

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,

On April 28, MISF hosted the [11th annual Private and Independent Education Awards](#). This event is a unique opportunity to come together and celebrate the amazing people and programs found in private and independent schools across Minnesota. This year's slate of honorees was no exception. To learn about the honorees, and to see three very unique projects funded through our STEM program, check out the [awards videos](#) produced for the event.

Thank you to RBC Wealth Management (Presenting Sponsor), Mairs & Power (Premier Sponsors) and so many other [partner sponsors](#) who help support and recognize the excellence found in our schools. This annual event is not possible without the generosity of these committed and faithful partner sponsors.

The clock is ticking on the 2019 legislative session. The legislature must adjourn by May 20. Two key items of interest for nonpublic schools include [Opportunity Scholarships](#) and [expansion of the guidance and counseling](#) portion of nonpublic pupil aids to elementary students. Both of these pieces of legislation may end up in final negotiations, so it is important to contact your local legislator to let them know how important these proposals impact your students, schools and families. To get up to date on these items, check out [two short webinars](#) conducted by MISF and Opportunity for All Kids during the past two weeks.

Registration (and early bird pricing) is open for the [STEM Education Conference](#), August 8, at Benilde-St. Margaret's. This annual conference is a great way to connect with other educators and get up to date on high quality STEM topics and trends.

The School Leadership Conference is scheduled for September 23-25, at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. Registration will open this summer, but make sure to block out the dates for our premier gathering of school leaders.

We wish everyone a safe and productive end to the school year. Thank you for your commitment to private and independent education.



Tim Benz
President

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May's Newsletter is sponsored by Thrivent Financial



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higher education!**

Visit ThriventStudentResources.com/sweepstakes and enter for a chance to be one of nine lucky winners of \$5,000 to help pay your college expenses. One winner will be drawn each month.

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MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM



STEM SCOOP

2019 STEM Education Conference

(Earn 6 CEUs by attending the conference)

Thursday, August 8th, 2019
8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Benilde-St. Margaret's School
St. Louis Park

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

Open to all nonpublic school educators and leaders
(See member and nonmember rates below)

2019 CONFERENCE FEATURES

- Presenters you know and love as well as some interesting new ones
- More breakout sessions by teachers from MISF member schools, including many presentations about STEM grant projects and a follow up to last year's Makerspace Mashup
- A selection of traditional one-hour breakout sessions and longer (135 minute) intensives
- Early-bird discounts for registration through June 16, 2019

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

[Click here](#) to view descriptions of breakout sessions including recommended grade ranges. You will choose your breakout sessions upon registering. Register early to ensure that you are able to attend the breakout sessions of your choice.

Space is limited for the first 25 people for each session.

FEATURED BREAKOUT SESSION: MISF STEM GRANTS

Have you considered submitting a STEM Grant but are unsure where to start? Bring your questions about the MISF STEM Grant Program and your ideas for STEM Grant projects to discuss with MISF's STEM program manager and the people who review Grant applications. MISF's STEM Advisory Committee includes engineers, scientists and educators from the community who are eager to talk with you about developing a strong project and writing a winning proposal. (Grades K - 12)

SPONSOR EXHIBITORS

Sponsor exhibitors will be available to showcase the products and services offered to the STEM education community.

2019 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Gillian Roehrig
Institute on the Environment Fellow Professor, STEM Education
University of Minnesota

Dr. Roehrig is a professor of STEM Education at the University of Minnesota. Her research explores issues of professional development for K-12 science teachers, with a focus on beginning teachers and implementation of integrated STEM learning environments. She has received over \$30 million in federal and state grants and published over 80 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. She is a former board member of the National Association of Research in Science Teaching and past president of the Association for Science Teacher Education.

REGISTRATION & FEES

- MISF Member schools:
 - **\$55 - Early Bird Registration (Thru June 16, 2019)**
 - **\$65 - Registration (After June 16th, 2019)**
- Non-Members schools: \$165
- Title Funds may be available to cover registration fees. Check with your local school district for more details.
- The conference is for grade K-12 educators and leaders from any Minnesota private or independent school. Your school does not need to be a member of MISF to attend.
- Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, afternoon refreshments, and free parking.
- Registration fees are nonrefundable; however, registrations are transferable.
- **Last day to register is Friday, August 2, 2019**

[Register Now!](#)

[STEM Program Sponsors](#)

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Check out the 2019 STEM Education Conference Breakout Sessions

This year's STEM Education conference will feature more breakout sessions by teachers from MISF member schools, including many presentations about STEM grant projects and a follow up to last year's very popular Makerspace Mashup session. You'll find a wide selection of traditional one-hour breakout sessions for all grades, as well as longer (135 minute) intensive sessions.

