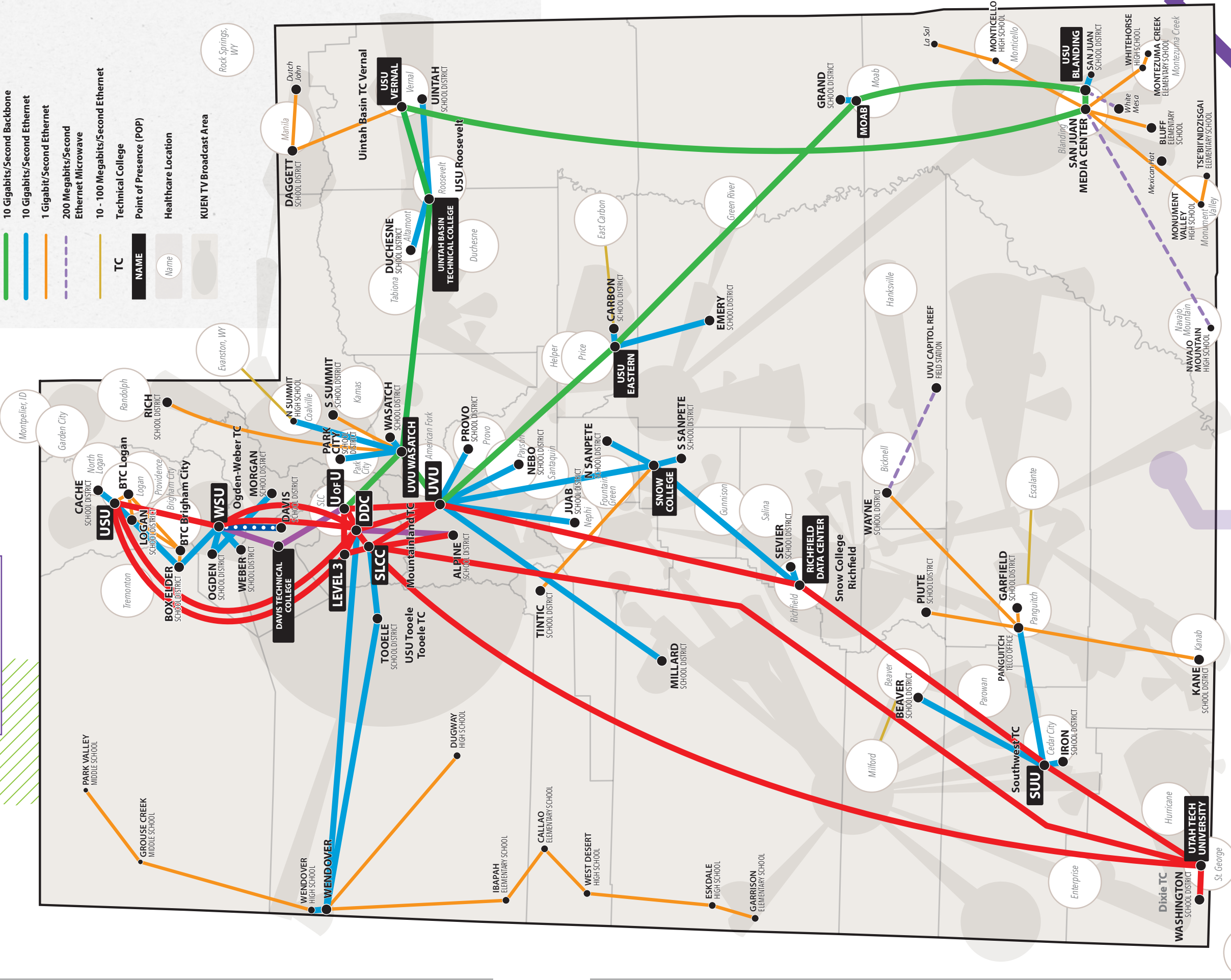


# Network Map

Connecting  
**2,100+**  
Locations throughout Utah

## Legend

- 100 Gigabits/Second Backbone
  - 40 Gigabits/Second Backbone
  - 20 Gigabits/Second Backbone
  - 10 Gigabits/Second Backbone
  - 10 Gigabits/Second Ethernet
  - 1 Gigabit/Second Ethernet
  - 200 Megabits/Second Ethernet Microwave
  - 10 - 100 Megabits/Second Ethernet
  - Technical College
  - Point of Presence (POP)
  - Healthcare Location
  - KUEN TV Broadcast Area
- TC  
NAME  
Name



# Infrastructure

## Robust Statewide Connections



UEN Field Engineers Scott Larsen and Brad Morris install radios that supply connectivity to a school in rural Beaver County School District.

Utah learners and educators depend on UEN's wide area network for access to fast, reliable broadband. Researchers rely on our network to collaborate and access high-capacity computing resources.

**243+**  
petabytes of network traffic

## Ed Tech Insights

Conducted every other year, the Digital Teaching and Learning Technology Inventory highlights UEN's leadership role in education technology. This year's survey revealed insights into device-per-student ratios, aging wireless and wired school networks, and more.

**100%**  
participation by  
**1,034**  
Utah K-12 schools

“The UEN inventory has helped us look at the bigger picture in our school. It seems or looks like we have tons of technology, but when looking at our inventory on a reporting basis, it shows us where those gaps and weaknesses are.”  
– Troy Bradshaw, Director of Information Technologies, Vista School

## Community Access



Libraries are community anchor institutions that help residents throughout the state access digital resources. UEN connects 92 public library sites to broadband internet with more to come in 2025.

**92**  
public library sites connected to broadband via UEN

“UEN helped our library upgrade our infrastructure so that our Wi-Fi service reaches across all of our parking lots. This means that community members can more easily access the online resources they need, day or night.”  
– John Meade, Provo City Library IT

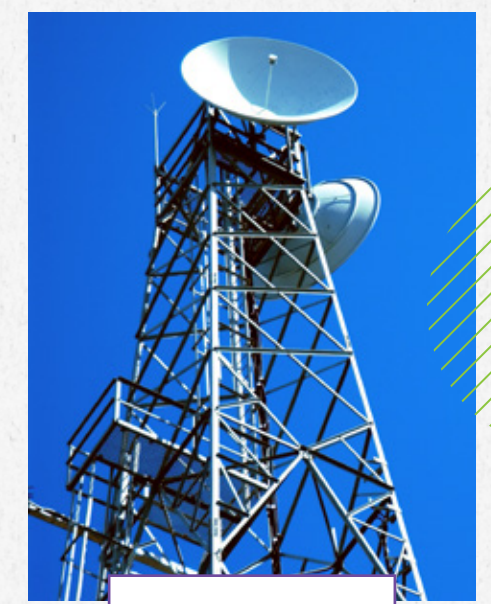
## Closing the Distance

UEN's distance education system makes it possible for learners to participate in opportunities they otherwise could not access from their home districts. For example, our virtual platforms close the miles between many rural students and courses to complete high school or earn college credit through concurrent enrollment.

**829K**  
hours of classes & other educational events via UEN distance education platforms

“UEN's Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC) system is an invaluable resource, connecting our students to highly qualified instructors and a variety of courses they otherwise wouldn't have access to. Having been in education for 24 years, and with two of my own children having benefited from IVC, I've seen firsthand how it prepares students not just for high school and college, but for lifelong success.”  
– Melissa Morris, Principal, Box Elder School District

## TV for Lifelong Learners



Broadcasting 24/7 to  
**3.3M**  
people

# Events

## Leading Schools Summit

Forty-five school leaders participated in UEN's multi-day summit to gain knowledge and inspiration for leading student-centered learning initiatives in Utah schools.



## Tech Summit



In June, UEN gathered 400 IT professionals for a two-day summit spotlighting innovations and strategies for managing their organizations' technology needs.



## Ed Tech Conference

In March, UEN directly engaged more than 2,300 educators and library staff at the region's largest ed tech conference through 21 sessions and other activities. This year's event combined the annual conferences of the Utah Coalition of Education Technology and the Utah Educational Library Media Association.



## Cybersecurity Conference



UEN supports a stronger cybersecurity culture for Utah's education and healthcare entities through a range of activities. This year, UEN continued its longstanding role as an in-kind sponsor of SAINTCON, which drew 1,500 participants.

“The students, staff, parents and guardians in our district are safer and more secure because of the support we get from SAINTCON and UEN.”

– Aaron Brewer, San Juan School District

## Teach & Learn With OER

UEN and the Utah Academic Library Consortium hosted a virtual symposium for higher education faculty and staff who want to bring open education resources to their institutions. Presenters drilled down into pedagogy, tools and practical applications.

# 93

participants from more than 10 Utah institutions

## 10th Annual Distance Education Summit



Distance education technology helps ensure that Utahns in rural areas can access college courses and other opportunities. This year, 22 distance education professionals joined UEN at the University of Utah to discuss topics including cybersecurity, tools and best practices.

