



Letter from the President

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

I hope you had the chance to participate in the seminar/webinar with Rick Newberry on October 27. There were more than 100 people signed up from 65 schools for the presentation. He shared some very thoughtful insights on how to elevate your word of mouth marketing and outreach. To access the materials and a recording of his presentation, [MISF members can log-in here](#). To learn more about Rick and his works with independent schools, check out his blog on www.enrollmentcatalyst.com.

The 2015 Statewide Census of Private Education (SCOPE) will be released next week. Keep your eyes out for an email containing the findings and comprehensive report. Thanks again to the 150 schools that completed the survey and the generosity of the Katherine B. Andersen Fund for supporting this project.

We need your help! To further facilitate the vital networking value of being a member of MISF, our new website has various member forums. They will become a hub to connect educators, leaders and staff from schools across MN. We are looking for ideas or topics to begin structuring these forums. Looking for ideas on enrollment plans? Wondering how another school is working with alumni? Need help finding someone to help with strategic planning? [Click here to submit your idea](#). This is a member-only area and if you need your login information send an email to miskare@misf.org.

Thank you for your support of independent and private education in Minnesota!

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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STEM Scoop

STEM Grant Webinar

Is your school considering applying for an MISF STEM grant this year? Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, November 16th, 2016, 4:00-5:00 p.m.**



MISF's STEM Advisory Committee will offer a **free** webinar for MISF member schools on "**The Guidelines and Grant Process for the 2017 STEM Grant cycle.**" This will be your opportunity to interact with the STEM Advisory committee and ask any questions you may have.

We will be using Skype for the webinar. Click on this link: [Skype for STEM Grant webinar](#). Your browser will open a Skype for Business application. Click on *Join Using Skype for Business Web App Instead*. On the next page, skip step 1 and click on the green *Join the meeting* button. Finally, on the 3rd page, type in your name, click on the green *Join the meeting* button and you will be connected. [Click here to download a PDF with step-by-step instructions](#).

If you prefer, you can call in via phone by dialing 866-715-6499. When prompted, enter the conference ID: 2873878746, however you will then only have the audio. You can download the PowerPoint slides that we'll be using by [clicking here](#).

If you wish to attend in person, 3M is hosting the meeting at their Maplewood campus. The address is: 250 Avenue R, Maplewood, MN 55119. Here is a link to the Google map: <https://goo.gl/maps/owaA47Envu42>. You can enter your location to get detailed driving directions. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the building. Please arrive no later than 3:45 p.m. We will be in a secure building and will be escorted as a group to the webinar location.

If you do plan to attend the webinar remotely or in person, please let us know by **noon on Tuesday, November 15, 2016**. [You may click here to register](#) or call MISF at 651-297-6716.

WEM Outstanding Educator Awards

Nominations now being accepted.



The WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program was created in 1998 by the WEM Foundation in support of teachers and their important role in helping all students excel academically. The program seeks to bring recognition to the unsung heroes who meet the challenges of teaching in a variety of settings.

The WEM Foundation honors in three areas: Teacher Achievement, Ethics in Education and Academic Challenge Coach. Each year, two honorees in each of these categories will receive an **unrestricted \$15,000 gift** and a crystal apple award.

- **The Teacher Achievement Awards** recognize exemplary teachers who support, inspire and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement. Candidates demonstrate exceptional command of their subject area; keep course content current by integrating new technology, research and innovations; support active, hands-on and continuous learning for all students; and effectively use differentiated instruction. They facilitate parental and community involvement in the classroom, incorporate student-developed goals and plans for achievement, display leadership and perform professional service outside of the classroom, and have commendable professional educational accomplishments.
- **The Academic Challenge Coach Awards** recognize exemplary coaches of student teams that participate and compete in academic challenges endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council. Candidates demonstrate passion for students and the activity, encourage participation of students of all backgrounds and learning abilities, create a safe and harassment-free environment, and involve students in planning and decision-making. They uphold the ethical integrity of competition and model appropriate contest behavior at all times.
- **The Ethics in Education Awards** recognize exemplary educators who embody ethical behavior and promote ethical development for students through classroom or school activities, policies or curriculum. Candidates expose students to basic ethical principles to deepen student understanding, engage students in moral problem solving, stimulate dialogue, generate student moral action, and incorporate a well-designed and well-defined comprehensive standard of ethical behavior. They provide a bias-free assessment of students; foster autonomy and higher-level learning experiences; encourage families, staff and community members to partner in character-building efforts; and demonstrate leadership to enhance or restore values and ethics to school curriculum.

Parents, students, administrators or colleagues are invited to nominate educators and academic challenge coaches who they believe make a difference in the lives of students. We encourage you

to participate in the nomination process for the 2017 program by completing a [nomination form](#) now!

Nominated educators are required to complete an application packet to become eligible for the Teacher Achievement, Ethics in Education and/or Academic Challenge Coach Awards. Following review by a preliminary evaluation panel, the applications are evaluated by a Blue Ribbon independent panel of judges representing business and academia.

