

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 October Newsletter

[President's Letter](#)

[STEM Scoop](#)

[School Leadership Conference Pictures & Materials](#)

[Join Us!](#)

[Mission Advancement Fall Workshops](#)

[National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#)

[Nonpublic Fall Report for 2018-19](#)

[US Senate Youth Program](#)

[Where to Find Us](#)

Letter from the President

Dear friends of independent and private education,

The 13th annual MISF School Leadership Conference is in the books! It was another wonderfully inspiring and educational gathering - with lots of opportunities to connect and learn from other private/independent school leaders from across our member schools. All conference presentations and materials are available to member schools via the members-only link. Thank you to our conference committee, presenters and MISF staff for planning and delivering an exceptional gathering with opportunities for high-level learning.

Thank you to our conference sponsor/partners [Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation](#), [Catapult Learning](#), [Thrivent Financial](#), [Canopy IT Solutions](#), [Alpha Omega Publications](#), [Blackbaud](#), [Donald's Uniform](#), [Escale Advisors](#), [FACTS Renweb](#) and [TADS](#). Their support is critical to ensure this conference is accessible to schools of all geographies and budgets. More information on the 2019 conference and ways to help create the agenda will be sent in the coming weeks.

As you may know, National School Choice Week (NSCW) is coming up from January 20-26, 2019. In Minnesota, several organizations are joining together during this week to promote school choice at a rally at the State Capitol on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Keep your eyes later this week for the official announcement and event logistics.

A warm welcome to new member schools [Capital City Adventist Christian School](#) and [Transfiguration Catholic School](#). If you are interested in becoming a member of MISF, please let me know. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to MISF and private and independent education in Minnesota.

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

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

Follow me on Twitter

[@misfpres](#)

[Back to top](#)

STEM SCOOP



Attention Teachers! MISF is forming a task force to advise us in planning the 2019 STEM Education Conference. We are putting together a team of 6 teachers (2 each from member elementary, middle and high schools from throughout the state). If you would like to help out, please send any questions and the following information to Beth Murphy (bmurphy@misf.org) by October 19: name, school name & location, grade/subjects taught.

Interested in helping your students explore STEM careers? Check out these engaging [videos](#) about women scientists and engineers from Minnesota, including Victoria Velez, the keynote speaker from the 2018 STEM Education Conference.

The [MnSTA Conference on Science Education](#), Nov 8-10, St. Cloud

Pick up new tips, ideas and resources for your teaching and connect with colleagues from across the state. This year's theme is based on water resources, with a keynote by Steve McComas, *the Lake Detective* of Blue Water Science. Steve has been working on lakes and streams for over 40 years and specializes in lake management and lake restoration projects.

The conference begins Thursday evening with a private screening of the Netflix documentary *Chasing Coral* at the historic Paramount Theater. The Jeffers Foundation will offer *Team Teaching with Mother Nature*, with strategies for effective teaching in the outdoors.

There will be sessions all day Friday with content area strands. The Strand keynotes are:

- Biology: Emily Mohl from St. Olaf College
- Chemistry: Alan McCormick from University of MN
- Earth Science: Bryce Hoppe from MN State University- Mankato
- Elementary: Julie Jackson from Texas State University

Each strand will include a session for feedback for the first draft of the next Minnesota science standards.

US Navy virtual field trip to a science lab, October 16, 2018

The U.S. Navy will be hosting a free virtual field trip geared towards middle schoolers and will be providing exclusive access to one of their premiere science labs (Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center) on Oct. 16th at 1 p.m. eastern at this [webcast link](#). The Navy is encouraging classrooms interested in STEM to join them by viewing a live stream of their scientists performing 7 experiments that will inform about "Ocean Light and Communication & Invisible Light". Scientists will explore light in the atmosphere and ocean as well as infrared light and laser systems during this time and will provide your class with a short post event worksheet/quiz.

Calling tech-savvy girls, coders, gamers, and web divas!

Minnesota State - IT Center of Excellence hosts the 7th annual **Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Awards** honoring high school age young women for their computing-related interests and early achievements.

Know a 9-12th grade high school girl who should apply? Application period: September 1 - November 5, 2018. For more information - <https://mnstateitcoe.org/aspirations-in-computing-awards/>

Prizes include scholarships, tech devices, cash rewards, and summer paid internship/job shadowing opportunities and more!

