

Minnesota Independent School Forum

2010-2011 Annual Report



GROWING



SERVING



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM



STRENGTHENING

"It's about Kids!"

MINNESOTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FORUM

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

2010-2011 MEMBER SCHOOLS

MISF member schools represent a strong array of educational choices serving students and families across Minnesota.

Academy of Holy Angels

Richfield, Grades 9-12

Al-Amal School

Fridley, Grades PK-12

Annunciation School

Minneapolis, Grades K-8

Benilde-St. Margaret's

St. Louis Park, Grades 7-12

Bethlehem Academy

Faribault, Grades 7-12

Bloomington Lutheran School

Bloomington, Grades PK-8

Carondelet Catholic School

Minneapolis, Grades K-8

Cathedral High School/New Ulm Area

Catholic Schools

New Ulm, Grades PK-12

Central Lutheran School

St. Paul, Grades PK-8

Central Minnesota Christian Schools

Prinsburg, Grades PK-12

Christ Community Lutheran School

Watertown, Grades PK-8

Christ Lutheran School

North St. Paul, Grades PK-8

Christian Heritage Academy

Rosemount, Grades PK-8

Christian Life School

Farmington, Grades PK-12

City of Lakes Waldorf School

Minneapolis, Grades PK-8

Community Christian School of Willmar

Willmar, Grades PK-12

Concordia Academy - Roseville

Roseville, Grades 9-12

Cotter Schools

Winona, Grades 7-12

Cretin-Derham Hall

St. Paul, Grades 9-12

DeLaSalle High School

Minneapolis, Grades 9-12

Edgerton Christian Elementary School

Edgerton, Grades PK-8

Emanuel Lutheran School

Hamburg, Grades PK-8

Gethsemane Lutheran School

Maplewood, Grades PK-8

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

Burnsville, Grades PK-8

Hillcrest Lutheran Academy

Fergus Falls, Grades 9-12

Holy Family Catholic High School

Victoria, Grades 9-12

Holy Spirit School

Rochester, Grades K-8

Holy Trinity Schools

Winsted, Grades PK-12

Legacy Christian Academy

Andover, Grades PK-12

Living Hope Lutheran School

Shakopee, Grades PK-4

Lourdes High School

Rochester, Grades 9-12

Maplewood Academy

Hutchinson, Grades 9-12

Maranatha Christian Academy

Brooklyn Park, Grades PK-12

Martin Luther High School

Northrop, Grades 9-12

Mayer Lutheran High School

Mayer, Grades 9-12

Minnehaha Academy

Minneapolis, Grades PK-12

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

New Ulm, Grades 9-12

Minnetonka Christian Academy

Minnetonka, Grades K-12

Our Savior Lutheran School

Excelsior, Grades K-8

Pacelli Catholic Schools

Austin, Grades PK-12

Pilgrim Lutheran School

Minneapolis, Grades PK-8

Prince of Peace Academy

Mounds View, Grades K-8

Redeemer Lutheran School

Wayzata, Grades PK-8

Rochester Arts & Sciences Academy

Rochester, Grades K-6

Saint Agnes School

St. Paul, Grades K-12

Salem Lutheran School

Stillwater, Grades PK-8

Southwest Christian High School

Chaska, Grades 9-12

Southwest MN Christian High School

Edgerton, Grades 9-12

St. Croix Lutheran Schools

West St. Paul, Grades 6-12

St. Francis of Assisi School

Rochester, Grades K-8

St. Francis-St. James United School

St. Paul, Grades PK-8

St. Jerome School

Maplewood, Grades PK-8

St. John the Evangelist School

Rochester, Grades PK-8

St. John the Evangelist School of Little Canada

Little Canada, Grades PK-8

St. John's Lutheran School

Norwood Young America, Grades PK-8

St. Joseph Catholic School

Waconia, Grades PK-8

St. Jude of the Lake School

Mahtomedi, Grades PK-8

St. Mark's School

St. Paul, Grades PK-8

St. Mary's Catholic School

Madelia, Grades K-6

St. Mary's Catholic School

Sleepy Eye, Grades PK-12

St. Mary's School

Bird Island, Grades 1-8

St. Michael School

West St. Paul, Grades K-8

St. Pascal Baylon School

St. Paul, Grades K-8

St. Paul Lutheran School

Fairmont, Grades PK-8

St. Paul Preparatory School

St. Paul, Grades 9-12

St. Peter Claver Catholic School

St. Paul, Grades PK-6

St. Pius X School

Rochester, Grades K-8

St. Raphael School

Crystal, Grades PK-8

Torah Academy

St. Louis Park, Grades PK-8

Totino-Grace High School

Fridley, Grades 9-12

Trinity Lutheran School

Belle Plaine, Grades PK-8

Trinity Lutheran School

St. Francis, Grades PK-8

West Lutheran High School

Plymouth, Grades 9-12

