



K-16 Counselor Conference

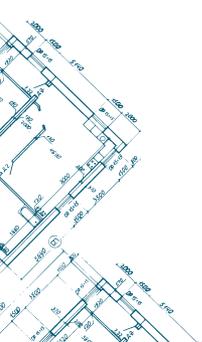
Stronger Together

Building Connections, Collaboration & Community

K-16 Alliance Partners

The mission of the K-16 Alliance is to empower each student to succeed in their educational journey toward post-secondary opportunities, responsible citizenship, and life-long learning.

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- Utah Valley University..... President Astrid Tuminez*
- Mountainland Technical College..... President Clay Christensen*
- Alpine School District..... Interim Superintendent Rob Smith*
- Nebo School District..... Superintendent Rick Nielsen*
- North Summit School District..... Superintendent Wade Murdock*
- Park City School District..... Superintendent Lyndsay Huntsman*
- Provo City School District..... Superintendent Wendy Dau*
- South Summit School District..... Superintendent Greg Maughan*
- Utah County Academy of Sciences..Principal Jennilyn Derbidge
(Charter School Representative)*
- Wasatch County School District..... Superintendent Garrick Peterson*
- Mountainland K-16 Alliance.....Executive Director Sam Jarman*



K-16 ALLIANCE

Opening Keynote

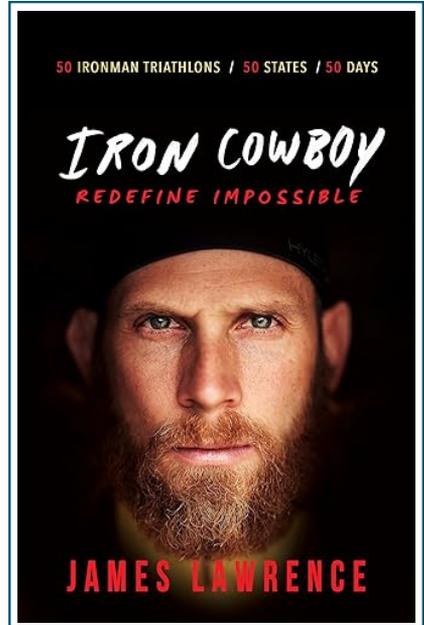
About James

James Lawrence - better known as the Iron Cowboy - is a world-renowned speaker, bestselling author, and endurance athlete who redefined human potential by completing 50 Ironmans in 50 days across all 50 states - and then doing the unthinkable - 100 full-distance triathlons in 100 consecutive days.

Before becoming the greatest endurance athlete in history, James was a successful entrepreneur, running a thriving mortgage company and helping hundreds of clients build wealth through homeownership and strategic refinancing. That same relentless mindset that powered him through thousands of miles now fuels his ventures in multi-family real estate and ownership of Crumbl Cookie franchises.

He's been named one of Sports Illustrated's "Fittest 50," featured in two acclaimed Netflix documentaries, and honored alongside icons like LeBron James and Conor McGregor. But James's story isn't just about athletic records - it's about purpose, resilience, and refusing to settle for average.

Originally from Calgary, Canada, and now based in Utah, James is a devoted husband to Sunny and father of five. The cowboy hat he wore during races so his kids could spot him in the crowd has become a global symbol of grit, heart, and family-driven ambition. Whether he's conquering the impossible on the racecourse or building businesses from the ground up, James shows audiences how to lead themselves, crush excuses, and break through their perceived limits. (www.ironcowboy.com)

