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Letter from the President

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

Happy Teachers' Appreciation Week! We salute and thank all the educators who have chosen this honored profession to change the lives of kids. Thanks for the time and talents you share to make this a better world.

The 9th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards, held on April 30, were a wonderful success. This gathering is our opportunity to come together and celebrate the excellence found in private schools in Minnesota. To learn about the recipients and view the award videos, click [here](#). A huge thanks to our many [generous sponsors](#) - the support makes a tremendous difference in the profile and success of this large event. Make plans to nominate someone in your school for next year.

The legislative session is scheduled to conclude in less than two weeks. As you know, we have been conducting advocacy webinars weekly to keep everyone apprised of the current status. These have been recorded and are available for viewing [here](#). To let your legislators and Governor Dayton know you support the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit legislation check out www.oakmn.org. You will find a direct link to send a message to the Governor and your local legislators.

The annual MISF membership renewal period will begin in early June. As mentioned, the rate will remain unchanged at \$4.50/student. If you are not a current MISF member and are interested in learning more, please [email me](#). There are new member incentives that reduce the initial investment plus some additional benefits. Want to learn more about MISF and what member school leaders say about MISF? Check out this [new video](#).

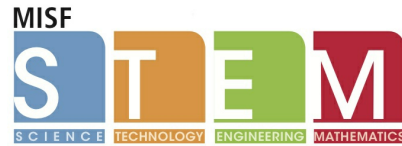
We wish you the very best in the coming weeks as another school year comes to a conclusion. Thank you for your support of private and independent education.

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

Follow me on Twitter
[@misfprez](https://twitter.com/misfprez)

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STEM Scoop



Six Characteristics of a Great STEM Lesson.

Focus on real-world problems. Involve art teachers. Anne Jolly, a former middle school science teacher, breaks down the ideal STEM lesson. [Click here](#) to read Anne's article found in Education Week Teacher.

MDE Science Update

[Click here to view the MDE Science Update for May](#)

Coding in the Classroom Summit

The MN Coding in the Classroom Summit is coming up on Tuesday, May 16th - Join Code Savy for a day of hands-on sessions that explore ways to integrate computer science, coding, and computational thinking into a variety of curricular areas, from K-12!

Registration and more information at <http://codingintheclassroommn.weebly.com/>

Trailblazers: Women Succeeding in Science and Technology

Don't miss this chance to get inspired by women and girls succeeding in STEM careers. June 12th at Prime Therapeutics in Bloomington.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

The Rivers Institutes

Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) presents its acclaimed Rivers Institutes, a FREE, three day field-based professional development opportunity for educators.

The Rivers Institutes are designed to increase teachers' science content knowledge and investigation skills, and help area educators translate their professional experiences into meaningful, engaging classroom investigations. For more information and to apply online, please visit www.hamline.edu/cgee/riversinstitute. Contact Sara Robertson at srobertson01@hamline.edu with questions.

Science Learning from the Works of Scientists

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

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. The program consists of a four-day summer institute that continues with workshops during the school year. The summer institute engages participants in practices for reading informational text to enhance science students' understanding of concepts as well as their critical thinking and communication skills. During the school year: participants apply what they learned to design, deliver and evaluate their own action research project for implementing effective reading practices in the science classroom. Participants will present their projects and findings to the cohort in a variety of informal and formal ways throughout the process.

Participants will earn **four graduate credits** in science education from Hamline University, two each for the summer and school-year components. Participation in both summer and school-year

courses is expected. A \$270 **stipend** is provided for completing the full course, as well as **books and other materials** and **meals/beverages**.

WHEN:

- 2017 summer Institute: 8:30am to 3:30pm, Monday thru Thursday, June 19-22
- 2017-2018 school-year workshops: dates TBD with input from participants. May include Saturday, evening, and/or virtual meetings.

WHERE: The Bakken Museum at 3537 Zenith Ave. South in Minneapolis

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact: Teacher Academy Director Beth Murphy at murphy@thebakken.org.

Citizen Science Research for Teachers

Monarch Lab faculty and staff hope your school year has gone well and we would love to see you! We know many of our teachers continue to implement pieces of what they do in our workshops years after the workshop. No matter how much you use in your classroom we have a class you should consider.

