



MINNESOTA  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL FORUM

# 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# Mission

MISF connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy so they can be student-centered and mission-driven.



## WE BELIEVE:

When every independent school is connected and strong, Minnesota's families will be able to select the school that best fits their children, and Minnesota's students will excel.

Our communities are facing rapid change, and we need agile young people who are prepared to solve complex challenges and embrace new opportunities—this will only happen if all students have the opportunity to attend the school that is the best fit for them.

**WE CONNECT SCHOOL LEADERS** to each other and build their capacity through access to critical resources so that they are able to lead schools that thrive and meet the needs of their students, families, and staff.

**WE CREATE MEANINGFUL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES** for staff and teachers to learn from each other and develop new skills so that they are equipped to build exceptional schools and deliver high quality education for all students.

**WE ADVOCATE** with a focused and united voice so that local and state policy makers will understand and support policies and practices that strengthen Minnesota's independent schools.

Dear friends of Minnesota Independent School Forum:

As we all know, this has been a time of unprecedented challenges for schools across our country. The mission and work of the Minnesota Independent School Forum (MISF) has never been more relevant and vital for private and independent schools of Minnesota.

The rapidly evolving environment created by COVID-19 created a moment of great uncertainty for schools across Minnesota. Throughout the final months of our fiscal year, MISF operations were solely focused and dedicated to supporting countless school inquiries, building an extensive resource library, providing timely information, and helping schools navigate a full range of complex issues as they plan for an uncertain future and return to learning.

MISF gathered, raised and deployed resources to support the most pressing needs in schools, while working with community partners to provide a variety of supports so schools have the resources needed to keep students healthy, safe and learning. MISF also served as the primary convener, communicator and unified voice for the private and independent school ecosystem.

Your generosity, connection to and support of MISF has allowed the organization to develop the capacity to respond to this moment. While we focus on the urgent and immediate needs of our members, we know there will be important needs of schools that will continue to require attention and support far into the future.

The simplest way to articulate the critical need for an all-inclusive organization that supports, advocates and connects a vibrant network of schools is to hear from our members and partners.

*"Our membership in MISF is more important now than ever as we navigate the daily challenges of the pandemic. They not only effectively represent the interests of independent schools on vital and often complex public policy, they provide extraordinary connective support – bringing us together to ensure that none of us has to walk this complicated path alone. We are deeply grateful at Saint John's Preparatory School for their leadership and guidance!"* **Jon McGee, Head of School, Saint John's Prep, Collegeville**

On behalf of the educators, leaders, and schools MISF serves, we offer a humble and grateful "THANK YOU." With your financial support, MISF will continue to advocate, defend, and fight for the 65,000 students in Minnesota's private and independent schools.

Sincerely,



Teri McCloughan  
*Chair, Board of Directors*



Tim Benz  
*President*



# 2019 - 2020 MEMBER SCHOOLS

MISF member schools represent a strong cross-section of faith affiliations, educational philosophies, and geographic and cultural diversity.

During 2019-2020, MISF's membership network consisted of 153 schools serving 33,413 students.

[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

for list of member schools

## 2019-2020 MISF STAFF

**Tim Benz**  
*President*

**Debbie Kaliszewski**  
*Business Manager*

**Michele Skare**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Lisa Vosbeek**  
*Director of Development & Programs*

## CONSULTANT

**Beth Murphy, Ph.D.**  
*STEM Program Manager*



# 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Chairperson

**Teri McCloughan\***

*Attorney, Stapleton & McCloughan, PLLC*

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## Secretary

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*Executive Director, Academy of Whole Learning*

## Treasurer

**Brian Lynch\***

*Director of Financial Services and Operations,  
InFaith Community Foundation*

## President

**Tim Benz\***

*Minnesota Independent School Forum*

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**Dr. Timothy Berner** - *Principal, Concordia Academy, Roseville*

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**Jennifer Cassidy** - *Director of Catholic Schools/Church Partnerships,  
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**Dr. Sumita B. Mitra** - *Partner & Co-owner, Mitra Chemical Consulting LLC*

