



In the April Newsletter

[Letter from the President](#)
[STEM Scoop](#)
[2017 Private & Independent Education Awards](#)
[Lunch & Learn Seminars](#)
[University of St. Thomas - Dougherty Family College](#)
[Rick Newberry's Blog](#)
[Calling All Youth Entrepreneurs](#)
[Dates to Remember](#)

Letter from the President

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

We are less than three weeks from our premier event, the **Private and Independent Education Awards**, which will be held on Sunday, April 30th at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. This is a wonderful opportunity to come and celebrate the people and programs that make independent and private schools exceptional communities. A sincere thanks to the many sponsors who commit to support this, our single fundraising event for the year. We urge you to take time to thank our sponsors when you have the opportunity. Registration runs through April 23rd. [Click here to register now and join the celebration!](#)

If you were unable to attend our advocacy webinar last week, [it can be accessed here](#). We anticipate scheduling more webinars as the legislative session becomes very active over the next 5 weeks. As issues arise, we will send periodic advocacy alerts to ensure you are "in the know" over the next month. To help advance the interests of independent and private school students, educators and families, the voice of your community is imperative. [Check out this advocacy toolkit to get some ideas.](#)

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend our national Council for American Private Education (CAPE) spring meeting in Washington, D.C. This meeting brings together the state CAPE network (MISF is the Minnesota CAPE) as well as the Board of Directors of CAPE. The gathering is a unique format to hear from organizations and experts across the U.S. on topics that are relevant to independent and private education. As part of the meetings, we had a listening session at the US Department of Education with Secretary Betsy DeVos. To learn more about CAPE, and the national perspective on issues, check out the website at www.capenet.org.

Check out the two special announcements from [Junior Achievement](#) and the [University of St. Thomas](#) below for unique opportunities for students.

Thank you for your support of independent and private education. It's for the KIDS!



Tim Benz, CFRE
President

STEM Scoop



Bakken Teacher Academy 2017-18: Science Learning from the Works of Scientists

For: 6th - 12th grade science teachers. Teams of science teachers are encouraged.

To register, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QXYNLYM>

What: *Science Learning from the Works of Scientists* is a year-long program for middle- and high-school science teachers featuring history-of-science resources from The Bakken's special collections library and online libraries as well as contemporary science publications.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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

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.

Congratulations to the 2017 MISF STEM GRANT Awardees. Grants will be awarded at the 2017 Private and Independent Education Awards celebration held on April 30th at the University of St. Thomas.

Sustainability Grants

Heritage Christian Academy
Maranatha Christian Academy
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School
St. Joseph's School, West St. Paul
St. Mary's School, Owatonna

Starter Grants

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
DeLaSalle High School
Holy Name of Jesus School
Nativity of Mary Catholic School
Presentation of Mary School
St. Anne's School, LeSueur
St. Joseph's School, Grand Rapids
Sts. Peter and Paul School
Trinity Lutheran School, Janesville

Innovation Grants

Academy of Whole Learning
Annunciation Catholic School
Benilde-St. Margaret's School
Bethany Academy
Cotter Schools
Frassati Catholic Academy

Holy Spirit School
Maranatha Christian Academy
Nativity of Our Lord School
New Ulm Area Catholic Schools
Pacelli Catholic Schools
Saint Agnes School
St. Alphonsus Catholic School
St. John the Baptist School
St. Joseph's School, West St. Paul
St. Michael Catholic School, Prior Lake
West Lutheran High School

STEM Education Conference

Plans are underway for the 2017 STEM Education Conference. We are grateful to New Life Academy for offering to host the conference. The date is August 10, 2017. Watch for registration to open this spring.

We are always interested in ideas for presenters and/or topics for breakout sessions. Please send your ideas to Beth Murphy, STEM Program Manager, at bmurphy@misf.org

[Back to top](#)

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.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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

James B. Field Legacy Award
Rosa Miller, MISF Board Member Emerita
Vice President 3M Latin America (Retired)

Behind the Scenes Award
Megan Hower, Carondelet Catholic School

Community Champion Award
Alums & Friends & Family Committee,
Community of Saints Regional Catholic School

Program Award
AHA Way, Academy of Holy Angels

Leadership K-8 Award
Kate Wollan, Nativity of Our Lord School

Leadership 9-12 Award
Randy Kroll, Calvin Christian School

Honor Teacher K-8 Award
Jill Zastrow, Carondelet Catholic School

[Honor Teacher 9-12 Award](#)
Bonnie Larson, St. Paul Preparatory School

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[Back to top](#)

MISF Lunch & Learn Seminars

[Technology Seminar & Webinar](#)

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



Lunch & Learn Seminars

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

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[Back to top](#)

Dougherty Family College

DOUGHERTY FAMILY COLLEGE
APPLY TODAY

The University of St. Thomas is proud to introduce the Dougherty Family College. This college offers a unique pathway to a bachelor's degree for ambitious, motivated students who have the potential for collegiate success, but may benefit from additional academic or social support.

This new associate degree program offers university-level liberal arts courses that will prepare students for a transition to a public or private four-year institution in Minnesota after graduation. Students will receive mentoring from St. Thomas Faculty, participate in paid internships, and enjoy the benefits of being part of the state's largest private university.

[Click here for more information about Dougherty Family College.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Rick Newberry's Blog ~ 3

Key Ingredients for Effective Marketing



[Rick Newberry](#), President of Enrollment Catalyst, has given presentations on school communications and marketing at two MISF Lunch & Learn Seminars. His successes and expertise have helped schools throughout the nation achieve their strategic marketing and enrollment goals.

Rick's blog is a continuing source of ideas and information helpful to all independent schools. His latest post is 3 Key Ingredients for Effective Marketing, and you won't want to miss it. Bookmark this page for up-to-date information.

[Click here for the link to Rick's blog.](#)

[Back to top](#)

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.](#)

[Back to top](#)

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

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

[Back to top](#)



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