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Letter from the President

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

It has been a very active month at the Minnesota legislature. Two primary pieces of legislation that would provide greater choice for parents and students have been proposed and are making great progress. For more information on these proposals, click here for the [House version](#) and [Senate version](#) of the bill. There have been several stories in the media on these pieces of legislation. Links to all the stories are available on our [Advocacy page](#). We will provide updates as the session progresses. The voices of parents and schools will be very important as we try to push this over the finish line.

One of the stories covering the legislation references our 2015 Statewide Census of Private Education (SCOPE). If you haven't reviewed this robust repository of data on Minnesota's independent and private schools, [click here](#). You will find tons of information including pupil costs, compensation and students graduation rates.

One new member benefit is the [MISF job board](#). Members can post their job openings here for no charge.

Make plans to attend our largest event, the [Private and Independent Education Awards](#) on Sunday, April 30, at the University of St. Thomas. It's a wonderful night to celebrate the excellence and success found in independent and private schools across MN. Nominations for all award categories are being accepted through Friday, February 17th. [Click here to nominate someone from your school community](#).

Thank you for your support and ardent belief in MISF and KIDS!

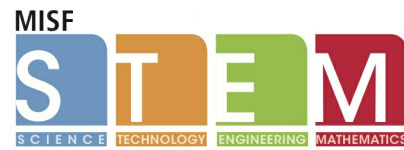
Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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MISF STEM Grant Deadline is Friday, February 17



The deadline for STEM grants is fast approaching! If you submitted a letter of interest (LOI), please be sure to submit your grant proposal by midnight on Friday, February 17. We received 48 LOIs for this year's 2017 STEM grant program. Please note that only schools who submitted LOIs are eligible to submit grant applications. Grant application materials can be found at <http://misf.org/stem-grants/>. Please contact Beth Murphy, STEM Program Manager, at bmurphy@misf.org or 612-270-0194 with questions.

Minnesota on the Map

Calling all Middle and High school students -- "Minnesota on the Map" ArcGIS Online Student map contest is OPEN! 5 student map winners will receive \$100 each in both middle (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) divisions. One middle and high school winner will also be entered into the ArcGIS Online U.S. School Mapping competition with a chance to go to the Esri User Conference in San Diego, CA. Additional prizes are also being considered (perhaps another competition t-shirt like last year). Each teacher with a student entering the competition MUST register. This year we are also allowing only 5 entries per school. If a teacher wants to do this contest as a class project, contact Scott Freburg if you would like a judge to help look at school entries. Open to ALL students, beginner to experienced and public, nonpublic or home-schooled! Deadline is April 21, 2017.

For all contest details go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/mnmapcontest17/home>

Contact for Questions is [Scott Freburg](#).

Stanford University Online Courses

Stanford University offers a wide variety of MOOCs: Massive Open Online Courses, aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. One of the courses offered caught the eye of Beth Murphy, our new STEM Program Manager. [Learning as Evidence](#) is not specifically STEM, but certainly very relevant to and inclusive of STEM. Click the link above for more information on that specific class, and to learn more about Stanford Online.

MDE Science Update for February

The Minnesota Department of Education publishes a periodic Science Update with news and resources of interest to STEM educators. [Click here to access the latest update](#).

Private & Independent Education Awards

Nominations are being accepted through February 17th

All private and independent schools in Minnesota are eligible and encouraged to participate. Nominations may be submitted by students, staff, board members, parents, school leaders, or anyone connected to the school community for the following award categories:

- Behind the Scenes
- Community Champion
- Program
- Leadership Award
- Honor Teacher Award

If you've nominated a person or program from your school in the past, consider nominating them again! Spread the word throughout your entire school community.

The Awards Event will be held on Sunday, April 30th at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. [Click here for more information, and to nominate someone today.](#)

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MISF Lunch & Learn Seminars

Admissions/Marketing/Development Seminar

Using Stories for Everything but the Kitchen Sink!



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

Lunch & Learn Seminars

Presented by Lori Jacobwith of Ignited Fundraising
Thursday, February 23, 2017
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
at Maranatha Christian Academy, Brooklyn Park

You already know that sharing stories can make a big difference to your fundraising. But do you know that a story that inspires and educates can be used in nearly all areas of your work? In this session with master storyteller Lori L. Jacobwith we'll take a look at how to communicate so people listen and take immediate action.

This is an interactive session to discuss and view different types of stories: written, spoken, recorded and story images. Lori will share examples and a communication checklist to help you ensure the stories and messages you are sharing do exactly what you want them to: cause donors, students, board members, alum, community members and staff to take specific and immediate action.

Lori L. Jacobwith is a nationally-recognized master storyteller and fundraising culture change expert with more than 30 years' experience helping nonprofit organizations raise nearly \$300 million dollars from individual donors. And counting.

Cost:

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

[Click here to register.](#)

Coming soon.....

Technology Seminar

Social Media - What's working for schools in 2017?

Presented by Andrea Gribble of #SocialSchool4EDU
Tuesday, May 9, 2017
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
at Notre Dame Academy, Minnetonka

Watch your inbox for more information!

2017-2018 Membership Rates

Membership rates for 2017-18 will remain unchanged at \$4.50/student. Renewal surveys will be sent in May.

If you are interested in becoming a new MISF member in the 2017-18 year, [click here for more information](#), or send an email to membership@misf.org.

Honor Teacher Finalists from 2016

Looking for some inspiration for your [nomination essay](#)? Check out this video highlighting last year's Honor Teacher finalists.



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

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