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Letter from the President

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

Our premier event, the **Private and Independent Education Awards** takes place on Sunday, April 30, at the University of St. Thomas. We hope you come and celebrate the people and programs that make independent and private education exceptional. Watch for an announcement later this week on the award recipients and details on registration.

MISF has begun the initial steps to a new strategic planning process. As part of the effort, we will engage several stakeholder groups for insight, feedback and opinions. While the outcomes are not known yet, the goals will be focused on ensuring MISF remains a respected, relevant and vital partner in education. Stay tuned for updates!

The legislature has reached the midpoint of the session. There has been significant progress and support for the Equity and Opportunity Scholarship Act through the committee process. To learn more about these bills you can follow these links, [SF256](#) and [HF386](#). We will provide timely updates so you can contact elected officials to voice your support.

It's never too early to mark your 2017-18 calendars for the STEM Education (August 10) and School Leadership (September 25-27) Conferences. These two gatherings provide unique opportunities for high quality learning and networking with fellow educators and leaders.

Thank you for your support of MISF and KIDS!

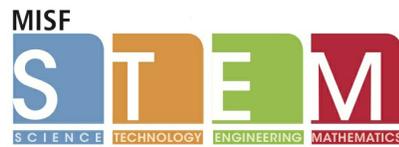
Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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STEM Scoop



Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Offers: Wow! That's Engineering!

Wow! That's Engineering is designed to encourage young women to consider careers in engineering and science through several hands-on activities. This year, Wow! That's Engineering is on **Saturday, April 15, 2017** at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN. The event is free for girls who are on the free/reduced lunch plan or at a school with 50% or more of the students on free/reduced lunch plan. Wow! That's Engineering is an all-day event for qualifying girls in grades 6 - 8. Lunch and transportation (via bus) for the girls and chaperones between your school or organization and Normandale Community College is provided. The 150 spots are available on a first-come/first-serve basis. Registration will close on Monday, March 27, 2017 to give enough time to order t-shirts and make the bus transportation arrangements. For information, questions, registration, or volunteering, contact: WOW@SWE-MN.ORG

University of St. Thomas Engineering Education Summer 2017 Scholarships

Did you know that the University of St. Thomas offers a graduate certificate in engineering education? 2017 summer scholarships are available to MISF member school educators which will cover all but \$200 of tuition. Be sure to identify yourself as a MISF member when applying.

Find more information on the summer courses at <http://www.stthomas.edu/cee/courses/>.

University of St. Thomas Spring 2017 (free) Educator Playdates!

AnnMarie Thomas states, "One of my favorite things about leading UST's Playful Learning Lab and teaching in the Center for Engineering Education is the opportunity to meet and collaborate with incredible people, many of who are educators in a formal, or informal sense. We had four of playdates this fall, and they were so much fun that I am delighted to announce that the Playful Learning Lab will continue hosting *monthly, free playdates for educators, artists, and makers* who want to discuss, share, and try out, new ways of bringing joy and learning to our students." [Click here](#) for Playdates and additional information.

High Tech Kids Scholarships

High Tech Kids offers a very limited number of scholarships to Minnesota **rookie teams**. These scholarships cover the initial cost of the robot and are one time only and not renewable. Preference will be given to teams comprised of underrepresented youth, rural or urban teams and/or all girls teams.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

FIRST® Tech Challenge Rookie Teams (\$725)

FIRST® LEGO® League Rookie Teams (\$500)

There is more info here: <http://www.hightechkids.org/grants-and-scholarships>

The best way to be in the loop for grants is to sign up for High Tech Kids e-newsletters: which can be found on their home page: <http://www.hightechkids.org/home>

Spring Break Camp at The Works

Register today for Spring Break Camps, offered 3/27-3/30 and 4/3-4/6.

LEGO Engineering 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Robocoding 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Choose from a.m. or p.m. options, or combine the camps to make a full day experience with a

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The 2017 Private & Independent Education Awards

The Minnesota Independent School Forum is proud to host the ninth annual Private and Independent Education Awards. 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 efforts to improve K-12 education in Minnesota.

**Sunday, April 30, 2017
Woulfe Alumni Hall
Anderson Student Center
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul**

**4:00 - 4:45 Registration & Social Hour
4:45 - 7:00 PM Dinner & Awards**

Award Recipients in all categories will be announced later this week, and registration will begin on March 17th. Be sure to mark your calendars and attend this inspiring celebration of private and independent education!

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MISF Lunch & Learn Seminars

Technology Seminar & Webinar

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



Presented by Andrea Gribble of #SocialSchool4EDU
TUESDAY (note - different day), May 9, 2017
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
at Notre Dame Academy, Minnetonka.

Your school uses social media, of course you do! But what are the best strategies for your school now that we are approaching the 2017-2018 school year? Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat will all be covered in this power-packed session with guest presenter Andrea Gribble. You'll want to bring along your team members handling your social media. We'll share examples, stats and get all of your questions answered so that you can feel confident in your efforts.

Cost:

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

Registration begins soon. Watch your inbox for more information.

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Calling All Youth Entrepreneurs

Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest is proud to once again sponsor the Youth Division of MN Cup, the largest statewide startup competition in the country. Students age 18 and under are eligible to participate in this platform that encourages and fosters the development of creative ideas by Minnesota's youth.



Participants will have an opportunity to access available resources, network with MN Cup partners, mentors and entrepreneurs, and hone their business pitch and plan. The winner will receive \$10,000 in seed capital, along with a variety of other benefits. Applications are accepted March 20 - April 28. [Visit the MnCup website for more information.](#)

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State Capitol Grand Opening Essay Contest

Lt. Governor Tina Smith and the State Capitol Grand Opening Planning Committee have announced a statewide essay contest celebrating the historic Minnesota State Capitol. Essay contest winners will be invited to share their essays as part of the State Capitol Grand Opening festivities in August. Minnesota students in grades K-12 are encouraged to submit essays explaining how the State Capitol has shaped our collective past and will impact future generations.

Entries must be postmarked by April 28, 2017. [Click here for more details.](#)

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Dates to Remember

April 30 ~ Private and Independent Education Awards at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul

May 9 ~ Technology Seminar/Webinar at Notre Dame Academy, Minnetonka

Thursday, June 22 ~ Development Seminar (Location TBD)

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

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

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