

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



## *In the January Newsletter*

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## Letter from the President

Dear friends of independent and private education:

National School Choice Week is January 21-27, 2018. This is the week to celebrate and raise public awareness of the different K-12 education options available to children and families, while spotlighting the benefits of school choice. There are several events planned for Minnesota coordinated through our partners at Opportunity for All Kids ([www.oakmn.org](http://www.oakmn.org)). We encourage you to mark your calendars and come gather with fellow advocates, school leaders and local experts.

This is a great opportunity to introduce students to advocacy, plus a chance to tour the newly renovated State Capitol. Funding is available for transportation and other related costs for schools interested in attending these events. If you are interested, please contact Chas Anderson ([chas@oakmn.org](mailto:chas@oakmn.org)).

For additional information, or to register, follow the links below.

- Monday, January 22 - [School Choice Week Breakfast at Lourdes High School, Rochester](#)
- Tuesday, January 23 - [National School Choice Day on the Hill at the Capitol, St. Paul](#)

The deadline for STEM Grant Letters of Inquiry is Tuesday, January 16. This is a mandatory step for eligibility for a 2018 STEM grant. Check out the Scoop on STEM below for more information or contact Beth Murphy at [bmurphy@misf.org](mailto:bmurphy@misf.org).

The Private and Independent Education Awards is set for Sunday, April 29, at the University of St. Thomas. This is our annual opportunity to come together and celebrate the people and programs that make our schools wonderful communities. Watch for nomination and registration information in the coming weeks. Check out the award recipient videos from 2017 [here](#).

Mark your calendars for the 2018 School Leadership Conference. The dates for the conference are September 24-26, 2018 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. This is our highest rated program offering each year, and a unique opportunity to connect with schools leaders while accessing high quality professional development.

Thank you for your commitment to independent and private education.

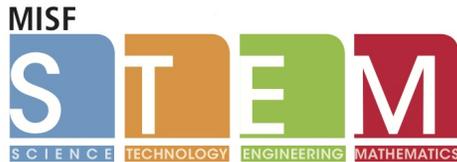


Tim Benz, CFRE  
President

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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](mailto: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.

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### **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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**The University of St. Thomas Center for Engineering Education** provides flexible engineering education for teaching professionals and will be offering two online courses this spring. These courses are designed to develop an understanding of engineering and build educators' engineering portfolio. Participants take the courses that fit their learning needs with a four course sequence which leads to a Graduate Certificate in engineering education. The spring courses, which are \$1200 each, are EGED 530 Fundamentals of Engineering and EGED 531 Engineering Design. Find more information at <https://www.stthomas.edu/cee/> and contact [deb.besser@stthomas.edu](mailto:deb.besser@stthomas.edu).

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### **"Are you ready for a Capital Campaign?"**

Mission Advancement is offering two free workshops on February 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> presented by Schuyler Lehman, Co-Founder & CEO of Mission Advancement. [Click here](#) to learn more and reserve your spot today!

**About the Workshop:** Are you considering a capital campaign in the next 24 months? Believe it or not, you should be thinking through some key decisions now. Early preparation can put you on track to success and save you from costly (and embarrassing) mistakes with your most important donors.

Whether you are raising \$1,000,000 or \$50,000,000 - there are basic building blocks for success. Wouldn't it help to have those spelled out before you even begin? There is so much to learn and so little time to take it all in. This workshop will guide you through answers to these important questions with real-life application to help you start your campaign the right way.

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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: Notre Dame Academy, Minnetonka**  
**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: Notre Dame Academy, Minnetonka

### **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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