**John McCall** - *Consultant, JE McCall Consulting*

**Kelly Regan** - *Vice President & Marketing Director, Premier Banks*

**Kari Staples** - *Principal, St. Alphonsus Parish School*

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## BOARD MEMBER EMERITA

**Rosa Miller** - *Vice President, Latin America, 3M (Retired)*

\* Executive Committee

# PRESIDENT'S CABINET



*The President's Cabinet is a volunteer group of community leaders with a passion for private and independent education. The purpose of the Cabinet is to connect advocates and ambassadors to the mission of MISF, which connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy so they can be student-centered and mission-driven. The Cabinet meets 2 times per year to discuss relevant and important topics in education and is open to people passionate about the ecosystem of independent and private education. Their commitment is important to MISF as it strives to bring more resources, information, and representation to Minnesota's 450 independent and private schools.*

## 2019-2020 MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET

**Greg Chamberlain** - *Regional VP, External & Community Affairs, Xcel Energy*

**Anne Cullen Miller** - *President, Catholic Community Foundation*

**Tom Delich** - *Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor, RBC Wealth Management*

**Mike Dickson** - *Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor, RBC Capital Markets*

**Tom Farnham** - *Senior Risk Consultant, North Risk Partners*

**David Faust** - *President and CEO, Platinum Bank*

**Kenneth Holmen** - *President and CEO, CentraCare Health*

**Linda Holmen** - *Past MISF Board Chair*

**Dan Jaeger** - *Business Administrator, St. Patrick Catholic Church*

**Doug Jaeger** - *President and CEO, Ulteig*

**Robert Jones, DDS** - *Dr. Robert W. Jones DDS*

**Paul Jordan** - *CEO, Corval Group*

**Tom Keyes** - *Investment Advisor, Shamrock Wealth Management (Retired)*

**Steve Lentz, J.D.** - *General Counsel and Chief Compl. Office, Okabena Invest. Services*

**Kelly Matter** - *President and CEO, Avivo*

**John McCall** - *JE McCall Consulting*

**Dr. Sumita Mitra** - *Mitra Chemical Consulting, LLC, (3M - Retired)*

**Rosa Miller** - *VP, 3M Latin America (Retired)*

**Blake Nelson** - *Attorney, Hellmuth & Johnson PLLP*

**Dennis Nigon** - *President (Retired), Rochester Catholic Schools*

**Phil Paquette** - *Principal, Boyum & Barense PLLP*

**Jon Theobald** - *Chairman Emeritus, Mairs & Power, Inc.*

# STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE



*MISF's STEM Advisory Committee engages representatives from the community who have expertise and a vested interest in high-quality STEM education. This committee serves as the review panel for the STEM Grant Program.*

## MEMBERS OF THE 2019-2020 STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

**Jessica Aleshire** - *Global Community Engagement,  
Boston Scientific Corporation*

**Vikram Ghosh** - *Ardent Mills*

**John Henderson** - *3M*

**Dr. Jennifer Krieger** - *Holy Spirit School, St. Paul*

**Sumita Mitra, Ph.D.** - *Mitra Chemical Consulting, LLC*

**Debbie Monson, Ph.D.** - *University of St. Thomas*

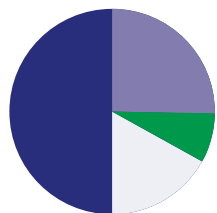
**Justin Spencer** - *The Bakken Museum*

**Jorge Ulate** - *General Mills*

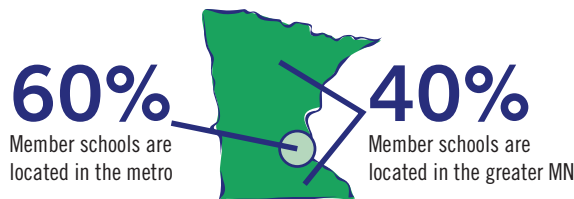
**Beth Murphy, Ph.D.** - *MISF STEM Program Manager*

# 2019-2020 FACTS ABOUT MISF

**153** member schools  
35% of market share



52% Catholic  
25% Lutheran  
18% Other Religious affiliation  
5% Independent



**97%** Member Schools  
Retention rate



**277**

STEM Grants  
awarded to  
member schools  
since the program  
began in 2008

**33,413** Students  
51% of market share



**92%**  
Engagement rate  
with 153 member schools



**28 STEM Grants**  
awarded in 2019-20 totaling  
**\$97,992**

**6** Schools participated in the STEM Community Partnership Program  
which allocated an additional **\$22,751** STEM resources to schools

**\$1,321,889** STEM support awarded to member schools to date





# 2019-2020 PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AWARDS

## LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREES



### LEADERSHIP AWARD

Sue Skinner, Ed.D.  
Senior High Principal, Benilde-St. Margaret's School



### LEADERSHIP AWARD

Barry Lieske, AFSC  
President (2012-2020), DeLaSalle High School

# 2019-2020 PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AWARDS

## HONOR TEACHER AWARDEES



### HONOR TEACHER (K-8)

Jenelle Fackler

1st Grade Teacher, St. Odilia Catholic School



### HONOR TEACHER (9-12)

Jen Lopez

Heritage and AP Spanish Teacher, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

# 2019-2020 PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AWARDS

## EDUCATION AWARDS HONOREES



### BEHIND-THE-SCENES AWARD

Jessica Martinez  
Academic Dean for Grade 9,  
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School



### COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Steve Hoepfner  
Vice President,  
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation



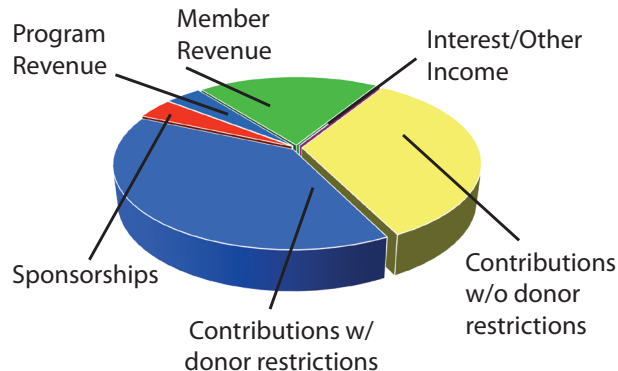
### PROGRAM AWARD

*Service Immersion Program*  
Traci Bennington, Campus Ministry  
Totino-Grace High School

# FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2019-20

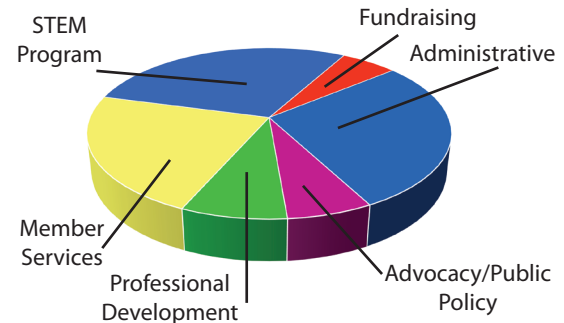
## Revenue and Other Support

Contributions-without donor restrictions .....	\$181,843
Contributions-with donor restrictions .....	\$352,322
Sponsorships.....	\$33,100
Program Revenue.....	\$32,150
Member Revenue.....	\$161,754
Interest/Other Income.....	\$824
Net Assets released from restrictions and/or satisfaction of program restrictions.....	\$369,325
Total Revenue and Other Support.....	\$761,993



## Expenses

Program Expenses	
Advocacy/Public Policy .....	\$50,340
Professional Development .....	\$62,078
Member Services .....	\$176,285
STEM Program.....	\$225,754
Fundraising.....	\$46,380
Administrative.....	\$220,434
Total Expenses.....	\$781,271
Change in Net Assets .....	-\$19,278
Net Assets-Beginning.....	\$392,286
Net Assets-Ending.....	\$373,011



# 2019-2020 DONOR RECOGNITION

*MISF would like to thank the special donors who graciously support private and independent education through gifts of cash, stock, and in-kind donation. The following businesses, corporations, foundations, and individuals made contributions between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.*

## **\$100,000 and above**

3M Foundation\*  
GHR Foundation

## **\$40,000 to \$99,999**

Helen Harrington Charitable Trust\*  
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation  
Schott Foundation\*  
WEM Foundation

## **\$25,000 to \$39,999**

Boston Scientific Corporation  
Hardenbergh Foundation\*  
Rosa M. Miller\*  
Xcel Energy Foundation\*

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Mr. & Mrs. Willian B. Frels/Frels Family Foundation

## **\$5000 - \$9999**

Catapult Learning, LLC  
Mairs and Power  
Jon and Lea Theobald\*  
Thrivent Financial

## **\$3000 - \$4999**

Hamline University  
Sumita and Smarajit Mitra  
Philip J. and Constance Paquette\*  
Premier Banks\*  
Martin and Beth Peyer

## **\$1000 - \$2999**

Accelerate Learning, Inc.  
Aim Higher Foundation  
Alpha Omega Publications  
Avison Young (USA) Inc.  
Bethel University  
Tim and Anastasia Benz  
Blackbaud, Inc.

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Boyum & Barends PLLP  
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St. Mary's University of Minnesota  
TADS Tuition Management  
The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
Therese and Kevin McCloughan  
Ulteig



# 2019-2020 DONOR RECOGNITION

## \$500 - \$999

Adventure Partners LLC  
Blake and Kristen Nelson  
Bremer Bank\*  
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Corval Group  
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Kelly Regan  
Rehbein Transit Co., INC.  
William H. Sadlier, Inc.  
STEM Supplies  
Voyageur Bus Company, Inc.  
Wyayn Rasmussen

## \$100 - \$499

Roger D. Ahrenholz  
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Lisa and Chris Vosbeek  
The Works

## Under \$100

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Bewarld Roofing Company, Inc.  
Heidi Hillstrom  
Mark Kenney  
Thomas D. Larson D.D.S.,  
Frances Murnane  
Drs. Gene and Carrie Pfeifer  
Marshall and Michele Skare

\* Denotes donors who have supported MISF for 10 or more years.

# BE INDEPENDENT, NOT ALONE.



*"This years' online conference is proof that even in less than ideal circumstances we can still learn. I received inspiration and new resources from the sessions I attended. A great way to transition into a new school year."*

**- STEM Conference Attendee**

*"What a blessing to have people like you all who help our school and so many others. We are very excited about the opportunity this brings to Frassati and our community. We would never be able to do the projects we have been able to do without your continued support."*

**- Katie Urban, Frassati  
Catholic Academy**



*“MISF continues to provide meaningful STEM content and resources to educators that can be immediately incorporated into classrooms - and now with distance learning - to ensure the best quality exploration and innovation in student learning; especially for those in smaller school settings.”*

**- Kelly Lynn Stanton-Nutt, St. Dominic School**

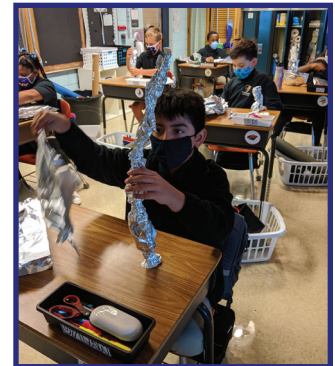
*“As a school administrator, this is another evidence of the benefit of membership in MISF. To comb through the mountains of information and determine what our staff, families and students need to know has been overwhelming. Thank you for taking the point on this for all of our private and independent schools.”*

**- Wyayn Rasmussen, Ed.D, Executive Director, Academy of Whole Learning**



*"The leadership MISF provides to Minnesota's nonpublic schools is valuable and insightful. We are blessed by the information being offered...during these very challenging times with an unknown future...it is good to have positive, assuring and knowledgeable support."*

**- Sarah Mueller, Executive Director,  
Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting  
Association (MNSAA)**





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