Letter from the President



Dear MISF Friends and Supporters,

This past year was an exciting and foundational year for MISF as we implemented our new three-year strategic plan which included an expanded K-12 membership model. This much-needed change has transformed MISF into a member centered organization serving Minnesota K-12 nonpublic schools, students and families. As you will read, this change has been an ambitious one, but it is already showing strong results. In the end, “it’s about kids,” and MISF believes that its newly structured commitment will continue to deliver the support all kids deserve.

We were excited to celebrate our third annual Minnesota Private and Independent Education Awards Celebration at St. Catherine University with 250 guests in attendance. We gave special awards to six outstanding individuals and programs, presented STEM Mini-Grants to 17 schools, celebrated the first four graduates from our DreamMakers program and provided special plaques and recognition to their generous sponsors.

Throughout 2010-2011, MISF continued to fulfill its vision to be a recognized convener and voice for issues of universal interest to the nonpublic education sector. Additionally, MISF served as a conduit for donors wishing to support Minnesota’s independent schools and worked in collaboration with other education-related organizations.

Finally, MISF was honored to be a part of the incredible dedication, commitment, and heart in our nonpublic school communities. We are so proud of our member schools and the staff, students, families, donors and community supporters who comprise all of Minnesota’s outstanding private and independent schools. You are a great group of dedicated individuals, and I am honored to partner with you. Thank you so much for your efforts in making K-12 private education in Minnesota an important state asset!

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Field". The signature is stylized and fluid.

James B. Field
President

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of MISF,

A year ago in this letter I brought forward the strategic transformation MISF had undertaken to assure the success of its new mission, “To strengthen Minnesota’s independent schools through advocacy and advancement.” Within the past year that good work has paid great dividends for our Legacy and new member schools.

By the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year, MISF had welcomed a total of 74 Minnesota independent schools into membership. MISF continues to work tirelessly to provide the tools needed to assure success for the students being educated in these exceptional schools.

MISF’s efforts to inform lawmakers, policymakers, and the general public about the value its member schools add to our great state is integral to the success of thousands of Minnesota private and independent school students. These efforts will insure that the excellence in value-based education that our schools provide will not be overlooked.

Thank you for your continued support of MISF. It has truly been an honor to serve the Minnesota Independent School Forum!

Sincerely,



Dennis L. Nigon
President, Rochester Catholic Schools
(retired)
Chair, MISF Board of Directors, 2010-2011



2010-2011 New Strategic Plan and Member School Update

NOW SERVING GRADES K-12

MISF took a major step in 2010-2011 by transforming its organizational model to revolutionize MISF from its roots as a fundraising collaborative to a full service membership organization. The major focus of this change involved adding K-8 schools to its membership model while continuing to serve the Legacy high school members on which it was founded.

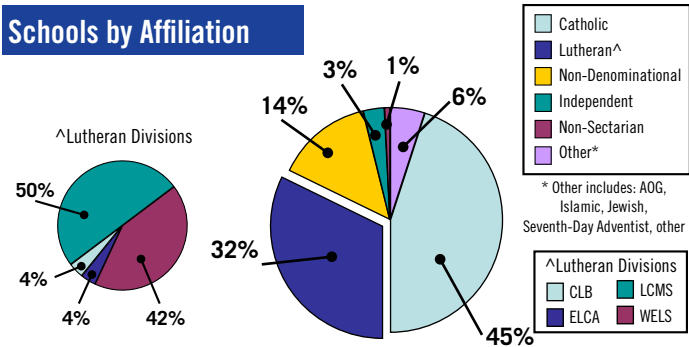
MISF designed its new organizational structure so that its member schools would gain maximum value in the investment they make when joining MISF. Members continue to receive expert advice and referrals from MISF's staff. They also have the opportunity to participate in competitive and merit-based grant and scholarship programs, member-discounted fees for programs and services, and member-only access to MISF's online law book, member directory, and networking forums.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

