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Letter from the President

Dear friends of Independent and Private education:

As you know, the 2017 legislative session was quite hectic right to the adjournment. Our combined efforts through our [OAK](#) coalition made tremendous advances and strides advocating for the Opportunity Tax Credit Scholarship. While our legislation did not make it through final negotiations, we were thrilled to see the strong support and outreach from parents and school communities across the state. More than 3600 emails went to legislators and the governor during the last month of session. This is incredible! Thank you to all the schools and parent organizations that sent action alerts to bring the voice of educational choice forward. While not the eventual results we hoped to achieve, we will continue to advocate on behalf of KIDS and families for choice in education.

MISF is in the midst of a strategic planning process to guide our work into the future. Two key stakeholder groups are member and nonmember schools across Minnesota. We want your feedback and insights to help inform our direction and priorities. If you have not completed the [member](#) or [nonmember](#) school surveys, we welcome your participation. The greater participation, the better we can help meet the needs of students, leaders and educators in our sector.

For member school leaders, mark your calendars for the 2017 School Leadership Conference, September 25-27. This conference is our highest rated program each year and is a wonderful opportunity to connect and learn with other leaders from across Minnesota. The planning committee, led by Pete Van Der Puy of Central MN Christian School, has begun to craft a thoughtful and robust agenda for all attendees. There are special incentives for first-time attendees, so please contact me for more information.

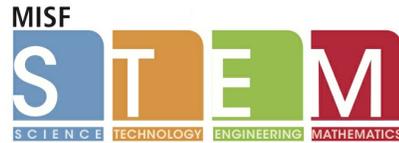
Thank you for your commitment and support of MISF and we wish you a restful summer.



Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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STEM Education Conference



Thursday, August 10, 2017
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
New Life Academy, Woodbury

~Attend the conference and earn 6 Administrative CEUs~

This year's Keynote Speaker will be Toni Adafin



In 1984, Toni joined IBM in Rochester, Minnesota. Toni has been in management for over 16 years where she has managed departments in software development and mechanical procurement quality engineering. Toni currently holds the position of Program Director for IBM Cloud Managed Services software development and is responsible for managing a worldwide organization with managers, software developers and software testers spanning many continents.

Toni is married to Mark Adafin. They have two awesome adult sons, a wonderful daughter-in-law and one precious grandson. She is active in the community, school and church. She has held and chaired many initiatives inside and outside of IBM as well as served on many not-for-profit boards. She is passionate in working with youth; especially, in the area of STEM.

STEM GRANT FOCUS

Have you considered submitting a STEM Grant but are unsure where to start? The STEM Grant Track provides opportunities to talk with MISF's STEM Advisory Committee to have your questions answered and help you brainstorm and develop your ideas for STEM Grant projects. Also, you can attend presentations about projects funded by the STEM Grant program, by teachers from New Life Academy, Southwest Christian High School, West Lutheran High School and Winona Area Catholic Schools.

SPONSOR EXHIBITORS

Sponsor exhibitors will be available to showcase the products and services they offer the STEM education community.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

[Click here](#) to view descriptions of breakout sessions including recommended grade ranges. You will choose your breakout sessions upon registering. Register early to ensure that you are able to attend the breakout sessions of your choice. Space is limited for each session.

REGISTRATION & FEES

- MISF Members: \$65
- NonMembers: \$175
- Title Funds may be available to cover registration fees. Check with your local school district for more details.
- The conference is for grade K-12 educators from any Minnesota private or independent school. Your school does not need to be a member of MISF to attend.
- Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, afternoon refreshments, and free parking.
- Registration fees are nonrefundable; however, registrations are transferable.
- Payments (Check, Visa or MasterCard) must be received by Friday, August 4th, 2017
- Last day to register is Friday, August 4th.

[Register Now!](#)

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Membership Renewal

Renewal reminders have been sent to all member schools, and there's still time to access the renewal survey through this link [on our website](#). If you have questions about the survey, contact Michele Skare at mskare@misf.org.



If you are interested in learning more about membership in MISF, *including new member incentives that are now available*, [click here for more information](#) or email Tim Benz at tbenz@misf.org.

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Dates to Remember

August 10 ~ STEM Education Conference at New Life Academy, Woodbury

September 25-27 ~ School Leadership Conference at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood

**Save
the
Date**



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