



Letter from the President

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

National School Choice Week is January 22-28, 2017. Mark your calendars now for **Tuesday, January 24, 2017**, and plan to join us for an event at the Capitol in support of school choice. It's an opportunity to learn about legislative activities and meet with your local legislators express your support of school choice for all students.

There are some very strong seminars scheduled over the coming months, so make sure to join us for these offerings. Our previous admissions/marketing seminar was a tremendous success with more than 100 people joining us in person or via webinar. We know it can be a challenge based on schedule or geography to join in person, so **we are working to make more of our seminars available via webinar**, or with the ability to access them at a time that is more convenient.

We wish you all the very best for the holiday season. Thank you for your ardent support and belief in independent education.

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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STEM Scoop

MISF STEM Grants



Is your school planning on submitting a STEM grant application this year? This is a reminder that Letters of Interest (LOIs) are due on January 20th. You must submit a LOI to be eligible to submit a full grant request.

The STEM Program Calendar, STEM Grant Guidelines, Letter of Interest and Grant Application Forms and the STEM Grant Scoring Rubrics can be found on MISF's website at www.misf.org/stem. Project descriptions of STEM Grants awarded in the last three years are also available under the STEM Program tab, as well as a link to a video highlighting three member schools' STEM programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at STEM@misf.org. We look forward to seeing the exciting STEM projects that you will propose!

3M TWIST Program

Science, Math, and Tech teachers of students in grades 7-12 are invited to apply to 3M's TWIST (Teachers Working in Science and Technology) program. TWIST Teachers spend 6 weeks doing R&D with a 3M scientist or engineer and their team. Teachers receive a stipend of \$4500, and can earn graduate credit through St. Mary's University of MN. Applications are due on January 17, 2017. TWIST is a partnership with the Minnesota High Tech Association

[Click here to learn more about TWIST.](#)
[Download an additional TWIST flyer here.](#)

MISF Technology Seminar/Webinar

An Empathetic Approach to Digital Citizenship

Thursday, January 19, 2017
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Good Shepherd School, Golden Valley



Lunch & Learn Seminars

Do you find yourself giving students more warnings than hope when giving online advice? Are your digital citizenship lectures and presentations a better fit for your teachers than your students? What is your teacher-student tech savviness ratio? Although our schools and classrooms don't always reflect it, technology has changed the way digital natives learn. As teachers, it is important for us to learn how to use the 4C's to engage our students in similar ways that they will use when they graduate. We will discuss how generational gaps in the digital age are making the job of teaching increasingly demanding, yet still so necessary.

This seminar presenter is Sam Meyer, Science Teacher & Academic Technology Integration Specialist at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis.

Sam will present in person at Good Shepherd School AND via live webinar.

Cost:

- MISF member school staff in person: Free for first staff member, \$25 for each additional.
- MISF member school staff via webinar: Free
- Non-member school staff in person: \$65 per person
- Non-member school staff via webinar: \$25
- Lunch and all presentation materials are included

[Click here to register.](#)

Tim Benz Honored at Philanthropy Day

MISF President Tim Benz was recently recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) - Minnesota Chapter as the **2016 Outstanding Professional Fundraiser**. Tim received the award as part of Philanthropy Day on November 18 at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis. This award is presented annually to "Individuals who practice his/her profession in an exemplary manner and are an inspiration to others."



Tim receives his award from AFP President Heather Christopherson CFRE

MISF Board member, Jon A. Theobald, reflected on Tim's leadership, saying, "Tim moved quickly to strengthen the board, expand services to member schools, boost fundraising in terms of both number of donors and total amount of money raised, and enhance the credibility of the

organization."

Tim is a former chapter president and board member for AFP - MN Chapter and continues to serve on the resource development and finance committees.

To learn more about the award click <http://afpminnesota.org/afp-events/philanthropy-day/national-philanthropy-day-honorees-2016-benz/>,

To watch the award video click https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfU_WnsG3xl

Join the MISF staff in congratulating Tim on this well-deserved honor!

Save the date!

A combined Admissions/Marketing/Development Seminar with Lori Jacobwith ~ Thursday February 23, 2017. More information will be available soon.

Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society 2016-2017 Essay Contest



The Education Committee of the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (MSCHS) is pleased to announce our new 2016-17 statewide essay contest. Students in grades 11 and 12 have the opportunity to submit essays and compete for one of nine \$500 scholarships. Online registration is now open; deadline for online essay submission is January 20, 2017.

[For full contest details and submission guidelines, click here.](#)

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](#).

MISF Fast Facts

Video: 2016 STEM Grant Project Highlights

STEM Grant Letters of Interest are due on January 20, 2017. [Click here for more information on the STEM Grant program](#), and check out the video below highlighting three schools that received STEM Grants in 2016.



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