In the first year of its three-year strategic plan, MISF had set a fiscal year 2011 goal to welcome 35 new schools into membership. That goal was surpassed by 29% with 45 new schools becoming members of MISF.

As of June 30, 2011, MISF had a total of 74 schools in its membership. The tables below show a breakdown by affiliation of current member schools. In addition, MISF is now serving nearly 21,000 students. This includes 7,750 students added through its new member schools.

Schools by Affiliation



WELCOME

MISF extends a warm welcome to all its new member schools and a deep appreciation to the Legacy Schools who have been the backbone of MISF for many years. The staff and board of MISF look forward to serving each school and the staff, students, and families who make up these wonderful education communities.

Letter from the Development Director

Dear MISF Member Schools, Supporters, and Friends,

As we look back on the 2010-2011 fiscal year, we have many things for which to be thankful. It was a year of great change for MISF and unwavering support from our friends and donors.

MISF created a plan to supply key offerings for private schools thereby increasing the excellence of Minnesota's private education. Focus was placed on directly offering a targeted number of high quality programs. The largest program MISF provides is the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Initiative. With the strong support of several foundations, MISF secured \$137,750 in grants towards funding this program. Additionally, more than \$200,000 was raised for programs such as:

- Professional Development Workshops
- DreamMakers Scholarship Program
- Private and Independent Education Awards
- School Head Retreat
- Technical support related to state and federal educational laws and resources

In order to evaluate and recommend changes to the current and potential offerings, MISF convened a Program Council consisting of member school administrators. A Membership Council representing MISF board members and school members who have expertise and a vested interest in issues surrounding MISF membership was also formed to provide the highest value to our member schools.

Advocacy continued to be a priority. MISF represented Minnesota's 500 nonpublic schools to state and federal lawmakers and to the Minnesota and U.S. Department of Education. These schools consist of 85,000 students and 7,000 teachers and administrators. Funding was secured to begin the State Census of Private Education (SCOPE) study which will enable MISF to provide Minnesota with a comprehensive, data driven research report that offers a clear snapshot of nonpublic K-12 education and its contribution to the state. Research for the SCOPE study will be conducted by Wilder Research. MISF also published a law guide to help member schools understand and comply with law changes made at the legislative session.



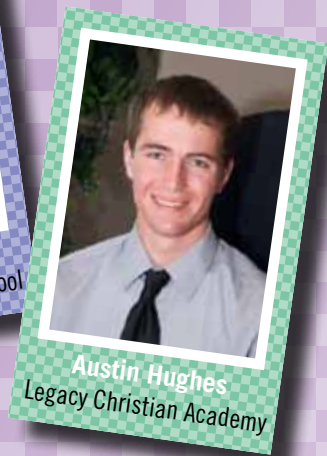
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Thank you for taking this exciting and challenging journey with us. We ask for your continued support as we strive to be known for excellence in all that we offer.

Gratefully,



Michelle Ponsolle
Director of Development and Programs



The DreamMakers Scholarship Program

The MISF DreamMakers Scholarship Program began in 2008. This special program connects donors with students and their families who are living in challenging economic situations. The donor provides a \$5,000 scholarship each year for the student's sophomore, junior, and senior years in high school while also developing a one-on-one mentoring relationship with the student.

The DreamMakers Students

The first four DreamMakers students graduated in 2010. MISF continues to celebrate this milestone in their lives as well as the many successes and accomplishments achieved along the way.

Kristina Hankel — Central MN Christian High School

Austin Hughes — Legacy Christian Academy

Russell Smith — DeLaSalle High School

Jonathan Thomas — Minnehaha Academy

The DreamMakers Sponsors

Without the generosity of MISF's DreamMakers sponsors, the DreamMakers program would not be what it is today. These individuals and businesses provide the financial means necessary for the DreamMakers students to earn their high school diplomas. Additionally, these donors give by regularly encouraging their

students to continue reaching for the dreams and goals they have for their lives.