National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored and recognized great American public and private elementary, middle, and high schools since 1982. A National Blue Ribbon Schools flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence, a symbol of quality recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities.



The U.S. Department of Education has released the 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools program application.

Everything that private schools will need to apply for the program is now available on the National Council for American Private Education's (CAPE) [Blue Ribbon Schools Webpage](#). As explained on that page, schools interested in applying will have to register for the program by November 15, 2016.

Minnesota Department of Education Updates



Minnesota Scholars of Distinction

The Minnesota Scholars of Distinction program nurtures and recognizes distinguished achievement by highly motivated, self-directed students who specialize in areas developed through partnerships of educators, the business community and others. Students may now apply for Scholars of Distinction Awards in **Leadership, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, STEM and Theater Arts**. All applicants are required to complete the Intent to Apply Form, available now through December 16. For information about the criteria, timelines, quality standards, and application process for an award, visit the [Scholars of Distinction page](#).

Introducing Ebooks Minnesota

At no cost, your students, teachers, media specialists and other staff can access quality ebooks from many of Minnesota's independent publishers.

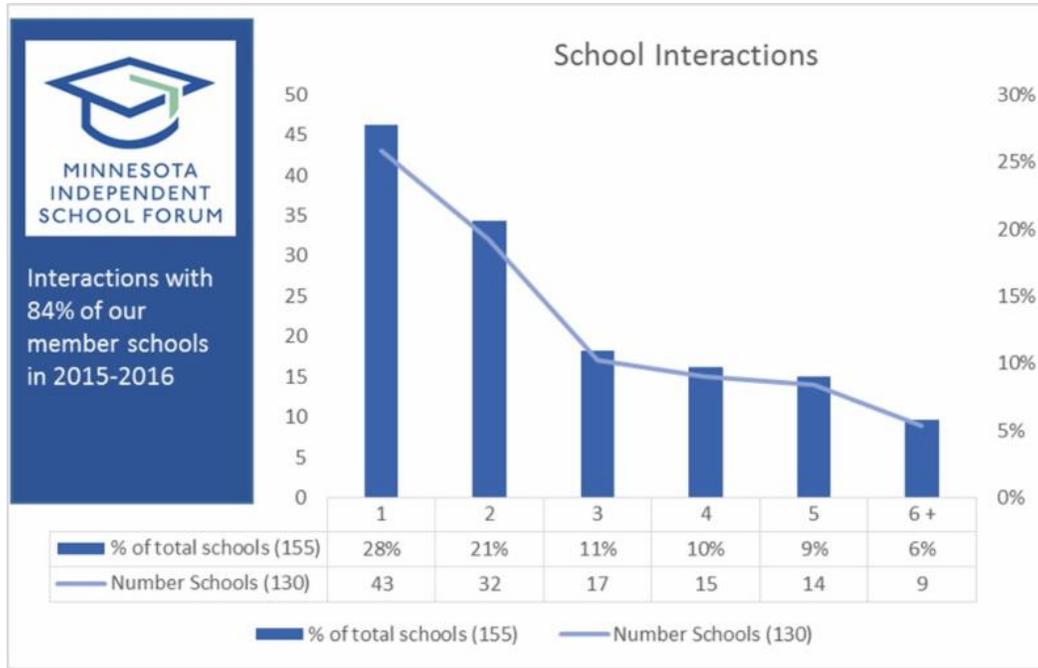
[Ebooks Minnesota](#) makes approximately 3,000 titles from publishers such as ABDO, Lerner Publishing Group, Cherry Lake Publishing, University of Minnesota Press, Milkweed Press, Quarto and Coffeehouse Press freely available to all readers within Minnesota's borders. The collection covers a wide variety of subjects for readers of all ages, including some of Minnesota's best literature and nonfiction.

No process is required to "check out" a book. Readers can access any book in the collection at any time regardless of how many other readers are also using that book. This feature makes the collection particularly useful for schools that may wish to assign a single book to an entire class or even an entire school-without worrying about checkout limits or due dates. Readers can access the collection online or download an app via the App Store, Google Play, or Kindle Fire HD.

Ebooks Minnesota was made possible in part by funding from the Minnesota Department of Education through a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information, check out the [Minnesota Digital Library page](#), and read the [EBooks FAQ page](#). You may also contact [Jen Verbrugge](#), Library Partnership/Program Coordinator, MDE at 651-582-8356 with questions or for more information.

MISF Fast Facts

School Interactions



More than 85% of our member schools engaged in at least one of our offerings during the year. Nearly 40% of MISF members accessed more than 3 offerings or resources during the year.

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

STAY CONNECTED WITH MISF:



Please note: If you unsubscribe from this email, you will be removed from all email communication from MISF, including STEM opportunities, conference and seminar information, and advocacy updates. You may instead [click here to modify your email preferences](#). Thank you.