

MISF connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy so they can be student-centered and mission-driven.



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Letter from the President

Dear friends of independent and private education,

As we near the 10th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards, we encourage you to join in the celebration on April 29 at the University of St. Thomas. This event is the premier opportunity to come together and celebrate the people who help make our schools wonderful communities. For more information, and to register, visit <http://misf.org/ed-awards/>. A special thank you to our many generous sponsors who come support this event and gathering.

We offer our condolences and prayers to two dear friends of MISF who passed away in March. Scott Nelson, a partner with Hellmuth and Johnson was a former MISF board treasurer and member of the President's Cabinet. Scott was a highly respected trust and estate attorney, fierce advocate for private education and generous friend to MISF. We also remember Patricia McDonald, wife of past board member Malcolm McDonald. Patricia was very generous by donating several copies of educational books through her Afton Historical Society Press House for member schools to enjoy.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has scheduled a webinar on Thursday, April 12, focused on equitable participation in ESSA and Title Programs for nonpublic students, families and staff. Additional information and a link to register are included in this newsletter. We highly encourage participation in this webinar.

Thank you for your commitment and belief in private and independent education.

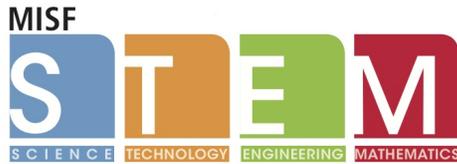
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tim Benz'.

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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STEM SCOOP



MISF 2018 STEM Grant Program

Thank you to everyone who submitted a STEM Grant this year. At the 10th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards event on April 29th we will be awarding 35 STEM grants totaling \$129,790. Since our grant program began in 2009 and including this year's grantees we will have awarded 226 grants totaling \$1,051,664.84. We are grateful to our STEM Program funders 3M, Schott Foundation and Xcel Energy for their outstanding support. Our thanks also to our STEM Advisory Committee for sharing their time with us, reviewing and selecting this year's grantees. [Click here](#) to see a list of the 2018 STEM Grant Awardees.

MISF 2018 STEM Education Conference

Save the Date for this year's STEM Education Conference which will be held on Tuesday, August 7th at Maranatha Christian Academy, Brooklyn Park.

Chemical Disposal program from the University of Minnesota

The U of M Chemical Safety Day Program is again being offered during the coming spring, summer, and fall months. The program is designed to assist schools and colleges in disposing of unwanted chemicals and hazardous waste from science, art, industrial technology, and maintenance departments. The University will travel to your facility to collect the waste. For details and a schedule, contact Robbie Eiker at shuff001@umn.edu or 612-490-3689.

OK GO partners with the University of St. Thomas to promote Math & Science. [Click here](#) to learn more about the program.

MN Frameworks Website Upgrade

The [STEM Teacher Center](#) website which houses the *Frameworks for the Minnesota Science and Mathematics Standards* is currently being refreshed for content and functionality. A grant from 3M is paying to bring the operating system of the site up to current software versions and make it handicap accessible. During the upgrade, the registration system is not operating and no content changes are being made.

Science and Engineering Practices in Action (SEPA) Workshops

The regional directors of the Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA) are facilitating introductory workshops on new professional development modules that are intended for local groups of teachers, such as PLCs. The resources for group activities and discussions,

including videos of classroom instruction, are delivered online and the group can select members to be facilitators. Most of the events are about two hours in an evening and FREE. Not only will you learn how to use these practices in your teaching, you will network with teachers from your region. Email the contact person for more information.

St. Cloud Area, TBD, karen.bengtson@isd742.org
Moorhead Area, April 13, tschmitt@barnesville.k12.mn.us (TJ Schmitt)
Twin Cities, April 18, Claire.hypolite@mpls.k12.mn.us

For information about implementing these modules in your school or group of teachers, contact lee.m.schmitt@gmail.com.

STEPS camp for girls, June 11 - 15, St. Paul

Girls currently in grade 6 and 8 are invited by the University of St. Thomas for a FREE one-day camp opportunity. STEPS stands for Science, Technology and Engineering Preview Summer. STEPS is a great opportunity for students to be on a college campus, build on their collaborative teamwork skills, think creatively, and have the opportunity to see and work with new technology. For information go to the [camp website](#).

Other Minnesota Links:

[Minn. Dept. of Education Science Page](#)

[Minn. Science Teachers Association](#)

[Frameworks for MN Science and Mathematics Standards](#)

[Get - STEM](#) Connections between schools and businesses

[Mn-STEM](#) STEM programs and resources for families, schools and community

[Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge](#) environmental education resources

[Minnesota Academy of Science](#) Science Fair, Science Bowl and other competitions

[Mn DNR Education website](#): Curriculum, professional development, posters, etc.

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Free MDE Webinar

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has scheduled a webinar on Thursday, April 12, focused on equitable participation in ESSA and Title Programs for nonpublic students, families and staff. Below is additional information and the link to register for this webinar. We highly encourage participation in this webinar.

Webinar: ESSA: Equitable Participation in Title Programs

Date: April 12, 2018

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Online

Description: This webinar training is for new and experienced Title I coordinators who provide Title I, II and/or III services to nonpublic students, staff and families. This session will provide an overview on the new requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for nonpublic Title programs, such as conducting a consultation with the nonpublic school official, determining equitable participation, and documentation to support and maintain the Title program.

Audience: Title I Coordinator and/or Title I teachers and **interested nonpublic school officials**

Register: [Register for the ESSA: Equitable Participation in Title Programs webinar](#)

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We're hiring!

As you may know, Michelle Ponsolle has been a highly respected member of the MISF staff for more than 7 years. She has been a key connection to schools, corporate and foundation partners and individual donors. She has also been very integral to the continued success of the MISF STEM Program, which will surpass \$1 million in grants to MISF member schools this year.

Michelle has indicated she will retire from MISF on June 22, 2018 to spend more time with her family. We are grateful to Michelle for her commitment to the mission of MISF and independent and private schools across Minnesota. We will miss her "can-do" attitude and fervent belief in everything MISF does.

We have recently posted the position profile at www.misf.org/jobs and plan to fill this position in the coming months. Please forward this notice to colleagues or connections that may have interest in this [open position](#). Inquiries or interested parties may email jobs@misf.org for more information.

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