MISF's special DreamMakers donors were honored at the 2011 Education Awards and were each given a plaque with a quote from Winston Churchill which read: *"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."*

MISF is sincerely thankful for the difference its sponsors made in the lives of these students and for paving the way for the DreamMakers Program.

David Ihle, CEO of National Business Systems, Inc., sponsor of Austin and Kristina.

Phil Grodnick and his son, Harrison, founding partners of Minneapolis Portfolio Management Group, sponsors of Russell, Jonathan, and Dewayne Bryant, a junior at Saint Agnes School.



2010-2011 Minnesota Private and Independent Education Awards

Nearly 250 guests filled Rauenhurst Hall in the Coeur de Catherine building on the St. Paul campus of St. Catherine University for the third annual Awards Celebration held Thursday, May 5, 2011.

Molly Rumsey Park served as the Master of Ceremonies, and Sr. Andrea Lee, President of St. Catherine University, welcomed the guests. A total of 27 awards, including story awards, honor teacher awards and STEM Mini-Grants, were given to several outstanding individuals and schools. The celebration also included a video presentation highlighting MISF's DreamMakers program and a special recognition of the program's first student graduates and their sponsors. The evening concluded with the unveiling of the 2011 Honor Teacher winners in the K-8 and 9-12 categories.

HONOR TEACHER FINALISTS

K-8

Brigid Berger, Carondelet Catholic School
Anna Heintz, St. Jerome School
Stephanie Kiero, St. Michael's Lakeside School

9-12

David Huebner, St. Croix Lutheran High School
David Lane, Mayer Lutheran High School
Robert Patrick, Martin Luther High School



Story Awards



AGAINST-ALL-ODDS

Rony Aristil

St. Paul Preparatory School



BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Robert Crumley • *Our Lady of Peace School*



COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Starry Night Prom • *DeLaSalle High School*



PROGRAM

"Imagine the Possibilities" • *Risen Christ School*

Honor Teacher Winners



K-8

BRIGID BERGER

*Carondelet Catholic School,
Minneapolis*

BRIGID BERGER, or “Mrs. B.,” as she is known, is a passionate and committed teacher in her first grade classroom and throughout the school. She truly walks her talk. Mrs. B’s classroom is a warm, compassionate, and nurturing environment where she promotes fairness through her thoughtful recognition of each student’s unique contributions. She also inspires her students about the importance of contributing to the community.



9-12

ROBERT PATRICK

*Martin Luther High School,
Northrop*

ROBERT PATRICK began teaching at Martin Luther High School (MLHS) in 1987. He was the first Music Director for the school and built the music program into a successful one. In 2003, the Board of Directors asked Robert to become the school administrator. Under his guidance, MLHS was reaccredited, he outlined long-range goals for the school, and continues to assure those milestones are attained. In the classroom Robert expects students to stretch a little farther, dig a little deeper and think proactively. His door is always open to tutor and encourage students to attain higher goals.

STEM MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

Al-Amal School
Central Minnesota Christian School
Community Christian Middle School
Cotter Jr. High School
Gethsemane Lutheran School
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy
Maranatha Christian Academy
Mayer Lutheran High School
Minnehaha Academy
St. Croix Lutheran High School
St. Francis-St. James United School
St. Mark's School
St. Pascal Baylon School
St. Paul Preparatory School
Southwest MN Christian High School

STEM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECTS

Academy of Holy Angels
Benilde-St. Margaret's



2011 Graduates and their Sponsors

MINNEAPOLIS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Jonathan Thomas, Minnehaha Academy
Russell Smith, DeLaSalle High School

DAVID IHLE, NATIONAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS

Kristina Hankel, Central Minnesota Christian
Austin Hughes, Legacy Christian Academy

The MISF STEM Initiative

Since the start of its STEM Initiative, MISF has had a **STEM Advisory Council** to engage representatives of the community who have expertise and a vested interest in high quality STEM education. MISF gratefully acknowledges the support of the following community members who made up the 2010-2011 Council:



Since 2005, MISF has been committed to providing its member schools and their teachers with the inspiration, support, and professional development opportunities they need to ensure that these schools continue to provide excellent experiences in STEM education. MISF strives to strengthen and enhance the teaching of STEM subjects at its member schools by providing:

- Teacher professional development through an annual **STEM Teacher Seminar**
- Financial support for new curriculum development through the **STEM Mini-Grant Program**
- Access to teaching resources such as the **Science Museum of Minnesota's Science House**
- Opportunities for acquisition of **classroom resources** through special donor programs

Chair, Doug Jaeger, *Adolfson & Peterson Construction*
Liesl Chatman, *Science House, Science Museum of Minnesota*
Greg Chamberlain, *Xcel Energy*
Dan Ehresmann, *Beckman Coulter*
Holli Pheil, *Medtronic*
K. Benjamin Richter, *3M*
Doug Paulson, *Minnesota Department of Education*
Mary Beth Botz, *St. Mary's Catholic School, Sleep Eye*
Barry Cool (retired), *Boston Scientific*
Tim Ford, *Maranatha Christian Academy*

STEM Mini-Grant Program

The MISF STEM Mini-Grant Program, which was implemented in 2009, supports the development of new curriculum for hands-on engagement projects for students in STEM for grades 4-12. All MISF member schools are eligible to apply for STEM Mini-Grants. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$7,500. These funds are then used to design and implement the project curriculum and to acquire certain classroom resources and materials that may be required.

Twelve schools were awarded STEM Mini-Grants totaling \$71,430 for projects implemented in 2010-2011. Here are reports of three of those projects:

Central Minnesota Christian Schools, Prinsburg



CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF PRAIRIE, POND, WOODS AND ECOSYSTEMS

This project introduced students to the relationships between an organism, its environment, and other organisms; how changes in environments can be hard on organisms; and how we as humans can affect the environment. Through their investigations students developed experience with major environmental factors in terrestrial and aquatic systems by conducting experiments. They used scientific thinking processes by observing, communicating, comparing, organizing, and relating information from their investigations while applying experiment results to real life situations.

Groves Academy, St. Louis Park



INVASIVE SPECIES POPULATION STUDY AND NATURE PLAY/WILDLIFE OBSERVATION AREA

The goals for students engaged in this project were to learn about general characteristics of population ecology, landscape ecology, and enhancing wildlife habitat. They became skilled at using and applying GPS and GIS software and hardware to explore trends in data. They explored the collaborative nature of a multifaceted project involving fellow students as well as members of the community using techniques and strategies for managing wildlife specifically related to invasive species. Students developed skills in design by using Google's Sketch-up software. They also learned about green building techniques and strategies for reduced, reused, and recycled building practices.

Holy Trinity High School, Winsted



UNDERSTANDING SOIL FORMATION MAKE UP AND RUN OFF

Students investigated the substances found in the soils where they live and collected data regarding the pH, temperature, salinity, and effect of acid rain of the soils. Students collected and interpreted data using Vernier sensors and probes and computers to construct graphs and organize the collected information. They took field trips to a nearby farm and city to collect data from these two areas and interpreted the data by inputting information into the computer and generating graphs. The community was informed about the importance of maintaining soil quality in their area through informational posters and brochures the students created.

A full list of the student projects and curricula that were implemented with the support of the 2010-2011 Mini-Grants have been added to those developed in prior years and posted on the MISF website (www.misf.org). MISF member schools are encouraged to adopt and adapt these projects to enhance STEM student engagement and learning in their own schools.

In 2008, MISF secured a two-year membership to the Science Museum of Minnesota's Science House as a benefit to all MISF member schools. In order to do that, the Science House allowed MISF to serve as the nonpublic education district sponsor. In 2010-2011, MISF continued to provide this benefit to all member schools.

Science House is a resource facility where teachers can check out hands-on materials for their students (valued at more than \$500,000), engage in informal consultation and professional development, and exchange ideas with colleagues in a comfortable and creative environment. MISF has encouraged member schools to take full advantage of this resource. As a result, MISF member schools utilized the Science House 101 times between September and June of 2010-2011.



