

Strengthening Minnesota's K-12 independent schools through
advocacy and advancement



With Gratitude to our Foundation Partners

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Letter from the President

Dear MISF Member Schools, Staff, Colleagues, and Friends of Independent Schools:

MISF is proud to host the eighth annual Private and Independent Education Awards on April 24. This celebration recognizes the excellence found in Minnesota's private and independent school community. The individuals, organizations, and programs recognized at the awards celebration exemplify the strengths of our schools, the support of the community, and the many notable outcomes of our efforts that deliver and improve K-12 education in Minnesota. Purchase a table as a great way to recognize and thank your volunteers, friends, parents and donors. We hope to see you there!

To our corporate and collaborative partners, we invite and encourage your support through a sponsorship opportunity. Your participation is a great way to:

- Support Minnesota's only known state-wide recognition event for nonpublic education
- Reach 458 private and independent schools in the state
- Reach 7,000 educators teaching nearly 70,000 students
- Reach an audience that includes school leaders, educators, board members, administrative teams, students, families, policymakers, and community leaders

As you may know, MISF will conduct the 2016 Statewide Census of Private Education (SCOPE) beginning in late March. Thanks to the generous support of the Katherine B. Andersen Fund, we have partnered with Wilder Research to develop this premier project on private education in Minnesota. The key to the success of this project is a strong response from schools across Minnesota. Want to learn more about the 2012 SCOPE study? [Click here.](#)

Thanks for your support and advocacy of private and independent schools in Minnesota.



Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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STEM Scoop

MISF STEM Grant Program

It's that time of year ... if you received a 2015 MISF STEM Grant you should have received an email from us asking for your year-end report. Let us know if you did not receive an email with a copy of the report. **Please email the completed report to stem.misf@gmail.com by May 16, 2016.**



We also ask that you share any photos, videos, student work or other information that you feel helps tell the story of how the STEM Grant has helped your school enhance STEM teaching and learning. The foundations who support the program are always pleased to see what a difference their support is making in our member schools. If you have files that are very large, let us know, and we will give you access to a Dropbox folder where you can upload them.

Professional Development Opportunities

The Science House Professional Development Group at the Science Museum of Minnesota invites you to apply for the Summer **2016 Race: Are We So Different Teacher Institute** and the **2016-2017 Nexus Leadership Program**. Read on to learn more about these programs.

Using the resources of [Science House](#) and the exhibit, [Race: Are We So Different?](#), the Race Teacher Institute will explore diversity, inclusion, how our identities are socially constructed, and ways to fully engage students as their authentic selves.

The Institute will be offered twice this summer:

- July 25-29
- August 1-5

The Science House Team is pleased to be able to provide travel, hotel, and meals for teams from Greater Minnesota. This free institute is made possible with funds provided by Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. To learn more and to apply, visit the www.smm.org/raceinstitute.

Don't hesitate to contact the Science House Team with questions at profdev@smm.org. Please spread the word by forwarding this announcement to your colleagues.

The Nexus Leadership Program is a community of school and district leaders who are dedicated to improving instruction in ***all*** classrooms, ultimately promoting the achievement of each and every student in STEM. Nexus has made a difference in more than 25 school districts in Minnesota since 2006.

Program Dates:

Nexus Foundations Program (11 Days):

- Summer Institute (for all first-year members): **July 18-22, 2016**
- School Year Colloquia: **October 19-20, 2016, February 8-9, 2017, and May 3-4, 2017**

Veterans from previous cohorts participate in the February and May Colloquia (4 days).

Registration Deadlines and Fees:

| Eleven-Day Foundations Program | Early Bird | Advance | Full Rate |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>For discounts, your registration must be received by:</i> | <i>March 16, 2016</i> | <i>May 4, 2016</i> | <i>June 15, 2016</i> |
| 2016-17 Science House Member | \$1,700 | \$2,100 | \$2,500 |
| Non-Science House Member | \$3,000 | \$3,700 | \$4,400 |
| | | | |
| Four-Day Veterans Program | Early Bird | Advance | Full Rate |
| <i>For discounts, your registration must be received by:</i> | <i>May 4, 2016</i> | <i>October 5, 2016</i> | <i>December 14, 2016</i> |
| 2016-17 Science House Member | \$600 | \$750 | \$900 |
| Non-Science House Member | \$1,000 | \$1,250 | \$1,500 |

Recommended Team Structure:

- Registration is an open process: all teams are accepted.
- We encourage teams with members who share in district-wide responsibilities.
- Consider including teaching and learning directors, curriculum coordinators, equity directors, classroom coaches, professional learning community leaders, principals, curriculum committee chairs, magnet coordinators, and/or teachers or principals on special assignment.
- Interdisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged.