Our 3 day workshop- Citizen Science Research for Teachers: Level 2 allows you to refresh yourself on science teaching while adding tools to develop leadership. We believe that teachers are the most important component for inspiring the biologists of the future and we feel you deserve good quality professional development. Please join us and meet up with other teachers from Monarch Lab.

This summer class meets June 19-21 on the UMN campus. Receive materials for another citizen science project to do with your class, leadership resources, **\$300 stipend and 1 graduate credit-** for you AND **\$150 for a colleague from your building/district**. Collaborating colleagues will work with you at your school-site during the school year. No summer commitment for your colleague.

New to citizen science?? Contact Sarah Weaver to see if we can find a spot for you : weave@umn.edu

THIS IS THE FINAL YEAR this class will be offered. Pass this along to other colleagues who might be a good fit...but after you sign yourself up- space is limited!

For more details see: [CSRT Level 2](#)

Register at <https://goo.gl/forms/wronMH9mFNPLZCmf2>

STEM Education Conference

SAVE THE DATE

The STEM Education Conference is coming! Join us August 10 at New Life Academy in Woodbury for inspiration and ideas about teaching STEM. Jumpstart the school year with breakout sessions about forensic science, climate change, biomimicry, developing apps in the classroom, and more!

Open to all nonpublic school educators in Minnesota. CEUs are available.

Watch for registration to open the end of May.

This year's Keynote Speaker will be Toni Adafin

In 1984, Toni joined IBM in Rochester, Minnesota. Toni has been in management for over 16 years where she has managed departments in software development and mechanical procurement quality engineering. Toni currently holds the position of Program Director for IBM Cloud Managed Services software development and is responsible for managing a worldwide organization with managers, software developers and software testers spanning many continents.

Toni is married to Mark Adafin. They have two awesome adult sons, a wonderful daughter-in-law and one precious grandson. She is active in the community, school and church. She has held and chaired many initiatives inside and outside of IBM as well as served on many not-for-profit boards. She is passionate in working with youth; especially, in the area of STEM.

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Minnesota Twins Ticket Offering!

MISF has a great opportunity for your school to treat your staff, students, volunteers and families to a day out at a Minnesota Twins game.

MISF received 500 Twins tickets from the Twins organization to give away to our member schools.



Here are the dates and times of the games:

- Seattle Mariners, Thursday, June 15, 12:10pm
- Chicago White Sox, Thursday, June 22, 12:10pm

The **first 20 schools** that email Michelle Ponsolle at mponsolle@misf.org will each receive 25 tickets to the game of their choice listed above.

In your email please state your first and second choice or "no preference."

Go Twins!

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Private and Independent Education Awards

Nearly 275 people celebrated private and independent schools, teachers, programs and leaders at this year's awards which were held at the University of St. Thomas on Sunday, April 30, 2017. We send our sincere thanks to [all of our sponsors](#) who made our event possible.



[Click here for a list of all the awardees.](#)

[Click here to view videos.](#)

[Click here to view photos taken at the event.](#)

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MISF Lunch & Learn Seminars

Development Seminar & Webinar

The Perfect Development Office!

Presented by Schuyler Lehman, Mission Advancement

Thursday, June 22, 2017

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Location: Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis



Lunch & Learn Seminars

MAP's founder and CEO Schuyler Lehman is a seasoned professional who represents 30 years of experience helping nonprofit organizations address their fundraising needs. He has strategically led some of the largest fundraising firms in America. MAP was created to serve the missions of our clients with a dedicated team of highly skilled professionals.

Seminar/Webinar Content

If you could wipe the slate clean and start anew, what should the development office look like? Recognizing that all nonprofit development offices carry the baggage and culture of previous generations of leadership, it is always challenging to forge the necessary change for growth. MAP will first paint a picture of the ideal development office and strategies, and then talk through the stages of change necessary to get there.

This session is designed for school leaders, development staff, board members and fundraising volunteers.

[Click here to register.](#)

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Membership Renewal

Membership Renewal Surveys will be emailed to you in early June. Watch your inbox for more information. We look forward to serving your school in the 2017-2018 school year!

If you are interested in learning more about membership in MISF, [click here for more information](#) or email Tim Benz at tbenz@misf.org.

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Dates to Remember

June 22 ~ Development Seminar at Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis

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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