2010-2011 Conferences and Professional Development



STEM Teacher Seminar

More than 75 math, science, and technology teachers, along with several independent school administrators attended the fourth annual MISF STEM Teacher Seminar held November 4, 2010, at the Science Museum of Minnesota. It provided a focused opportunity to help these educators gain new teaching skills and ideas to encourage their students to develop an interest in STEM coursework and careers. Breakout sessions were designed to show teachers how to help their students experience the excitement of being an engineer who invents a product to solve a problem, or a scientist trying to discover why something in nature works the way it does.

Dr. Bonnie Holub, Founder and CEO of Adventium Labs, gave the keynote address. She shared how her employees—scientists and engineers—actually “do STEM” every day. She encouraged teachers and administrators to reach out to parents and other community members who are engineers or scientists and ask them to get involved with their students because they are usually quite eager to do so.



Breakout sessions covered a wide range of subjects including the mathematics involved in a 21-gear bicycle, building electrical circuits with homemade play dough, and using digital photography as a means of engaging students in science and math. Sponsors offered hands-on exhibits showcasing products such as graphing calculators, chemical modeling software and programmable robots.

“I had a fabulous experience. I look forward to trying out the ideas that I got from the conference with my students. Thanks so much!!”

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2010-2011 Conferences and Professional Development Con't

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A significant portion of the day's agenda was focused on the MISF STEM Mini-Grant Program. MISF created the STEM Mini-Grant Program to help teachers bring "Do STEM to Learn STEM" educational experiences to their students. Teachers from schools who were awarded Mini-Grants for the 2010-2011 school year were on hand to share details about the projects they had designed and to help attendees generate ideas for their own projects.



"One of the best features I found at this particular seminar was the passion for teaching and sharing of ideas that happened around the table I was at. I had never met any of these teachers before, yet we all shared the ideas and practices of what was happening in our classrooms."



School Head Retreat

Forty-five individuals from 28 schools, including seven K-8 feeder schools, attended MISF's fifth annual two-day School Head Retreat held October 5 and 6, 2010, at Cragun's Resort and Conference Center on beautiful Gull Lake.

Expert presenters shared valuable information on several different school leadership issues including state/federal program opportunities, understanding and engaging millennials, common core standards in edu-

cation, HR and employment law compliance, and time-off/leaves of absence.

"I loved it! I look forward to this retreat and it recharges me to get back to focusing on the students."

Attendees were also given opportunities to learn about the various product and service offerings available to independent schools via 10-minute presentations given by retreat sponsors. SMART Tuition donated a laptop that was given away as a door prize. Kevin Wilaby, principal at Mayer Lutheran High School, went home the winner.

Attendees also enjoyed time to socialize, network, and get to know one another during meals, breaks, and afternoon recreation. Several individuals played golf, many went for long walks, and a few took much-needed naps.



"It was a wonderful time. I made connections to people that I would not have made in any other way."

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2010-2011 Conferences and Professional Development Con't

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“Great presentations. I found all of the presentations helpful to my work and informative. Well done.”

On the post-retreat survey, participants ranked the retreat an 8 out of 9 for quality and value, and 100% of those who responded said they would be attending the retreat again next year.



“Thank you for a very inspiring retreat. I came back with a half dozen ideas that will immediately benefit the school.”

Networking Meetings

A valued and important offering that MISF provides to both its member and nonmember schools is the opportunity to be part of a larger community. Through networking meetings and workshops, MISF connects engaged, like-minded professionals who are committed to independent education. These meetings have increasingly attracted more and more individuals from private schools to the communities they create, and they have helped to strengthen Minnesota's nonpublic schools.

During 2010-2011, MISF held six networking meetings serving a total of nearly 250 individuals from the state's private and independent schools. Each two-hour meeting was held at a host school and included a boxed lunch, networking time, a keynote address presented by an outside expert, and follow up materials. Of the 2010-2011 meetings, three focused on Development/Marketing, while the other three focused on Admissions.

Topics for the Development/Marketing meetings included tips for forming a strong partnership between communications and development; creating a whole staff mindset for the entire school staff; and ideas for annual campaigns. Breakout sessions were tailored separately to meet the needs of both K-8 schools and high schools. The Admissions meetings focused on providing a general overview of admissions and recruitment; re-enrollment plans; and word-of-mouth marketing and open houses.

