

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 Minnesota Department of Education is hosting a Nonpublic Education Conference on Friday, February 21. This is a great opportunity to hear from staff at MDE about the many programs, resources and contacts available to nonpublic schools, educators and students. Come with your questions on nonpublic pupil aids, transportation or other topics of note. You will also learn about the Nonpublic Education Council and its role as the official representative body to MDE. [The link to register is below.](#)

Nominations for the 2020 Private and Independent Education Awards will open in January. Take a moment and nominate a colleague, volunteer or donor to your school community. This annual event is a unique way to highlight the people and programs that make our schools special. Check out [last year's recipients and their awards videos.](#)

In addition to the STEM grant deadlines, keep your eyes out for upcoming professional development seminars focused on admissions/marketing and social emotional learning.

We wish you the best, brightest and happiest of holiday seasons, and a joyful New Year. Thank you for your support and commitment to our organization of schools.



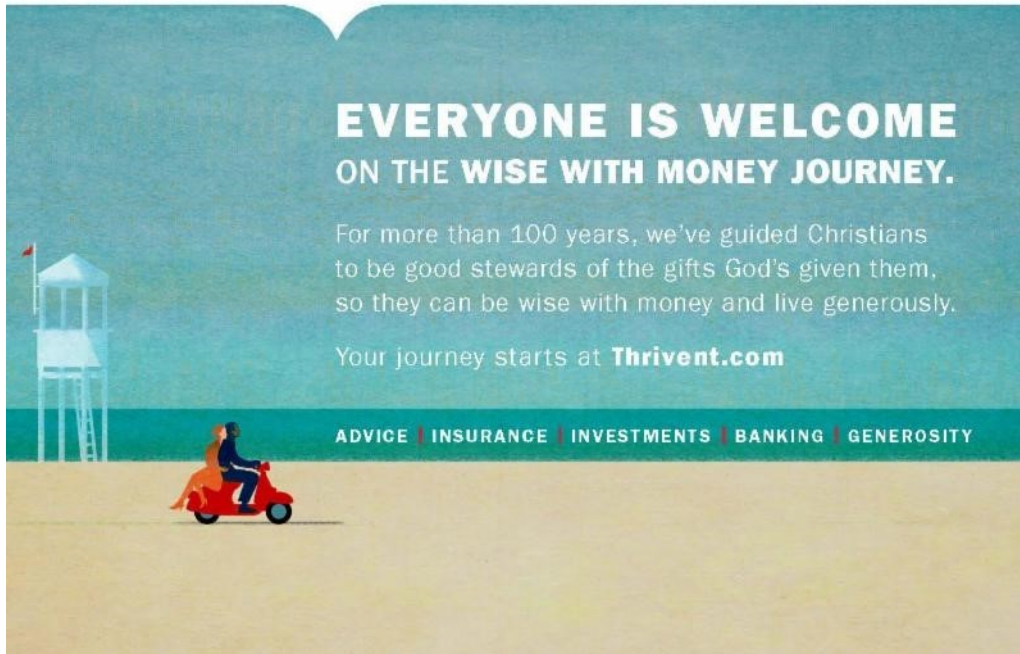
Tim Benz
President

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The December Newsletter is sponsored by Thrivent Financial



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Announcing the 2019/20 STEM Grant Program



There are three types of STEM Grants available to fit your school's need.

Innovation Grants - up to \$7500

Starter Grants - up to \$1500

Sustainability Grants - up to 20% of the original grant, not to exceed \$1500

The following resources are available on the STEM Grant Program Webpage

www.misf.org/stem-grants/

- STEM Grant Program Calendar
- STEM Grant Guidelines
- Grant Resources
- Letter of Interest (LOI)

- Grant Application Form
- Project Descriptions of STEM Grants Awarded the Last Six Years
- Link To Video Highlighting Three Member Schools' STEM programs

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MISF Matters

"Often administrators function as Islands unto themselves... MISF and specifically this School Leadership Conference, provides caring and meaningful networking support in a way that reminds us why our work is so important."

Barry Lieske, AFSC
President

[DeLaSalle High School Minneapolis](#)

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December STEM Scoop

3M Twist Program

[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. The objective is to provide active and challenging technical experiences for teachers in an industrial setting.

- Tour labs and pilot manufacturing facilities
- Receive a stipend of \$4500
- Can earn graduate credit through St. Mary's University of MN (MN and WI only)

Program Dates: June 15-July 24, 2020

Minnesota Applications Due: January 17, 2020

Outstate Applications Due: February 21, 2020

[Click here for more information.](#)

Green Ribbon School Award

Be recognized for your school's efforts at being Green

Apply for the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award. This award honors public and private early childhood, elementary, middle and high schools; school districts; and institutions of higher education that are exemplary in all three of the following areas:

- Reducing environmental impact
- Improving health and wellness
- Providing effective environmental education

Awardees receive a plaque for the school, local recognition, use of the Green Ribbon School Logo on their website, and an invitation to the national award ceremony in Washington, DC. Applying for the award provides an opportunity to analyze energy and water usage, waste reduction, and transportation. Schools review the strategies that promote healthy practices by students and teachers. In addition, teachers examine their curriculum for instruction in environmental concepts, skills and careers. More information at the Minnesota Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools webpage.

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/sci/grn/>

The Human Element movie available free to teachers

In an arresting new documentary from the producers of Chasing Ice, environmental photographer James Balog captures the lives of everyday Americans on the front lines of climate change. With rare compassion and heart, The Human Element inspires us to reevaluate our relationship with the natural world. The film and segments of the film along with lesson plans are available FREE to teachers. For a preview and resource go to The Human Element movie website.

<https://thehumanelementmovie.com/>

MDE Science Update

Read the latest edition of the [MDE Science Update](#) here.

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Helpful Links for Nonpublic Schools

The Minnesota Department of Education website is a great information tool for nonpublic schools. We've compiled a list of useful links on the MDE page of our website. Head to www.misf.org/mn-department-of-education/ for more information.

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Register Now for the Minnesota Nonpublic Education Conference

Nonpublic school administrators may register now for the Minnesota Nonpublic Education Conference, held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on Friday, February 21, 2020. It will be held at the Minnesota Department of Education, 1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, in Conference Center B, Rooms 15-16.

There is no charge for the conference. Registrants may bring a bag lunch or choose to eat at one of the Roseville area restaurants. A list of the many venues will be provided at the conference and

adequate time allowed.

Topics will include:

- Minnesota Nonpublic Education Council
- Federal Title Programs
- State Aids to Nonpublic Students
- Special Education
- Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB)
- District-provided Transportation
- Gifted and Talented Symposium

Click here to register for the [Minnesota Nonpublic Education Conference](#). For more information, contact MDE ombudsperson [Cindy Jackson](#) (651-582-8572).

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Dates to Remember:

- January 14, 2020: STEM Grant Letters of Intent due
- February 18, 2020: STEM Grant applications due (by 6:00 pm)
- February 21, 2020: Minnesota Nonpublic Education Conference at MDE
- April 26, 2020: MISF Private and Independent Education Awards



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