

# Utah Civic Learning Collaborative

---

*An informal group of stakeholders dedicated to expanding and improving civic education.*

# PURPOSES



Build on

Build on partnerships & innovations occurring in K-12.



Help

Help educators leverage research on best practices in civics & character education; curate curriculum content.



Connect

Connect nonprofits with classrooms to facilitate young peoples' lifelong engagement in civic life.



# BACKGROUND & RATIONALE FOR THE UCLC

---

# Pre-History of the UCLC...

---

Commission on Civic and Character  
Education

---

Place for All conferences &  
traditions: 2018, 2019, and 2020

---

Legislative Efforts: Rep. Dan  
Johnson, PhD & Arundhati Oommen

---

Inspiration from similar  
collaboratives around the U.S.

# Civic & Character education (Utah Statute)

## 53G-10-204. Civic and character education

"Civic education" means the cultivation of informed, responsible participation in political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of representative democracy in Utah and the United States.

"Character education" means reaffirming values and qualities of character which promote an upright and desirable citizenry.

# FOCUS AREAS

---

Foundations of Democracy:  
Classroom Instruction

Character, SEL, School Culture

Media Literacy and Digital Citizenship

Experiential Civics, Academic Service  
Learning, Simulations

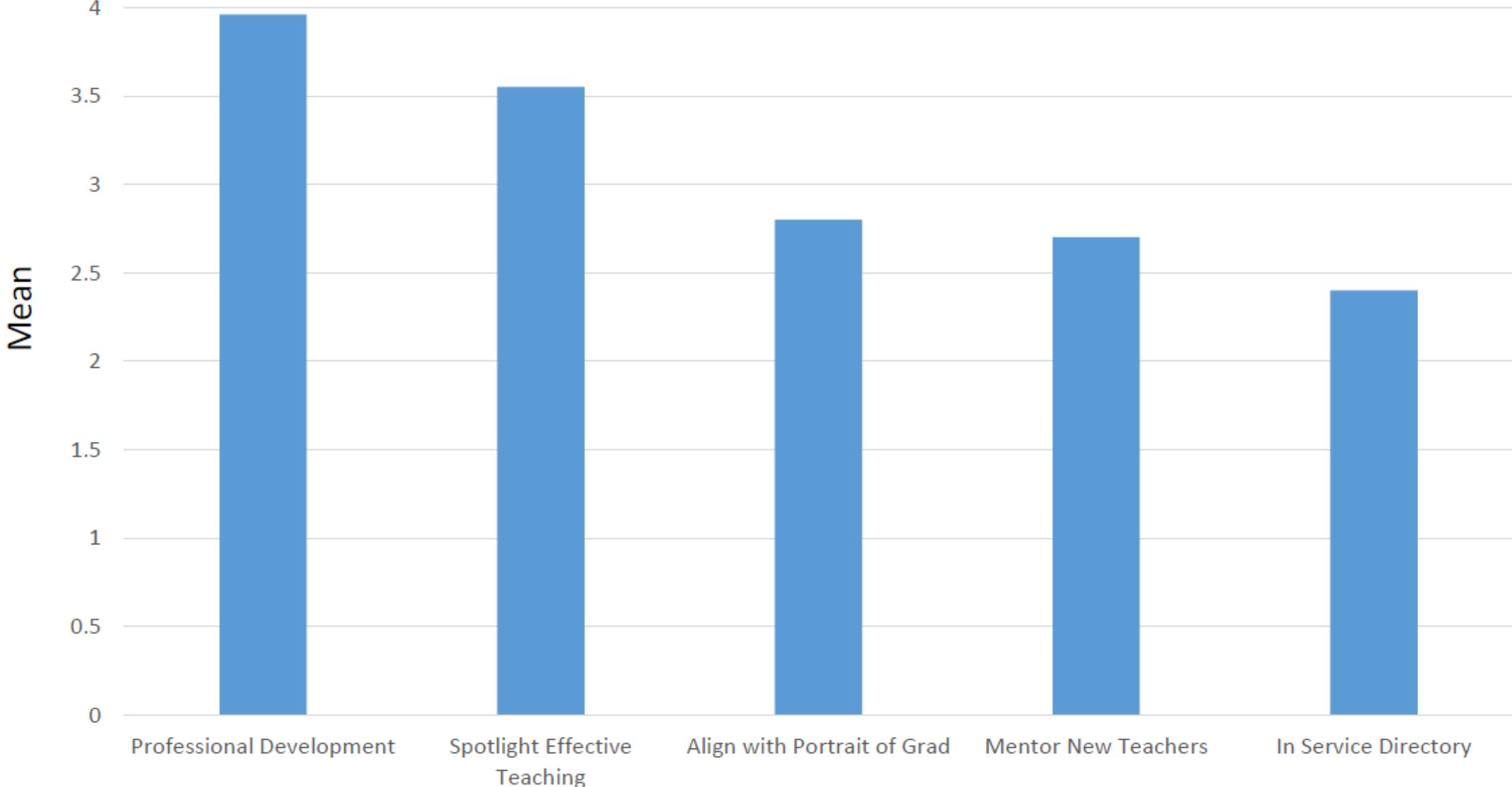


# CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION: FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

---

- K-12 may be the best place to learn about the foundations of our democracy.
- Remember what civic learning can—and should—be part of *all* social studies or even English and the digital arts!
- In the classroom students can learn civic skills.  
They can pre-register to vote by inviting in Voterise, for example.

# FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY PRIORITIES



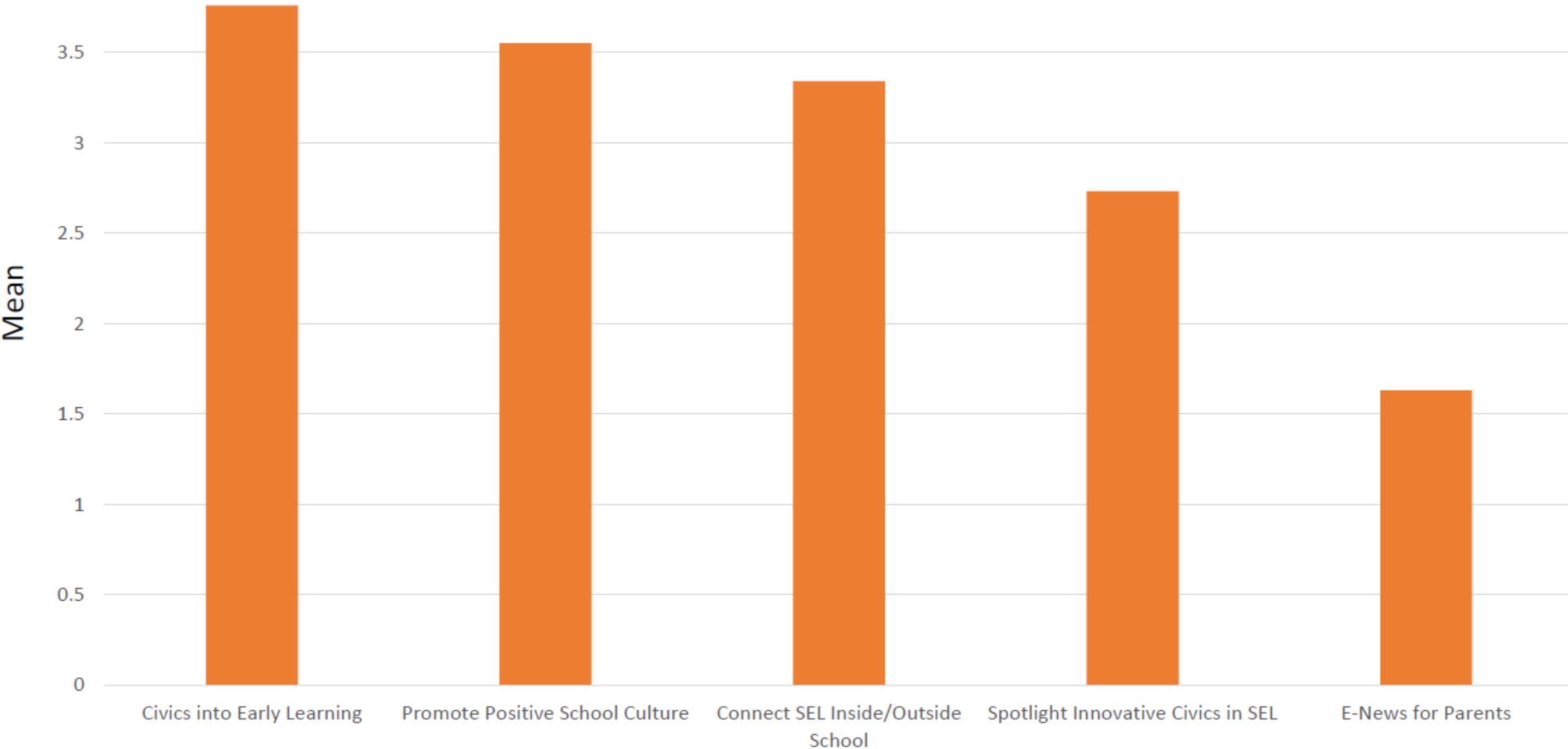
# CHARACTER/SEL SCHOOL CULTURE

---

- To succeed in life—not just civic life—kids must set and achieve goals, show empathy, and have positive relationships.
- Utah's **Portrait of a Graduate** recognizes that school (and an affirming school culture) is a place where dispositions of character can be developed.
- School is a place for students from all background to find their voice—and respect students with different views.