Host schools included Concordia Academy (Roseville), St. Croix Lutheran Schools (West St. Paul), St. Jude of the Lake (Mahtomedi), Minnehaha Academy (Minneapolis), Providence Academy (Plymouth), and The International School of MN (Eden Prairie).



2010-2011 Education Policy

2011 Legislative Update

The Legislative Session of 2011 was one of the worst in recent memory as the state government faced a budget shortfall of approximately \$5 billion in the 2011-2013 biennium. The election of a new governor and new legislative majority led to an impasse in balancing the state's budget during the regular session. This resulted in a 20-day government shutdown necessitating a "special session" to complete action on major state legislation including appropriations affecting nonpublic schools.

Legislators were able to complete work on several education provisions during the regular session. These included Teacher Licensure requirements and extending the use of Education Deductions for classroom expenses available on individual income taxes.

MISF introduced important legislation for the use of nonpublic pupil aids that expanded the definition of "textbooks" to include "electronic books as well as other printed materials delivered electronically." The proposal was included in the Omnibus Education Bill presented to the governor during the regular session. It was originally vetoed, but was subsequently included in the bill during the special session where it was passed and written into law. With the passage of this

law, nonpublic schools are now able to use available nonpublic pupil state aids to purchase electronic resources in lieu of actual textbooks.

Nonpublic School Day at the Capitol

February 15, 2011, was a successful day at the state Capitol for Minnesota private and independent education. MISF joined forces with MN CAPE (Minnesota Council for American Private Education) and MCC (Minnesota Catholic Conference) to host the second annual Nonpublic School Day at the Capitol. The gathering helps administrators, educators, and staff of nonpublic schools learn how to navigate the Capitol and meet with legislators. It also allows legislators to hear the voices of the K-12 private and independent education community in order to help them make decisions that keep the system strong.

More than 80 individuals representing approximately 55 schools and nonpublic school organizations throughout the state were in attendance for the morning session sponsored by Catholic Conference. An estimated 200 attended the afternoon Rally in the Capitol rotunda. This was a significant milestone for Minnesota nonpublic schools, students, and families.



During the afternoon Rally, individuals visited 24 state legislators and discussed topics such as the Equity and Opportunity in Education Tax Credit, busing, textbook funding, tuition assistance, special education, counseling, and health services.

In addition, attendees enjoyed the talent of several MISF schools who provided entertainment including the DeLaSalle High School and Benilde-St. Margaret's orchestras, Concordia Academy-Roseville choir, and pianists from DeLaSalle and Maranatha Christian Academy. In fact, throughout the Capitol individuals not affiliated with the Rally enjoyed and commented on the special entertainment.



Equity and Opportunity in Education Tax Credit Bill

The 2011 Legislative Session marked the sixth year that MISF worked to pass the Equity and Opportunity in Education Tax Credit Bill. This was done through the Coalition for Kids and MN CAPE (MN Council for American Private Education), an organization MISF formed and supports to promote and protect the opportunity for a parent to choose the education

that best meets their child's needs.

The proposed bill, authored by Senator David Senjem (R) District 29 and Representative Jenifer Loon (R) District 42B, would provide an 80 percent tax credit for corporate and individual state taxpayers who donate to scholarship foundations, resulting in real savings to the state's K-12 education budget.

Jim Field, President of MISF, Coordinator of the Coalition for Kids, and Coordinator for MN CAPE, states, "This is one answer to address Minnesota's challenge of low graduation rates among children of poverty and the large education gap for students of color in Minnesota." Field said that a 2004 study conducted by MISF shows that children attending private schools have a higher graduation rate (approximately 99%) than those in public schools (85%*) and there was no measureable color gap.

Although the bill made great progress and was passed unanimously by the Senate Education and Tax Committees, unfortunately it was not added to the state's Omnibus Tax Bill. With the closure of 38 private schools over the last four years, decreases in charitable giving and family incomes, and the inability of schools to raise enough scholarship dollars to support these children, MISF will not close the books on its efforts to pass this important legislation.