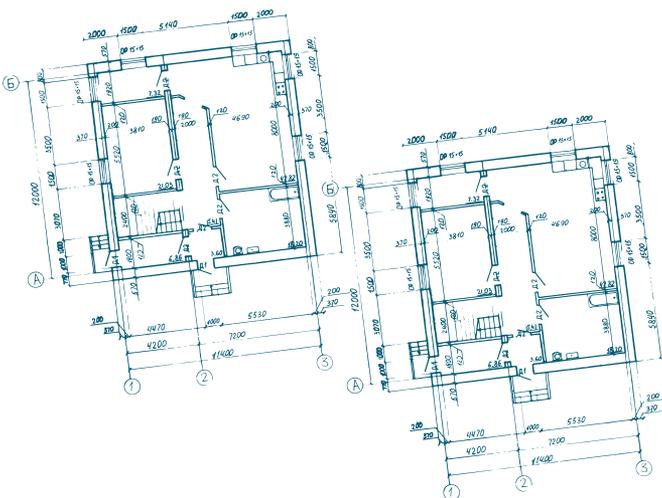


Closing Keynote

About Tyler

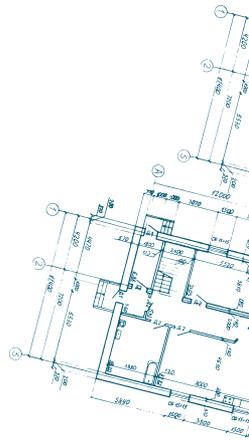
Tyler Randall Small is a nationally recognized career strategist and workforce development leader who helps educators prepare students for success in the Age of AI. With over 15 years of experience connecting K-12 education, higher education, and industry, Tyler specializes in aligning student pathways with evolving workforce demands.

He equips educators with practical strategies to guide students toward high-demand careers while building durable skills like adaptability, critical thinking, and AI literacy. Tyler's engaging presentations translate complex labor market and AI trends into clear, actionable insights counselors can immediately apply to support every student's future success.

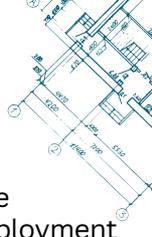


Schedule

- 7:30-8:15** *Check-In/Breakfast (Ballroom Commons)*
- 8:15-9:00** *Welcome & Awards (Grand Ballroom)*
- 9:00-10:00** *Keynote Speaker, James Lawrence, Iron Cowboy*
- 10:00-10:30** *Photo Opp/Vendor Visits*
- 10:30-11:15** *Breakout Session (1)*
- 11:15-11:20** *Break*
- 11:20-12:05** *Breakout Session (2)*
- 12:05-12:45** *Lunch (Grand Ballroom) School AI*
- 12:45-12:50** *Break*
- 12:50-1:35** *Breakout Session (3)*
- 1:35-1:40** *Break*
- 1:40-2:25** *Breakout Session (4)*
- 2:25-2:35** *Break*
- 2:35-3:30** *Final Keynote, Tyler Small (Grand Ballroom)*



Sessions



Breakouts #1 10:30am

- **Room SC206a**..... Connecting High School Youth to Workforce Opportunities by Bridging Education to Employment
- **Room SC206b**..... AI for Counselors: From Curiosity to Application
- **Room SC206c**..... CTE Exploration for 7th–9th Grade: Hands-On Options and MTECH Opportunities
- **Room SC206g**..... Closing the Gaps – Strategies for Supporting Students with Disabilities
- **Room SC208**..... Readiness, Placement, and Pathways: A Comprehensive Look at First-Year Math Preparation
- **Room SC213a**..... Why Durable Skills Matter - And How Utah is Leading the Way!
- **Room SC213b**..... School Counseling in Utah: Comprehensive Updates & Key Insights
- **Center Stage**..... Stepping Inside the Blueprint: Students and Counselors Building Stronger Pathways Together

Breakouts #2 11:20am

- **Room SC206a**..... Emerging Careers 2025: What Utah’s High-Demand Jobs Really Require
- **Room SC206b**..... AI for Counselors: From Curiosity to Application
- **Room SC206c**..... The Future of Student Achievement – First Credential, CCR, and CTE Updates
- **Room SC206g**..... MTECH + High School: How Early Counseling Impacts Pathway Completion
- **Room SC208**..... Fast Track 1-2-3
- **Room SC213a**..... Why Durable Skills Matter - And How Utah is Leading the Way!
- **Room SC213b**..... School Counseling in Utah: Comprehensive Updates & Key Insights