# CHARACTER / SCHOOL CULTURE PRIORITIES



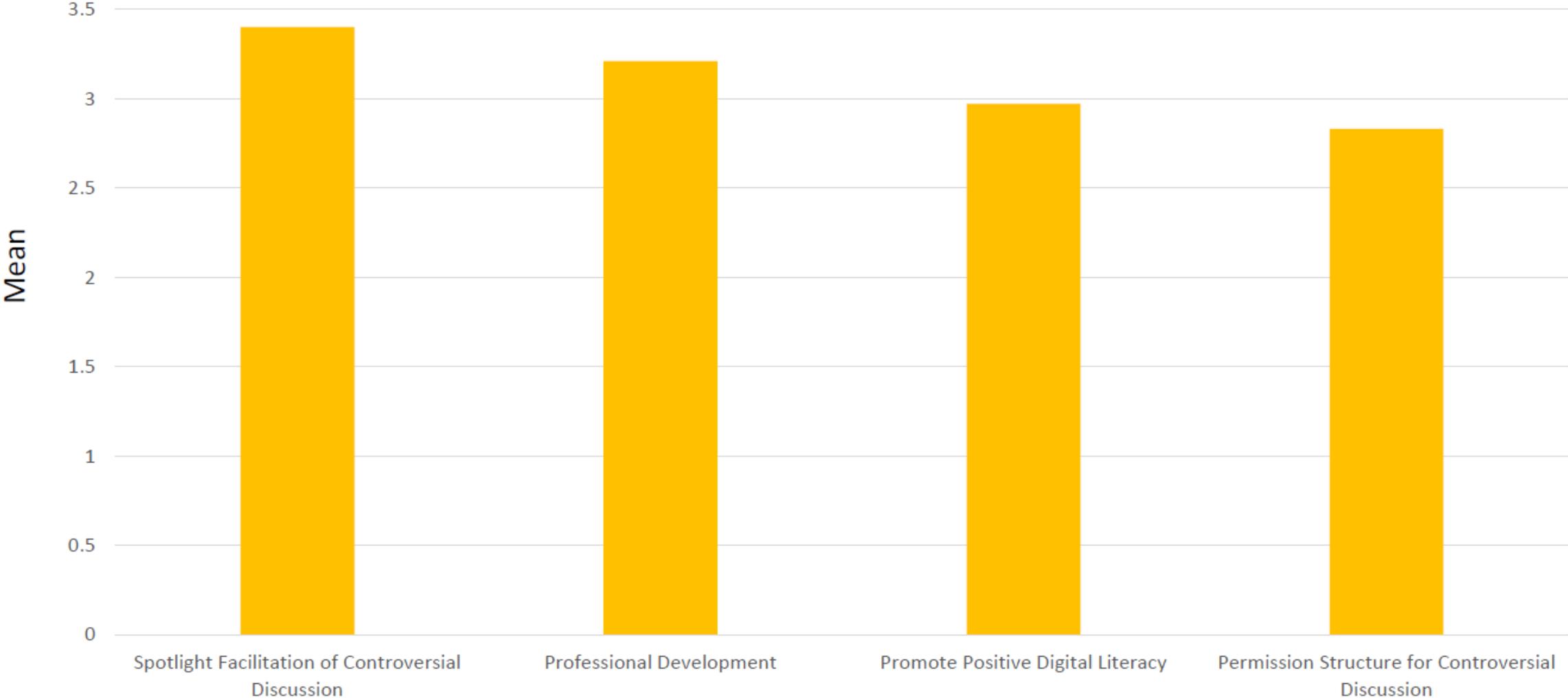


# MEDIA LITERACY & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

---

- Today social media is 1 of the engines of democratic life and activism.
- Yet, platforms are rife with disinformation, echo chambers, distraction.
- Help students engage in respectful, fact-based dialogue across partisan divides.