Where:

All programming will take place at the Science Museum of Minnesota in downtown St. Paul. Most of our time will be spent in [Science House](#), a free-standing zero-emissions building in the Science Museum's Big Back Yard.

Next Steps:

- To learn more and to apply, visit www.smm.org/nexus.
- Assemble a team of from your district or school. Visit our website for specific team information.
- We'll quickly notify your team after the registration deadline.
- [Email](#) us with any questions about the registration process or deadline.

Advocacy Update

Education Subtraction and Credit Information

Each year, many of our schools provide their families information about the Minnesota education subtraction and credit for the previous tax year. MISF has a link to the one page document from the Minnesota Revenue Department on our website. [Click here to view, download or print the document.](#)



Private and Independent Education Awards

Private & Independent Education Award Winners & Finalists

Honor Teacher Finalists: K-8

Diane LaBeau~Risen Christ School
Erin McBurney~Annunciation Catholic School
Kirsta Welle~St. Pascal Baylon School

Honor Teacher Finalists: 9-12

David Pearson~DeLaSalle High School
Ned Thompson~Totino-Grace High School
Kate Woolever-Martinez~St. Paul Preparatory School

Award Winners

Leadership Award (K-8)

Jane Nordin~St. Joseph's School (West St. Paul)

Leadership Award (9-12)

Cade Lambert~New Life Academy

Community Champion Award

Jack & Mary Ann Remick~Rochester Catholic Schools

Behind the Scenes Award

Marion Sandfort~Calvin Christian School

Program Award

Project Based Learning~New Life Academy

Registration now open

Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate private and independent education at the Awards event on Sunday, April 24 from 4:00 - 7:00 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Membership Dues for 2016-2017

MISF Membership Dues for the 2016-2017 school year will remain unchanged: \$4.50 per student (minimum dues \$250), plus \$0.50 per student for the Science House opt-in. Renewal information will be sent to schools in May. If you have any questions, or would like to know more about becoming a member of MISF, please call 651-297-6716, or email us at info@misf.org. We appreciate our members' commitment and dedication to private & independent education!

Hormel Foundation Gifted & Talented Education Symposium

June 13-16, 2016

Registration is now open for the Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Education Symposium, a collaboration between the Minnesota Department of Education, The Hormel Foundation, and Austin School District.

Daily sessions address best practices on the assessment of students for services, program models, social and emotional needs, instructional strategies, under-represented populations, integration of STEM and technology, and specific content areas. Outstanding keynotes include: Eric Karpinski, The Happiness Coach; Maria Asp, Neighborhood Bridges program director, Children's Theatre Company; M. René Islas, executive director of the National Association for Gifted Children; and Dr. Anton Treuer, professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University and author.

A pre-conference will be held on June 12, and a Leadership Academy on June 13.

Districts with school calendars that conflict with some of the symposium dates should contact Wendy Behrens at wendy.behrens@state.mn.us to inquire about options for partial attendance.

[Learn more about the symposium and register online](#)

Member Schools in the Spotlight

HILLCREST ACADEMY

Hillcrest Academy is a legacy MISF school located in Fergus Falls. This Christian school serves 7th - 12th graders, and offers a resident program for students from across the USA as well as other countries. [Click here to read more about Hillcrest.](#)



Talmud Torah of St. Paul, joined MISF in 2012. They have been the central address for Jewish education in St. Paul since 1956. Their Newman School is the day school of TTSP, and serves children from age 33 months to grade 3. [Click here to learn more about Talmud Torah.](#)



Southwest MN Christian High School, Edgerton, is a legacy MISF school. They challenge students to "Pursue excellence in liberal arts education: the whole spectrum of our world view; and appreciate the centrality, sufficiency, and supremacy of Jesus Christ through their

education." [Click here to read more.](#)

MISF | 651-297-6716 | info@misf.org | www.misf.org

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