

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

[The 2019 MISF School Leadership Conference](#) is in the books (you can view photos from the conference [here](#)). From beginning to end, the content, networking opportunities and information sharing was exceptional. A special thank you to our conference sponsors, presenters and volunteers for their commitment to this unique and meaningful gathering of leaders. As one conference participant said, "This conference is an annual highlight for me, and a major priority in my own professional growth planning. It is one of the most important things I do each year, for reasons ranging from self-care to networking. The people are great, the surroundings are beautiful, and the accommodations are perfect for this event."

Mark your calendar for the 2020 School Leadership Conference - September 28-30, 2020.

You can't say we didn't give you plenty of advanced notice!

All conference materials, handouts and sponsor presentations are available on the member portion of the MISF website. [Contact Michele Skare](#) if you need to your member login information.

MISF is proud to partner with Acton Institute, Cardus and Avail Academy on a special event focused on the societal benefits of private education. This event also includes insight on an upcoming Supreme Court case that could have significant impact on school choice legislation across the country. [Look below for more information and a link for registration.](#)

Keep an eye out for MISF during the next few weeks. We're proud to be a sponsor/vendor at the following events - stop and say hello!

- MN South District (LCMS) All Workers Conference - Thursday, October 17 (Mayer Lutheran)
- WELS Minnesota Lutheran Teachers' Conference - Friday, October 18 (Bethany Lutheran College)
- 2019 MNSAA Conference - Monday, November 4 (All Saints Catholic School, Lakeville)

Interested in joining a network of 150+ private schools and leaders? [Contact me](#) to learn about new member pricing and benefits. Be independent, not alone!



Tim Benz
President

The October Newsletter is sponsored by Thrivent Financial



You could win \$5,000 toward your 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.

Increase your chances of winning with up to five additional entries by doing any of the following on our website*:

- Reading about Thrivent membership.
- Creating a GradPath crowdsourcing campaign.
- Reading an article of your choice.
- Using a tool.
- Registering for and viewing a webinar.



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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Social Media Made Easy: Nine Ways to Create Awesome Content

Marketing Professional Development Seminar/Webinar

Thursday, October 24, 2019

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Sunrise Bank Building, Hwy 280 & 94, St. Paul



Andrea Gribble
#SocialSchool4EDU

We all struggle with getting good content to share on social media. You are a small department (or maybe even just one person) - so you can't be everywhere! Andrea Gribble is here to help. Learn from Andrea's extensive work with schools across the county on how you can post more than 2 times per day, drive engagement and reach more than 5,000 people a week just on Facebook. Andrea will share 9 proven strategies that work and breakdown the details with how to implement the strategies at your school. Come with your questions and fears about social media and leave with some easy to implement steps.

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

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A New Day for School Choice: Moving Beyond the Status Quo

Join us on October 22nd at the Acton on Tap Series

We are pleased to partner with Acton Institute, Cardus and Avail Academy on an upcoming "Acton on Tap" event focused on the positive societal outcomes of school choice.

The event, being held on Tuesday, October 22, we will bring together strong research, legal perspectives and an opportunity to connect advocates interested in change to the status quo.

This event is for all school leaders, advocates, volunteers, board members and supporters of school choice. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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October STEM Scoop



[Join the MISF Makerspace Learning Community on Facebook.](#) Through online collaboration, members will be able to access the knowledge and expertise of fellow members and learn about how to implement makerspace pedagogy in the classroom.

Science Museum's Teacher Resource Center *Teacher Previews:*

The first preview is the general Science Museum Teacher preview held on Saturday, October 26th from 9am to 11am. Teachers will have an opportunity to preview the fall film, learn about other SMM education programs, visit the Lending Library, and explore the exhibits. Link to RSVP.

<https://www.smm.org/educators/rsvp>

The second preview is the first time we are hosting a preview of the Race Program Package. This preview will be on Saturday, November 2nd from 9am to 12pm. This preview will involve a visit to the [Race: Are We so Different?](#) exhibition along with the Science Live Performance of Race to the Finish Line. Link to RSVP. <https://www.smm.org/rsvp/race-program-package>

Both previews are free to attend. Parking is the only thing not included.

Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Awards

Minnesota State - IT Center of Excellence hosts the 8th 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, 2019

<https://mnstateitcoe.org/aspirations-in-computing-awards/>

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

Questions? Contact Minnesota State - IT Center of Excellence

Russell.Fraenkel@metrostate.edu

The Frameworks for Minnesota Mathematics and Science Standards is an online resource for use by educators for planning instruction, professional development, curriculum design and assessment. It provides instructional resources directly connected to each standard. It also has sections focused on best practices and standards implementation. The website is a collaboration of Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and SciMathMN and reflects the expertise of teachers in identifying resources. [View the frameworks.](#)

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 MDE and the Minnesota High Technology Council. [Visit getSTEM and get going!](#)

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.

The Minnesota STEM Network is a project to improve STEM education in Minnesota by addressing critical issues and forming collaborations across the state. The project is sponsored by SciMathMN. [Visit the STEM Network website.](#)

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science). Two teachers from each state receive the award annually. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Honorees receive a monetary award as well as a weeklong professional development opportunity in Washington, D.C. [Visit the Presidential Awards website to learn more.](#)

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National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups

CAPE (Council for American Private Education) has been selected by USDE to facilitate the 2020 application process for private schools. Visit their website: <http://www.capenet.org/brs.html> to learn more

and to apply.

Two Minnesota private schools were 2019 Blue Ribbon School Award winners: Our Lady of Grace Catholic School (Edina), and Trinity School at River Ridge (Eagan). For a list of all 2019 Blue Ribbon Private School winners, [click here](#).

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Dates to Remember:

- October 22, 2019: Acton on Tap-A New Day for School Choice
- October 24, 2019: Marketing Professional Development Seminar/Webinar

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