* National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

2010-2011 Financial Activity

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

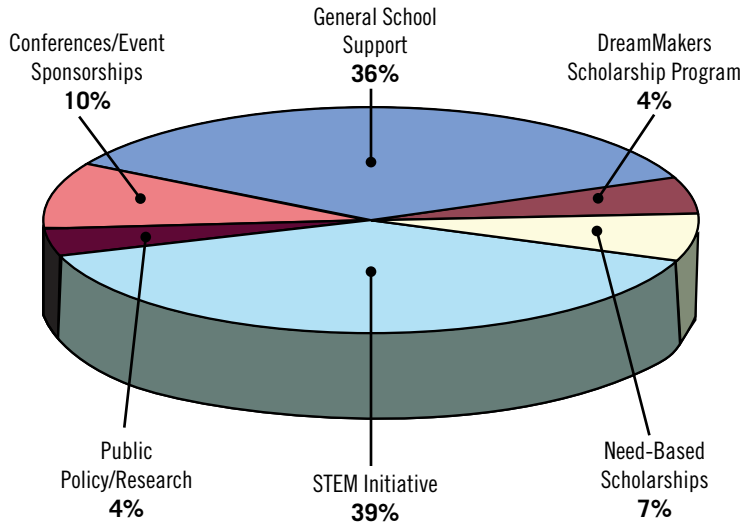
MEMBER ASSESSMENTS AND MEMBER DUES.....	\$109,235
CONTRIBUTIONS	
GENERAL.....	\$121,627
RESTRICTED.....	\$58,962
PROGRAMS.....	\$149,859
PROGRAM INCOME.....	\$35,120
INTEREST INCOME.....	\$122
OTHER INCOME.....	\$16
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS AND/OR SATISFACTION OF PROGRAM RESTRICTIONS.....	\$231,060
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT.....	\$474,941

EXPENSES

DISTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOOLS.....	\$154,529
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
ADVOCACY/PUBLIC POLICY.....	\$108,781
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES.....	\$41,833
MEMBER SERVICES.....	\$46,054
COMMUNICATIONS.....	\$16,569
MATH & SCIENCE/STEM PROGRAM.....	\$60,037
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES.....	\$50,474
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.....	\$210,447
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$688,724
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS.....	(213,783)
NET ASSETS—BEGINNING.....	\$461,494
NET ASSETS—ENDING.....	\$247,711

2010-2011 Fundraising Results

2010-2011 FUNDRAISING RESULTS



*above results do not include Gifts in Kind valued at \$4,180

FACTS ABOUT MISF MEMBER SCHOOLS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT	19,998
OVERALL STUDENT OF COLOR PERCENTAGE	14.7%
AVERAGE TUITION	
K-8	\$4,749
9-12	\$8,078
GRADUATION RATE	99%
GRADUATES WHO CONTINUE ON TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION	95%
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR NEED-BASED ASSISTANCE	31.9%
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING NEED-BASED ASSISTANCE	29.7%
TOTAL FINANCIAL AID NEEDED	
BY MEMBER SCHOOLS	\$17.4 million
TOTAL FINANCIAL AID DISTRIBUTED	
BY MEMBER SCHOOLS	\$14.3 million
FINANCIAL AID GAP	\$3.1 million

BASED ON 2010-2011 DATA SUBMITTED BY MEMBER SCHOOLS

2010-2011 Donor Recognition

MISF would like to thank the special donors who graciously support independent and private education through gifts of cash, stock, and in-kind donations. The following businesses, corporations, foundations, and individuals made generous contributions between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, to support member schools through need-based scholarships, general operating support, sponsorships, program funds, and public policy support.

\$100,000 and Above

3M Foundation*

\$25,000 to \$99,999

Helen Harrington Charitable Trust

Otto Bremer Foundation

\$15,000 to \$24,999

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The Pentair Foundation

\$5,000 to \$14,999

Beckman Coulter Foundation

RBC Wealth Management*

The Saint Paul Foundation

Xcel Energy Foundation

\$1,000 to \$4,999

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MISF gratefully acknowledges personal gifts received from current and past board members, member school staff, MISF staff, and special friends through its Honor Fund Campaign.

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