

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,

The new year will bring a myriad opportunities to engage and connect, so make sure to mark your calendars!

Nominations for the 11th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards will open January 7th. This is a great opportunity to nominate a person (educator, leader, volunteer, staff) or program that exemplifies the excellence found in our schools. Nominations are open to all nonpublic schools in Minnesota. Check out our [awards page](#) for the guidelines and videos to previous award recipients. The formal celebration will be held Sunday April 28, 2019 at the University of St. Thomas.

We are thrilled to announce that the 2019 STEM Conference will be held August 8, 2019, at Benilde-St. Margaret's. This is a unique gathering of leaders, educators, vendors and STEM professionals for a full-day of high quality learning in STEM.

In the continued evolution of our advocacy efforts, the MISF Board of Directors has approved hiring Shepard Harris to lobby on behalf of MISF at the Capitol during the 2019 legislative session. Shep will ensure the voice of private and independent schools is represented in conversations and potential legislation. We will provide periodic updates in our Enewsletter on legislative progress and priorities.

We extend a warm welcome to new member schools [Crown of Life Lutheran](#) and [Saint Helena Catholic](#). We are thankful they have connected to a strong network of 157 member schools.

As we near the end of 2018, we offer our best wishes for a joyous holiday season and prosperous 2019.



Tim Benz  
President

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## ANNOUNCING THE 2019 STEM GRANT PROGRAM

We are excited to announce the kick-off of this year's STEM Grant Program. Once again there are three types of STEM Grants available to fit your school's needs - Innovation Grants, Starter Grants and Sustainability Grants.

**STEM Grant Letters of Interest must be received  
by 6pm on Tuesday, January 15.**

The following resources are available on the STEM Grant program page on the MISF website.

[www.misf.org/stem-grants/](http://www.misf.org/stem-grants/)

- STEM Grant Program Calendar
- STEM Grant Guidelines
- Letter of Interest
- Grant Application Forms
- STEM Grant Scoring Rubrics
- Project Descriptions of STEM Grants Awarded the Last Three Years
- Link To Video Highlighting Three Member Schools' STEM programs

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## STEM SCOOP





## STEM Lunch & Learn Seminar/Webinar

### *"Embracing the Maker Movement at Your School: Designing a Purposeful Makerspace"*

**Open to ALL MISF member and nonmember private and independent schools!**

When: Thursday, January 17th, 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Where: Nativity of Our Lord School, 1900 Stanford Avenue, St. Paul, 55105 ([Map](#))

Presenters: Anne Schneeman Dougherty, Engineering Teacher, Benilde-St. Margaret's, and Justin Spencer, Associate Director of Education, The Bakken Museum.

#### **Seminar/Webinar Content**

Does your school have a makerspace, FabLab, hackerspace, or are you thinking about creating one? In this seminar we will consider the philosophy behind makerspace learning environments through hands-on experiences and discussion. Maker education is fundamentally about approaches, mindsets, and community-more than it is about stuff. Yet, we that educators need support, tools, and resources to fully participate. Discussion will include defining your school's maker philosophy, research behind this popular movement in STEM education, guidelines for outfitting your makerspace, and the role of teachers, school leadership, parents and other stakeholders in creating a culture that supports making.

#### **Presenter Bios**

Anne has 20+ years (but who's counting) creative problem solving in communications, technology, research, robotics and education. In 2016 she founded the Nativity Creative Learning Lab (a STEAM initiative at a large Catholic elementary school) focused on using Maker Education to prepare students to be fearless and persistent learners. She also teaches engineering at Benilde-St. Margaret's in Minneapolis (which includes frustrating students to tears some days). Along with her co-teachers, she'll be taking 20+ students to Australia this summer for the international RoboCup Rescue competition.

Justin is the Associate Director of Education at The Bakken Museum, where he has been leading youth invention programs and summer camps for more than a decade. In addition, Justin serves on MISF's STEM Advisory Committee. He has also worked as a high school physics and electronics teacher, and holds a degree in physics from the University of Minnesota.

#### **Seminar Cost**

- MISF member schools-first in person attendee: free
- MISF member school-additional in person attendee: \$25
- [Click here](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF
- Nonmember school staff: \$65 per person

### Webinar (space limited)

- MISF member school staff: FREE
- Nonmember school staff: \$25

### Cancellation/No-show Policy

Registration fees paid are nonrefundable; however, they may be transferred to another staff member (including board members, committee members, volunteers, or any individual affiliated with your school community.) Cancellations for unpaid registrants who notify MISF less than 48 hours before the seminar or do not show up to the event will be charged as follows: members: \$25; nonmembers: \$65.

Registration ends Monday, January 14th.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

## 3M TECH (Technical Teams Encouraging Career Horizons)

The aim of the TECH program is to broaden students understanding of what science and engineering careers are-that is, who goes into these jobs and how did they get there?



**[Sign up for the 2018-2019 TECH Program](#)**

## 3M Visiting Wizards

3M Visiting Wizards encourage young people to become interested in science and technology and aim to raise interest in STEM. 3M Wizards showcase interesting and fun science demonstrations and hands-on experiments on a variety of topics. These simple experiments can help youth understand how 3M science can impact everyday life.

3M Visiting Wizards Request Form and Kit Descriptions:

**[https://www.3m.com/3M/en\\_US/gives-us/education/visiting-wizards/](https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/gives-us/education/visiting-wizards/)**

## Century Link Teachers and Technology Grant Program

### Overview

The CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant Program is a competitive grant open to full-time classroom teachers in a PreK-12 public, private or charter school in either a CenturyLink residential service area or one of the following corporate locations: Ouachita Parish, LA; Johnson County, KS; Tulsa County, OK or St. Louis County, MO. The program, funded by the CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation, is designed to help teachers innovatively implement technology in their classrooms to increase student achievement.

### Awards and Eligibility

The CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation will consider requests of up to \$5,000 submitted by full-time classroom teachers employed by a public or private school in a CenturyLink residential service area or the Corporate locations listed above.

Schools do not have to be a CenturyLink customer to apply but must be located in a CenturyLink service area where CenturyLink provides residential phone service or in one of the counties/parish listed above.

Applicants will be required to sign a certification document stating that they have no role in the purchasing decisions for the school or school district's technology or telecommunication services.

Previous applicants may apply on an annual basis.

[Read more here.](#)

## Green Ribbon Schools Awards

Is your school, district or college making strides at being green? Do you want an incentive for improving?

The Green Ribbon Schools Awards from the U.S. Department of Education honors schools that:

- Reduce environmental impact by conservation of energy, water and waste
- Improve health and nutrition through gardens, food service and outdoor activities, and
- Provide effective environmental education

A few highlights

- The awards are available to:
  - All PreK-12 schools: public, private, charters, including early learning
  - School districts
  - Post-secondary institutions, including two year and four year schools
- The application is due January 11, so there is time to organize a team to divide up the work.
- There are many resources and examples of successful applications available.
- Awardees receive a plaque, an invitation to the national award ceremony and the ability to publicize the accomplishment.

See additional resources for more information about the award program.

### Minnesota applications and resources

The Minnesota applications and resources are available on the MN. Department of Education Green Ribbon website: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/sci/grn/>

The U.S. Department of Energy Green Ribbon website includes many resources including summaries of applications by past awardees: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>

## getSTEM

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

## Minnesota STEM Network

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: <https://www.scimathmn.org/mnstemnet/>

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## 2019 Private & Independent Education Awards

*Nominations begin January 7*

The 11th annual Private & Independent Education Awards will be held on April 28, 2019. Nominations for all award categories begin on January 7th.



### **COMMUNITY CHAMPION**

This award celebrates the work of an individual or group that has benefited a school and the community in which the school is located. Board members, donors, and other school supporters may be nominated for this award.

### **BEHIND THE SCENES**

This award recognizes the quiet and essential work of an individual who supports the school outside the classroom. These individuals go out of their way to make the school environment welcoming, friendly, and caring. School staff, coaches, volunteers and other behind the scenes workers may be nominated for this award.

### **PROGRAM AWARD**

This award highlights an innovative or successful program that supports engagement and academic achievement for the school, students, or faculty.

### **HONOR TEACHER**

An MISF Honor Teacher nominee should:

- Display a passion for students and education
- Model integrity, fairness, compassion, and excellence
- Drive creativity and innovation in their students
- Achieve exceptional and measurable outcomes
- Demonstrate personal and professional growth through community service/involvement

### **LEADERSHIP**

This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of school heads, presidents, principals, superintendents, or executive directors.

An MISF Leadership Award nominee should:

- Instill passion in themselves and the people with whom they work.
- Bring innovative ideas forward and to fruition
- Be regarded as demonstrating highest integrity and ethical behavior
- Understand how to help move change forward in an organization by effectively communicating with key internal and external stakeholders to help them understand, and participate in, the change process.
- Advocate for the importance of private/independent education in Minnesota



Watch your inbox and the [MISF Awards page](#) for more information.

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## 2018-2019 Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, with the support of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Civil Litigation Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, is sponsoring an essay contest that is open to Minnesota high school juniors and seniors. Students have an opportunity receive up to \$1,000 in scholarship money as they examine the role of the judiciary in our society.

### Important Dates:

Online Contest Registration Begins: October 15, 2018

Essay Submission Deadline: January 22, 2019

Announcement of Winners: March 29, 2019

Awards Luncheon: May 2019

For more information, [go to the contest page](#).

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## CAPE Outlook

### CAPE Supports Tax Credit Scholarships at IRS

On November 5, the IRS held a hearing on proposed regulations that have the potential to harm tax credit scholarship programs in the states. CAPE's Executive Director testified against the proposed regulations, as did representatives of CAPE member organizations Agudath Israel of America and the Association of Christian Schools International.

Read more about this issue in the [December edition of CAPE Outlook](#).



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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](mailto:tbenz@misf.org)

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