There's an educator award as well for teachers who guide the technology development of a young woman. To be eligible to apply for an educator award, a minimum of one student will need to be endorsed for her award application. <https://www.aspirations.org/participate/educators>

Questions? Contact Minnesota State - IT Center of Excellence
Russell.Fraenkel@metrostate.edu

Other Minnesota Links:

[MN. Department of Education Science Update - October 2018](#)

[MN-STEM Website](#) - 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.

[Back to top](#)



School Leadership Conference Pictures & Materials

This year's conference was one of our most highly rated ever. Here is what some of the attendees had to say:

"To be honest, it is hard to carve out time for the School Leadership Conference every year, but every year, I am so grateful I did. It fuels me. As long as I am a school leader, I will never miss it."

"The MISF Leadership Conference was an invaluable experience. Other than the great workshops, the conversations and connections made for a great time and to help remind me that we may be independent but we are NOT alone."

"Being a first timer, I thought the conference was great. I couldn't see how anyone could afford to be out of the building so early in the school year, but I now know how important it is for to take that time to recharge and make new connections."

"I found this time to valuable, not only with the sessions that were presented, but also the networking opportunity that we have with administrators throughout the state."

Materials from the presentations at the conference are now available to all member schools via the members-only link. Pictures of the conference are posted to our [Flickr page](#).

We're already looking forward to next year's conference. Stay tuned for more information.

[Back to top](#)



Not an MISF member school? Join us today!

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

You can be independent, but not alone! We invite you to [learn more about membership](#) in our cohort of over 150 schools throughout the state. If you have questions, please contact Tim Benz at 651-297-6716 or tbenz@misf.org

[Back to top](#)

Mission Advancement Fall Workshops

**FALL WORKSHOPS
IN ROSEVILLE & BLOOMINGTON!**
Hosted by Mission Advancement

**5 Habits of Effective
Board Members**

All workshops are FREE and eligible for CFRE credit.

See event dates and locations below.
Click on the events you'd like to attend to register and save your spot today!

[Roseville - October 10](#)

[Bloomington - October 11](#)

You are also invited to join us for the next webinar
[Donor Centered Special Events](#) on October 18th

Visit missionadvancement.com/free-resources/
or reach out to cstewart@missionadvancement.com with any questions.

**Check out MAP's full Webinar Library
with information on topics such as**
Are You Ready for a Capital Campaign?
The Role of the Board in Development
Crafting the Donor Story
Building a Strategic Development Plan

<http://missionadvancement.com/free-resources/#webinar-form>

[Back to top](#)

National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Education has released the 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools program application.



The link to the application and the timeline for the private school application process are now available on [CAPE's BRS Web page](#). As explained on that page, schools interested in applying will have to pre-register for the program (a two-minute process) by November 6, 2018. Schools not pre-registered will not be able to apply. Please note we are still waiting for the pre-registration site to be completed and will add the link to CAPE's website as soon as it is available. It is expected to be ready by the end of this week.

[Back to top](#)

Nonpublic Fall Report 2018-19

The Nonpublic Fall Report for 2018-19 is due on Thursday, November 15th. We have a link to the report form and information sheet available on our website. The information collected on

this report is used for a variety of purposes, many of which will ultimately benefit your students, faculty and staff.

- [Report form](#)
- [Information sheet](#)

[Back to top](#)



US Senate Youth Program *Applications are now being accepted*

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) administers the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), an annual scholarship competition funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and sponsored by the United States Senate. Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia (and the Department of Defense Education Activity) select two high school juniors or seniors to participate in the USSYP. The delegates receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship and attend a one-week, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., March 2-9, 2019.

Students must be high school juniors or seniors currently enrolled in a Minnesota public or private secondary school, and currently serving in an elected or appointed leadership capacity in a student

government, civic, or educational organization. The student must actively serve in this position for the entire 2018-19 school year.

[Click here for more information](#). The application deadline is Friday, October 12th.

[Back to top](#)



Where to find MISF

October 18-19: [WELS Minnesota District Lutheran Teachers' Conference](#)

November 2: [2018 MNSAA Conference](#)

MISF | 651-297-6716 | info@misf.org | www.misf.org

STAY CONNECTED WITH MISF:



Please note: If you unsubscribe from this email, you will be removed from all email communication from MISF, including STEM opportunities, conference and seminar information, and advocacy updates. You may instead [click here to modify your email preferences](#). Thank you.

Minnesota Independent School Forum, 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 505, St. Paul, MN 55101-5000

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by tbenz@misf.org in collaboration with



Try it free today