[Click here](#) to see a list of all the breakout sessions, including the recommended grade for each.

STEM Social Hour

Meet up with colleagues from across the STEM ecosystem interested in education, workforce development, and equity and inclusion in STEM.

A pre-conference STEM Social will be held on June 11 from 4:30-7:30pm at REM5VR Lab in St. Louis Park. Join us for networking, interesting conversation, and to experience virtual reality. Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided and there will be a cash bar. This event is free, though registration is required. You do not need to be attending the conference to come to this event. We hope to see you there!

Click here for more information and to sign up.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stem-social-rem5-tickets-61214262507>

Hosted by SciMathMN and The Works Museum

Special Projects

getSTEM is a web portal that connects more than a thousand Minnesota educators and businesses. The website provides a sharing network, allowing schools to request materials and human resources such as equipment, volunteers, speakers and judges. Businesses, in turn, offer materials, programs, and presentations to schools. getSTEM is a collaborative project of the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota High Technology Council.

Visit get STEM and get started.

<https://getstem-mn.com/>

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal has created a safety checklist for school science facilities and practices. [View the checklist at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety](#). Additional safety guidelines and information are available in the Science Best Practices/Resources section of the frameworks.

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Middle Child Syndrome

Essentials for Mid-level Giving Programs

June, 20, 2019
MISF Development Seminar/Webinar

Development Lunch & Learn

Middle Child Syndrome: Keys for Mid-level Giving Programs

Thursday, June 20
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

While the mid-level is defined differently for every organization, it represents the donors who give more than the direct mail annual fund donors and less than the major gift donors. This group is literally in the middle of your overall donor file, yet they are capable of large gifts and increased engagement.

[For more information and to register, visit our website.](#)

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Advocacy Webinars

MISF and Opportunity for All Kids are teaming up to offer a series of webinars covering the 2019 legislative session. Watch your inbox for sign-up information and [catch up on past webinars on our website](#). If you have questions about this legislative session or the Opportunity Scholarships, contact Tim Benz at tbenz@misf.org.



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Behavioral Health and Wellness Grant

Over the last two decades, Minnesota has seen tragic increases in negative outcomes from mental health conditions and substance use. Prevention strategies have the potential to reverse these behavioral health trends by developing our youth's social and self-management skills.

To meet this need, the Department of Human Services and Minnesota Management & Budget are offering middle schools **funding to implement an evidence-based behavioral health curriculum**. This model, called LifeSkills Training, has demonstrated ability to prevent substance use and promote positive mental health outcomes. This opportunity is open to public and nonpublic schools serving middle school students.

The application will be released in June with selected schools starting in fall 2020. **The state will provide a link with more information in next month's MISF newsletter.** If you have questions now, please email weston.merrick@state.mn.us.

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Support the Opportunity Scholarship Legislation

Opportunity Scholarship legislation has been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate. This legislation will provide families with access to better schools and ensure we have educational freedom in Minnesota.

Your support is needed to help more children attend the school that is best for them. The best way to stay engaged is to sign up for the Opportunity for All Kids (OAK) Advocacy Network online at <https://www.opportunityforallkids.org/take-action/>.

Sign up and stay updated on the latest information from the State Capitol and calls to action.

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May CAPE Outlook

Court Strikes Down New York "Substantial Equivalency" Guidelines.

[Read more and download the latest copy of the CAPE \(Council for American Private Education\) here.](#)

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Dates to Remember:

- May 16, 2019: STEM/Technology Lunch & Learn Seminar
- May 16, 2019: Advocacy Webinar
- June 20, 2019: Development Lunch & Learn Seminar
- August 8, 2019: STEM Education Conference
- September 23-25, 2019: School Leadership Conference



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Join us!

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

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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.