Sessions

Breakouts #3 12:50pm

- **Room SC206a**..... Emerging Careers 2025: What Utah's High-Demand Jobs Really Require
- **Room SC206b**..... Every Day Counts - Attendance Strategies for Success
- **Room SC206c**..... The Future of Student Achievement – First Credential, CCR, and CTE Updates
- **Room SC206g**..... Multiple Roads, One Destination: Helping Students Build Career Momentum
- **Room SC213a**..... Strengthening Student Pathways: Updates and Program Insights Across Utah Valley University
- **Room SC213b**..... Working Smarter with Data (Even If You Hate It)

Breakouts #4 1:40pm

- **Room SC206a**..... You're Talented. YouScience Can Prove it!
- **Room SC206b**..... Every Day Counts - Attendance Strategies for Success
- **Room SC206c**..... CTE Exploration for 7th–9th Grade: Hands-On Options and MTECH Opportunities
- **Room SC206g**..... Helping Students Feel Confident Choosing a College - A UVU Update
- **Room SC208**..... Finding Your Future Colleagues: Teaching as a Profession and Educators Rising
- **Room SC213a**..... Special Populations: Resources That Drive Success
- **Room SC213b**..... Working Smarter With Data (Even If You Hate It)



Session Descriptions

AI for Counselors, Curiosity to Application | Danny Lundell - Nebo

Reimagine how AI can enhance everyday counseling practices in this updated 2.0 session. Walk away with ready-to-use ideas that strengthen and modernize your program.

CTE Exploration for 7th–9th Grade, Hands-On Options and MTECH Opportunities | Mark Middlebrook - MTECH

See how early academic planning shapes students' readiness for technical college pathways. Discover how MTECH programs build confidence and open doors to high-demand careers.

Closing the Gaps – Strategies for Supporting Students With Disabilities | Lavinia Gripentrog, Crystal Emery, Aimee Langone - USBE

Identify collaborative approaches that improve postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities. Apply research-based transition practices that unite SPED, CTE, and counseling teams.

Connecting High School Youth to Workforce Opportunities by Bridging Education to Employment | Lindsey Cropper, Alexia Murphy, Cris Durbin - DWS

Learn how the WIOA Youth Program supports at-risk students through school partnerships. Explore career planning, virtual reality tools, and paid work experiences.

Emerging Careers 2025: What Utah's High-Demand Jobs Really Require | Gwen Kervin - DWS

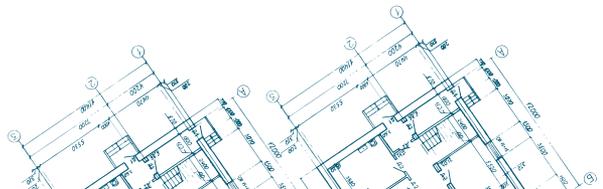
An up-to-date look at regional labor-market trends, credentials that matter, and how counselors can connect students to Utah's fastest-growing industries.

Every Day Counts - Attendance Strategies for Success | Megan Menlove, Garrett Russell - USBE

Recognize how consistent attendance drives academic and behavioral success. Apply Utah's statewide tools and messaging strategies to strengthen attendance across your school community.

Fast Track 1-2-3 | Miki Brent - UVU

See how Fast Track 1-2-3 pathways help students complete credentials faster and more efficiently. Navigate options through technical colleges, concurrent enrollment, and UVU Online.





Session Descriptions

Finding Your Future Colleagues: Teaching as a Profession and Educators Rising | Rhett Rowley - UVU, Whitney Carter, Alliana Walters - Nebo
Examine how schools can support future educators through pathways and partnerships. Build intentional strategies in your school to strengthen educator pipelines and inspire future teachers.

