

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

We are thrilled to welcome Cassie Simpson to the MISF team. Cassie is a 2017 graduate of Bethel University with a B.A. in Communications Studies. Her primary major was Organizational Communication with a second major in Relational Communication. Cassie is also a graduate of Central Minnesota Christian School in Prinsburg, MN (a Legacy MISF member school). Cassie assumes the role that Michele Skare staffed so faithfully for more than seven years. We are grateful for the ardent and faithful commitment Michele gave to MISF and our stakeholders and we are strongly positioned because of her service.

ACTION ALERT - The U.S. Congress is currently considering whether to fund or eliminate Title II-A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, which deals with the professional development of teachers. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved \$2 billion in funding for Title II-A, but the spending bill passed by the House provides no funding whatsoever for the program. Our national organization, the [Council for Private Education](#) supports the \$2 billion funding level.

Educators in religious and independent schools have greatly benefited from Title II-A throughout the program's long history. During the most recent reauthorization, the private school community worked very hard to ensure that equitable services for educators in private schools would be calculated based on a school district's total allocation of funds under Title II-A. With that provision now in place, it is even more important to our community that adequate levels of funding for the program be maintained.

Please use CAPE's [Legislative Action Center](#) to urge Congress to provide \$2 billion in funding for Title II-A. It's very easy and will help you send a message directly to your Representative and Senators.

We had an exceptional seminar last week presented by Steve Hoepfner about the Role of the CEO in Fundraising. The webinar and materials can be accessed on the members-only portion of our [website](#). If you need assistance accessing this resource, please email csimpson@misf.org.

Check out the very important updates below about the STEM grant program and other activities to engage in relevant offerings.

The 2016-17 Annual Report is posted on the MISF [website](#). This is our opportunity to extend our appreciation to the many funders, donors, members and partners who have supported our

work throughout the year. Please take a moment to check it out!

We wish you all the very best for the holiday season and a prosperous 2018. Thank you for your ardent support and belief in independent education.

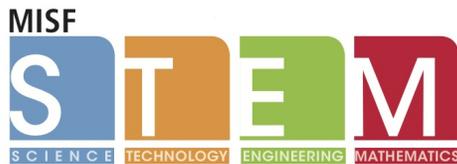


Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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STEM SCOOP



MISF STEM Grants

Application information, guidelines and other resources for the 2017-18 STEM Grant program are posted on the MISF website at <http://misf.org/stem-grants/>. Letters of Inquiry are due by 8:00 am on Tuesday, January 16 with full proposals due by 8:00 am on Monday, February 26. Please review the online materials and contact STEM Program Manager Beth Murphy at bmurphy@misf.org or 612-270-0194 with questions or for feedback on your project ideas.

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### Join MISF's online Makerspace Learning Community for K-8 teachers!

How does your school engage students in making and tinkering? MISF is seeking K-8 teachers interested in learning more about the maker movement in schools. MISF is piloting its first-ever learning community for teachers-our hope is to create a network of teachers from member schools who are interested in learning about resources, research, practices and trends in the maker movement in education. New topics and questions about making and tinkering in schools will be introduced and discussed monthly from January to May 2018. CEUs will be available for active participation. If you are interested in participating and receiving more information, please fill out this [online interest form](#).

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3M TWIST

Teachers Working in Science and Technology

The 3M TWIST program allows middle and high school math, science, and technology teachers to spend six weeks during the summer working closely with a 3M host on an actual 3M research project.

- Tour labs and pilot manufacturing facilities
- Receive a stipend of \$4,500
- Can earn graduate credits through St. Mary's University of MN

The objective is to provide active and challenging technical experiences for teachers in an industrial setting. TWIST is based on the idea that the way to learn science is to do science - an axiom that applies as much to teachers as it does to their students.

Program Dates: June 18-July 27, 2018
Minnesota Applications Due: January 16, 2018
Outstate Applications Due: February 23rd, 2018

Applications accepted from Science, Math, and Tech Ed teachers of students in grades 7-12.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the program.

The Green Ribbon Schools Award is back!

After a long delay the US Department of Education has announced that it will again offer the Green Ribbon School Award for 2018. The Minnesota support for award this year will have the following timeline:

- Notice of intent to apply (optional) - February 1
- Application deadline (to Mn Dept. of Education) - March 7
- Notification of Minnesota nominees - March 23
- Announcement of national awards - May or June
- Washington DC award ceremony - August of September

More information and summaries about previous awardees are available at the [Green Schools page](#) at the Minnesota Department of Education website.

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Lunch & Learn Seminar/Webinar

"Non-cognitive Mindset Development in Authentic Learning Environments."

Date: Thursday, January 18th, 2018

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Location: TBD

Presented by: Steve Pohlen, Director of Learning and Technology, Benilde-St. Margaret's School



Steve Pohlen's role at Benilde-St. Margaret's is focused on planning for the future needs of students as the world changes exponentially around us. He leads efforts at the school around curriculum design, professional development, technology integration, and academic community partnerships. His doctoral work focused on the development of students' engaging mindsets in authentic learning environments.

Seminar/Webinar Content

As technological advances progress, machines will take over more and more of the manual and cognitive tasks that we humans once performed. What will be left for us, and how do we prepare our students for that world? Developing student mindsets for complex communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking is vital. This session will discuss curriculum design for maximizing mindset development.

**Take advantage of this opportunity to earn
CEU Credits!**

Date, Time and Location

Date: Thursday, January 18th, 2018

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: TBD

Seminar Cost

- MISF member school staff: FREE* for first staff; \$25 per person for additional staff. ([Click here to see if your school is a member of MISF.](#))
- Nonmember school staff: \$65 per person
- Registration for the Seminar includes a lunch and all presentation materials

Webinar (Space limited)

- MISF member school staff: FREE
- Nonmember school staff: \$25

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Register through Sunday, January 14th!

*CANCELLATION/NO-SHOW POLICY: Registration fees paid are nonrefundable; however, they may be transferred to another staff member (including board members, committee members, volunteers, or any individual affiliated with your school community). Cancellations for unpaid registrants who notify MISF less than 48 hours of the seminar or do not show up to the event will be charged as follows: MEMBERS - \$20; NONMEMBERS - \$25.

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