

Strengthening Minnesota's K-12 independent schools through  
advocacy and advancement



## Letter from the President

Dear MISF Member Schools, Staff, Colleagues, and Friends of Independent Schools:

Welcome back to school! We trust the first few weeks have gone smoothly and you are well into the rhythm of the new year.

This summer has been focused on coordinating the highly successful STEM Education Conference and finalizing plans for our School Leadership Conference later this month. During these two opportunities, we will connect more than 300 educators, school leaders and staff from independent and private schools of MN. The value of networking is a true joy to watch in action.

[Check out the new MISF website.](#) We believe it is quite an improvement from our previous version and we will continue to add more information and resources during the coming weeks. Come back and check out the content frequently.

A warm welcome to the new schools joining MISF during the summer and we thank those who have renewed their membership in our statewide network. Together we are a strong a unified voice.

Please let us know how we can assist you in your efforts.

Tim Benz, CFRE  
President

Follow me on Twitter  
[@misfprez](#)

## The 11th Annual School Leadership Conference

There's still time to register for the Conference, which is being held September 26-28 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, MN. This year's topics include:

- *What Can I Do With What Happened to Me? Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), and how to move toward being a trauma informed school*
- *Working with a Board of Directors*
- *HR and Employment Law in Independent and Private Schools*

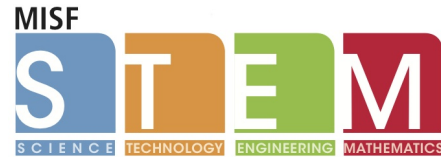


- *Breaking out of Silos: Building a Strong Team*
- *What's working for you? Sharing best practices*
- *And more*

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

## STEM Scoop

### 2016 STEM Education Conference



The 2016 MISF STEM Education Conference was held on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Concordia Academy High School in Roseville and was attended by 243 educators. Our thanks to the staff at Concordia for their generous hospitality. The STEM Education Conference is an annual one-day teacher professional development offering, open to all nonpublic schools in MN. The goals of the conference are to increase understanding on the part of attendees of STEM teaching methods and best practices, how to develop rigorous, relevant and replicable student engagement projects in STEM, highlight opportunities to try new hands-on activities and technologies. Presenters are drawn from K-12 and higher education, the STEM business and professional community and education-related products and services companies, all of whom have a keen awareness of and enthusiasm for advancing the practice and quality of STEM education. This year's 47 presenters included staff from The Bakken Museum, Bethel University, The Works, Science Museum, University of St. Thomas, the TPT Sci Girls, MN High Tech Association, and many more. The MISF STEM Advisory Committee members met with educators to discuss what they are looking for in STEM grant applications and give feedback on project ideas. 190 out of the 243 attendees completed the post event survey. Results from the post event survey showed that nearly 2/3 will definitely return next year.

Armed with what they learned at the Conference, attendees plan to make changes in their classrooms creating a stronger STEM focus. **Here are a few comments from our post event survey:**

*"I will better understand things my students enjoy (i.e. coding) and bring the idea of thinking as an engineer into how we think of ideas and solve problems in our classroom."*

*"It gave me ideas and improvements on what I already do in E.S. to be more hands on while also keeping academic rigor and helping connect ideas/knowledge with real world scientific data. I left with a lot of great hands-on ideas to get students active and excited about learning."*

*"We are so grateful for MISF and your passion for STEM education. We have received grants from MISF and it has been so transformative for our students and our school. THANK YOU!"*

Our sincere thanks to our STEM Program sponsors, 3M Foundation, Xcel Energy Foundation and the Schott Foundation. Also, our thanks to our STEM Conference Technology Sponsor, Corval Group, and our Partner Sponsors, LEGO Education, Bethel University, MN DNR, St. Catherine University, MN Field Trip Library, Sadlier, Vernier, Minnesota Computers for Schools, Science Museum of Minnesota, National Eagle Center, MN Zoo, BME Lab & Science, University of St. Thomas, BG Innovations, Inc.

### Advance IT Minnesota Announces Fifth Annual "Minnesota Aspirations in Computing" Awards for High School Women

While women today comprise more than half of the U.S. professional workforce, they play only a small role in inventing the technology of tomorrow.

To help address this gender and opportunity gap, and encourage young women interested in technology, Advance IT Minnesota is seeking young women in high schools across the state with emerging aspirations and accomplishments in technology, to apply for the Minnesota Aspirations for Women in Computing awards program online at <http://advanceitmn.org/aspirations-in-computing-awards>. Applications are being accepted through Nov. 7, 2016.

## Vernier Data Collection Workshop in Minneapolis

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

## 3M Visiting Wizards - FREE Science Workshop Opportunity

**3M** Science.  
Applied to Life.™



This 3M sponsored workshop is offered FREE to all elementary and middle school teachers (no children, please) without cost. A variety of science activities will be demonstrated. The format is casual, walk-around table-top demonstrations with plenty of time for hands-on participation and questions. This is a hands-on experience (no lesson plans provided). so teachers can easily bring the simple experiments back to the class room.

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This is a FREE event, but for planning purposes you must register in advance by **Monday, September 26th**. [Click here to read more and register!](#)

## Advocacy Update

### CAPE (Council for American Private Education)

The latest issue of the CAPE Outlook, the Council for American Private Education's monthly newsletter, is [available for download here](#).

## MDE Update

### All Day Free GIS Workshop in Duluth

The Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium would like to invite K12 teachers, both public and nonpublic, and administrators to **Educator Day II** at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN. This event will be held **Wednesday, October 26, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Teachers and Administrators attending will learn about ArcGIS Online mapping resource tools that are available FREE to all schools. This event will include training sessions, break-outs, learning sessions, breaks, snacks and lunch. This year's luncheon speaker will be Gina Holliday, a high school teacher from Duluth Denfeld, and two of her students, winners in Minnesota's first student GIS Mapping Competition last spring. Up to seven CEUs will be available for teachers AND administrators. *Substitute reimbursement is available if needed.*

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

## MISF Welcomes 10 New Member Schools!

The schools listed below have joined MISF since June 2016. Please take a moment to click on their logos and read more about them.



Blessed Trinity Catholic School ~ Richfield



Immanuel Lutheran School ~ Plainview



Mary Queen of Peace School ~ Rogers



Mountain Lake Christian School ~ Mountain Lake



Nativity of Mary School ~ Bloomington



*Education built on Faith, Character, and Academic Excellence*

**N**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nativity of Our Lord School ~ St. Paul



Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School ~ Maplewood



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

Saint Thomas Academy ~ Mendota Heights



Saint John School of Little Canada

Saint John School of Little Canada ~ Little Canada



St. Michael Catholic School ~ Prior Lake

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