State directors of special education recently attended a summit in Bozeman, MT, organized by TAESE.

TAESE (the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education, a division of Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities), recently hosted a State Director Summit in Bozeman, Montana. There were 18 participants from 12 states, including Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, Utah, and Wyoming. Bill East, Director of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) also attended.

The purpose of the summit was to provide an opportunity for planning and discussing critical issues in special education across states, as well as sharing challenges and successes. Directors shared and discussed topics including current issues related to the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), efforts to improve state monitoring systems, and other hot topics on state General Supervision Requirements.

Directors were treated to a dinner and networking visit to beautiful Big Sky, Montana and were pleased with the relatively clear skies given the recent fires in the area. The summit provided Directors an opportunity to remove themselves from their offices and accomplish some much-needed networking, learning, and sharing amongst colleagues. One director commented “Thanks for the thoughtful planning for a productive and fun meeting in order to meet our state specific needs.”