# MEDIA LITERACY & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP PRIORITIES



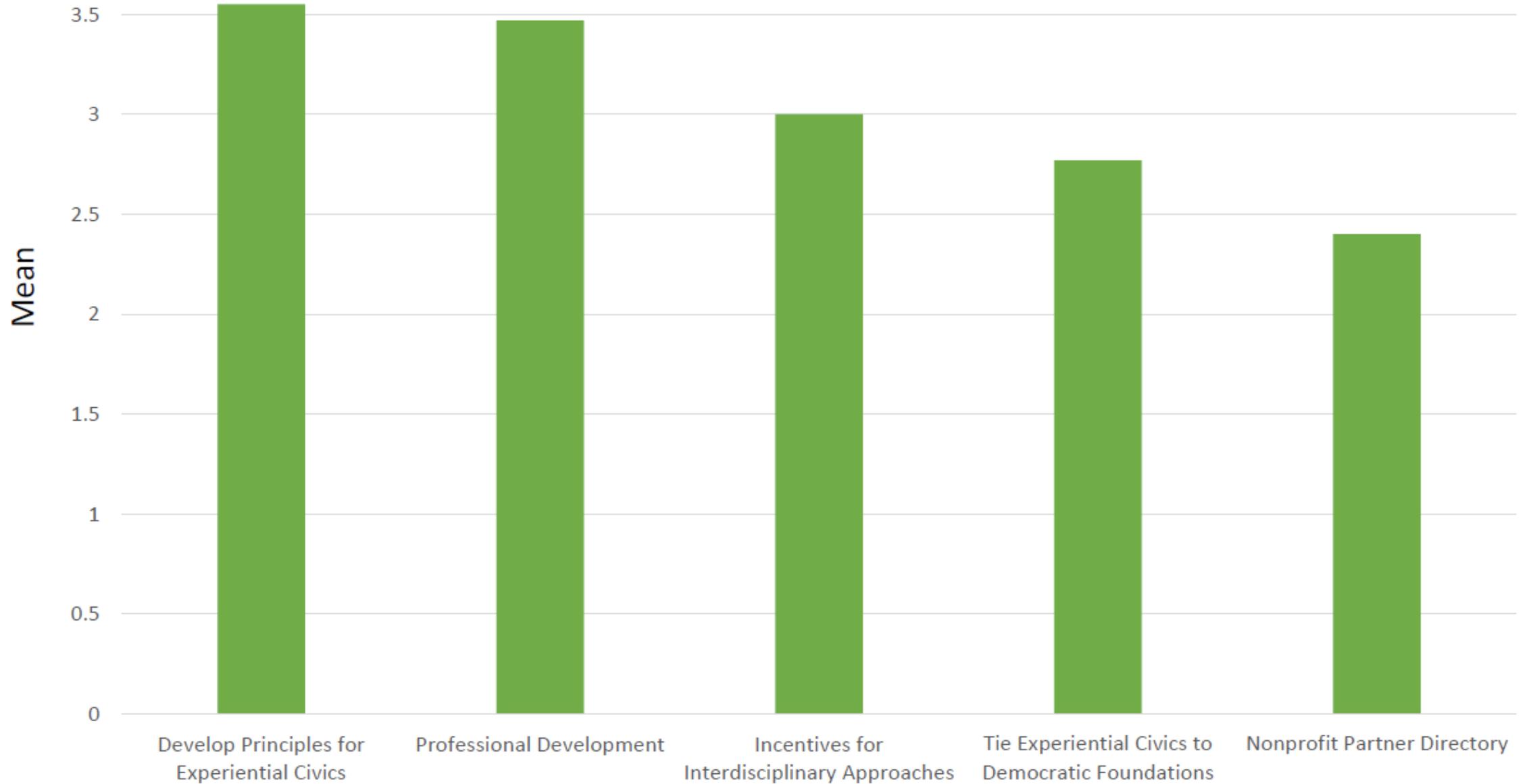
# EXPERIENTIAL CIVICS SERVICE LEARNING SIMULATIONS

---

- Service learning: combines community service (ex: food pantry) with critical study of the social problems that give rise to the need for service.
- Action Civics: students choose an issue they care about and take real action on that issue.
- Simulations programs like We The People, Project Citizen, Mock Trials, and Model UN



# EXPERIENTIAL CIVICS, SERVICE LEARNING, SIMULATIONS: PRIORITIES



sample  
Achievements  
January-June  
2021

- Engaged 109 partners
  - Using Theory of Change model, Identified priorities by workgroup
  - 8 Spotlights on Excellence
  - Professional Development Calendar
  - Debuted E-Newsletter for teachers: **SPARK CIVICS**
  - Curated curriculum content for digital citizenship, media literacy, economic market education
  - Partnering with My Discovery Destination on GooseChase App: *Family Civics Chase*
  - Integrating input from student panel
- 

# PLANS FOR 2021-22

- **Civic Teaching & Learning Listening Tour:** Visit K-12 classrooms to identify & feature innovative teaching practices; seek feedback on supports teachers need to make use of promising practices; interview students on what *they* need to become engaged in civic life.
- **Engage new partners; continue building UCLC.**
- **Link curated curriculum content to core standards**
- Following release of the elementary social studies standards, **develop resource compendium.**
- **Supplement Directory of Nonprofits** prepared to partner with classrooms with examples of project-based learning activities tied to curriculum content.
- Finalize guiding **principles for experiential civics**
- **Build civic teaching resources into early learning core standards**
- **Spotlight positive school cultures** “sparks of hope”

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR

---



**UServeUtah**

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism