

# Press Release



## **Jazz Players and Coaches Launch “Black History Heroes” Program Statewide for All Utah K-12 Students** *Every School in Utah Invited to Join Jazz Players in Virtual Sessions Highlighting the Heroes of Black History*

**SALT LAKE CITY (February 10, 2021)** – The Utah Jazz today announced a new program, called Black History Heroes, for all K-12 students throughout the state. Utah Jazz players, head coach Quin Snyder and team governors Ryan and Ashley Smith will join together to share the global impact of Black history heroes.

Classrooms throughout Utah are invited to join the streaming series on the Utah Jazz YouTube channel. Individual sessions will be held with the team for all Utah elementary schools on Feb. 18, for all Utah junior high schools on Feb. 23, and for all Utah high schools on Feb. 25. The team will explore people or events in Black history that have inspired them. These “Black History Heroes” discussions will go live at 10 a.m. MT on the respective days and will be available on demand for use as part of school curriculums.



In its educational outreach for Black History Month, the Jazz are also conducting an essay contest for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders with the theme of *Investing in the Future*. Student essays are based on the [Utah Compact on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#). The compact is founded on the principles that all people are created equal and that all Utahns must have a truly equal opportunity to prosper.

A judging committee will select three finalists, one of which will be the overall winner. All three finalists will receive a \$500 gift card and a Jazz fan pack. In addition, the overall winner will receive a virtual appearance with a Jazz player to their class. Students can visit [www.nba.com/jazz/community](http://www.nba.com/jazz/community) for official rules and to submit their essay. The entry deadline is Feb. 17.

Jazz social and broadcast media have also been highlighting Black-owned businesses in Utah during Black History Month. Every Monday in February, Jazz digital reporter and producer Nayo Campbell hosts interviews with owners discussing their businesses and the importance of representation.

The four featured businesses are Lovee's Cakes bakery (Feb. 1), Curly Me youth foundation (Feb. 8), A'la Mode personal styling service (Feb. 15) and The Dance Project dance studio (Feb. 22).

In addition, the Jazz Team Store is selling a special Black History Month shirt with all proceeds going to support Curly Me's mission of empowering young girls. The "Stronger Together" shirt was designed by Provo-based artist Lorne Sleem of Easy Money Clothing.

—@JazzDoingGood or utahjazz.com—

**About the Utah Jazz**

Founded as the 18th member of the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 1974, and located in Salt Lake City since 1979, the Utah Jazz are committed to excellence as a team and in the community. On the court, the Jazz are the second-winningest team in the NBA over the last 30 years, having won nine division titles and two Western Conference championships along with 16 seasons of 50-plus wins, and are supported by one of the most passionate fan bases in all of sports. The Utah Jazz also operate the Junior Jazz program, the largest and longest-running youth basketball league in the NBA, featuring more than 60,000 players and an additional 13,000 volunteers who take part annually across six states. For more information on the Utah Jazz, visit [www.utahjazz.com](http://www.utahjazz.com).

**Media Contact:** Frank Zang, (801) 325-2570, [frank.zang@utahjazz.com](mailto:frank.zang@utahjazz.com)