# Board Members

# 2024 Financials



**Christina Baum (Chair)**  
Utah Valley University  
*Represents: Higher Education*



**Jason Strate (Vice Chair)**  
Central Utah Educational Services  
*Represents: Public Education*



**Jennifer Covington**  
Murray School District  
*Represents: Public Education*



**Eric Hawley**  
Utah State University  
*Represents: Higher Education*



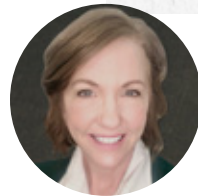
**Stephen Hess**  
University of Utah,  
Utah System of Higher Education  
*Represents: Higher Education*



**David Long**  
Beaver School District  
*Represents: Public Education*



**Kurt R. Loveless**  
Kane County Hospital  
*Represents: Rural Hospitals*



**Patty Norman**  
Utah State Board of Education  
*Represents: Public Education*



**Rich Nye**  
Education Advisor  
*Represents: Office of the Governor*



**Cara Rothman**  
Utah State Library  
*Represents: State Library*

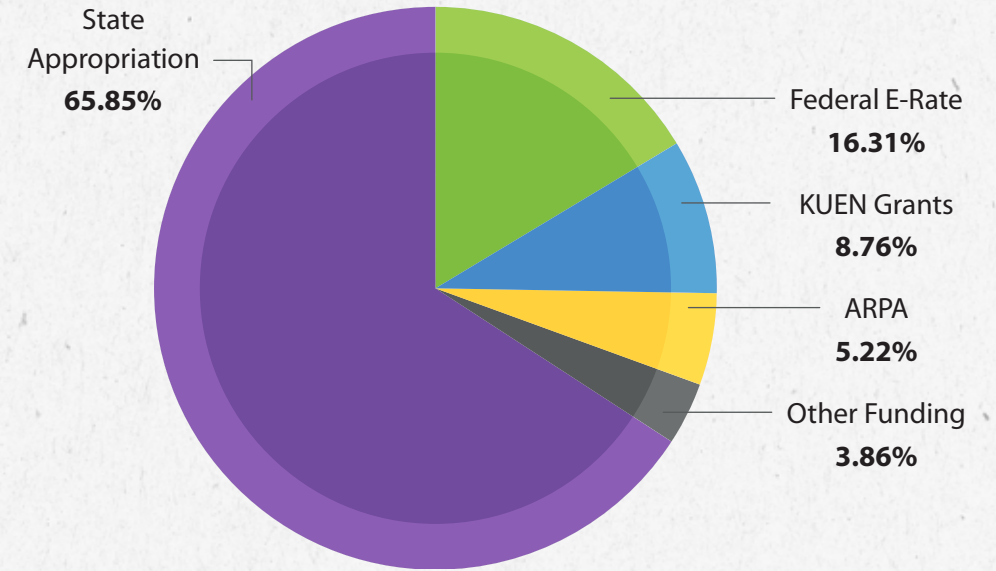


**Greg Scherer**  
Davis Technical College  
*Represents: Technical Colleges*

We depend on funding provided by the public and other contributors. As such, we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us through sound fiscal and management practices.

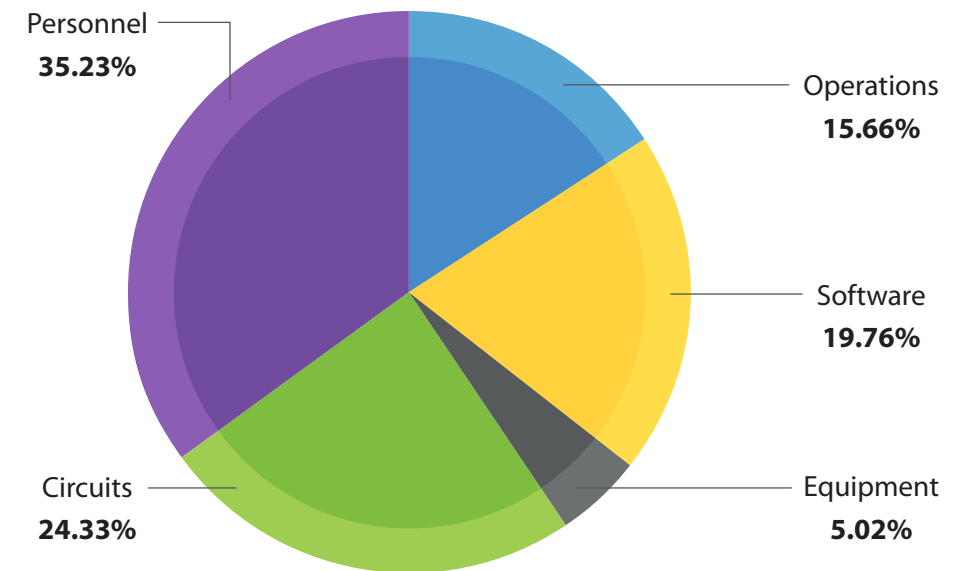
## Income

State Appropriation	35,326,800
Federal E-Rate	8,750,000
KUEN Grants	4,700,000
ARPA	2,800,000
Other	2,073,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 53,649,800</b>



## Budget

Personnel	18,900,800
Circuits	13,054,000
Operations	8,400,000
Software	10,600,000
Equipment	2,695,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 53,649,800</b>





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[uen.org](http://uen.org)