

# **John Taylor**

**Associate Professor of Biology / Director of Jumpstart at Southern Utah University**

Cedar City, UT, US

Specializing in bat research, collegiate program development, STEM education and professional development

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## **Biography**

Dr. John Taylor is an associate professor of biology at Southern Utah University whose research centers on the study of bats living in mines and at Utah national parks. In addition to conducting research and teaching biology courses, Dr. Taylor is assistant dean of Integrative Learning where he supervises SUU's innovative general education program, Jumpstart.

Dr. Taylor also has an extensive range of service in the state of Utah, involving science education, government committees on education, and working with the National Science Teachers Association. He serves as president of the Utah Science Teachers Association, which supports more than 1,000 teacher-members, and serves as vice chairman for the Zion National Park Forever Project, an official nonprofit partner of Zion National Park. In this capacity, he helps guide the operation of philanthropic endeavors, natural history education, and the general business, supplying Zion National Park with millions in external funding for park operations.

An SUU alumnus, Dr. Taylor graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology/zoology. He furthered his education earning a master's degree in zoology from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in science education at Syracuse University. Previously, he taught general biology courses for Utah Valley University.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Training and Development, Program Development, Education/Learning, Research

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Collegiate Program Development, STEM Education and Policy, Biological Education, STEM participation, Bat Research, Bat Behavior

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## **Affiliations**

National Science Teachers Association, Zion Natural History Association, North Elementary/SUU Partnership, General Education Committee, iPadagogy Committee, Co-PI Voyager Program (Science Education for Elementary Educators), SUU & Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Collaborating Council, SUU Honors Program, Department of Public Relations, Concurrent Enrollment Consultant

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## **Education**

**Southern Utah University**

B.S. Biology/Zoology

**Brigham Young University**

M.S. Zoology

**Syracuse University**

Ph.D. Science Education

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## **Accomplishments**

### **President of the Utah Science Teachers Association**

2010-Present

The Utah Science Teachers Association is a group of educators with members ranging from elementary teachers, middle school teachers, and high school teachers to university professors and members of the science industry. The organization's goal is to better science education in the state of Utah.

### **GE Assessment Design and Implementation**

Designed and implemented a campus-wide assessment program using the CANVAS LMS. This program relied on the adoption of the AAC&U's Essential Learning Outcomes by the 150+ SUU General Education faculty. In one year's time, well over half of the faculty have successfully included the assigned ELOs into their courses and assessed the students using the new system.

### **Jumpstart GE**

What's different about about Jumpstart? Everything. Imagine 50 students, 8 faculty, 34 credits, and 1 amazing educational experience. John Taylor designed and implemented an entire GE curriculum to become fully integrated within a one-year time span.

### **SUU Distinguished Educator of the Year**

2013

### **SUU Service-Learning Fellow**

2011

Fellows are selected by the Service Learning Center and University Administration for courses that integrate service-learning components into their curricula in exceptional ways.

### **Outstanding University Science Educator**

2009

Awarded to the top University science educator in the state of Utah as determined by the Board of Directors of the Utah Science Teachers Association.

**SUU T-Bird Professor of the Year**  
2009

Awarded to the top professor exhibiting exceptional teaching, scholarly activity and service to the field.  
Selected by SUU Student Association and general student voting.

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