Helping Students Feel Confident Choosing a College - A UVU Update | Andrew Stone - UVU
With rising doubts about the value of higher education, students question whether college is worth the investment. This session explores the benefits of higher education and highlights UVU as a strong option for students.

MTECH + High School: How Early Counseling Impacts Pathway Completion | Mark Middlebrook - MTECH
Explore how early course selections shape MTECH readiness and pathway completion. Align graduation requirements with intentional planning tools that expand future opportunities.

Multiple Roads, One Destination: Helping Students Build Career Momentum | Jenn Gibson - MTECH
Envision every student graduating with clear direction and career momentum. Equip yourself with practical strategies that guide learners from exploration to certification and beyond.

Readiness, Placement, and Pathways: A Comprehensive Look at First-Year Math Preparation | UVU Advising Directors
Examine first-year math trends and their impact on college success. Guide students toward appropriate pathways using concurrent enrollment, ALEKS, and interest-based advising.

School Counseling in Utah: Comprehensive Updates & Key Insights | Bethany Marker - USBE
Learn how to use the Utah K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Performance measures to strengthen program effectiveness across key areas such as data use, CCR planning, dropout prevention, and more.

Special Populations: Resources That Drive Success | Ephraim Zamorah - USBE
Practical resources and strategies counselors can use to better support students from special populations, including those facing barriers related to disability, language, housing, or access.

Session Descriptions

Stepping Inside the Blueprint: Students and Counselors Building Stronger Pathways Together | ML Region Youth Advisory, MTECH Student Ambassadors, UVUSA Student Representatives

Listen to student foundation stories that illuminate successful transitions across educational stages. Collaborate on building clearer, more connected pathways that move every learner forward.

Strengthening Student Pathways: Updates and Program Insights Across Utah Valley University's Schools and Colleges | Shalece Nuttall - UVU

Learn about the latest program developments, pathway enhancements, and student-support initiatives at UVU. Identify new degrees, stackable credentials, and concurrent enrollment options across its colleges and schools.

The Future of Student Achievement – First Credential, CCR, and CTE Updates | Jonathan Frey - USBE

Unpack updates on the First Credential program, statewide CCR tools, and evolving CTE pathways. Learn what these changes mean for student planning and achievement.

Why Durable Skills Matter - And How Utah is Leading the Way! | Kristina Yamada, Lola Evans - USBE, Beth Godoy - UVU

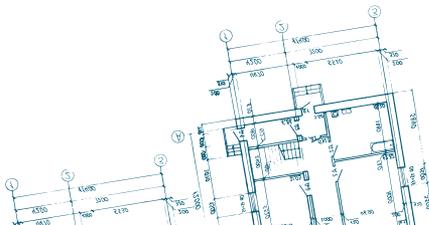
Redefine “durable skills” and understand why the language shift matters. Connect research to classroom practice and embed lifelong skills into every CTE pathway.

Working Smarter With Data (Even If You Hate It) | Kalee Crandall, Holly Todd - UVU

Demystify data and turn it into a practical advocacy tool. Simplify collection, analysis, and reporting strategies that elevate your counseling program.

You're Talented. YouScience Can Prove It! | Kellie Openshaw - YouScience, Alexa Webb - Alpine

YouScience Discovery will benefit students as they plan a career pathway with their talents leading the way. Empower learners to plan career pathways guided by their unique talents.



Recognitions

The K-16 Alliance thanks the following sponsors in supporting the Mountainland Region Counselor Conference:

- UVU • MTECH
- Mountainland Region CTE Consortium
- UVU Workforce Alignment • UVU CTE
- School AI • UVU Regional Pathways



K-16 Counselor Conference

We also wish to thank the planning team of counselors and region representatives, who worked tirelessly to make this conference a success!

Thank You!

MIDAS CREDIT



RESOURCES



Notes



Notes





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