



2020-2021 **Annual Report**



MISF IS NOW MINNDEPENDENT.

For nearly 50 years, **Minnesota Independent School Forum (MISF)** has served private and independent schools in Minnesota. Originally founded to serve independent high schools, we grew to serve the entire K-12 private and independent school community, bringing a broader array of services. In 2020, we recognized that our name no longer represented our expanding mission, vision and voice, so we are relaunching as **MINNDEPENDENT**.

Why MINNDEPENDENT?

The name combines key elements of our mission – Minnesota and independent – to create a unique and memorable name. Our refreshed brand look helps reintroduce our broadened service model and reinforce our long-standing purpose as a trusted beacon for private and independent schools, delivering professional development, partnerships and public policy initiatives on their behalf.

We are grateful to our private and independent member schools and supportive partners who have been integral on this journey, and we are excited to welcome new members and partners to be a part of our continued growth.

A TRUSTED PARTNER

For Private & Independent Schools



[MINNDEPENDENT.ORG](https://minndependent.org)

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Mission:

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



MINNDEPENDENT is the largest membership organization serving private and independent schools in Minnesota. We respect the autonomy of each school, while recognizing their shared desire for support. We bring member schools together for connection, collaboration, capacity building, critical resource access and collective action.

MINNDEPENDENT serves as a trusted beacon for private and independent schools by providing:

Programming

We offer a variety of professional development opportunities, including an annual school leadership conference and topical seminars throughout the year.

Partnership

We foster relationships with funders, businesses and community organizations on behalf of member schools resulting in grants, in-kind services and professional resources.

Public Policy

We advocate for the interests of independent schools, providing a consistent voice at the state level.

When we work together, we learn from each other and grow stronger, paving the way toward a bright future for member schools and their students.

MINNDEPENDENT.ORG

Dear friends of **MINNDEPENDENT**:

First, we have something very important to say – THANK YOU. Thank you for the deep level of trust placed in **MINNDEPENDENT** by our member schools, donors, funders, partners and advocates. As our community knows, while there was so much hope for a return to a “normal” school year, conditions and guidance made for another challenging year.

Despite the many challenges, our private and independent schools continued to shine bright. For the first time in decades, private and independent schools saw an increase in enrollment, with the largest gains in kindergarten through third grade. Schools have operated with remarkable resilience, grace and innovation to meet the needs of their students and families.

The past year has also brought some exciting changes for our organization. Beginning in November 2020, the Board of Directors began advance work on our next strategic direction. As part of our planning, the organization entered an intensive process to crystallize what we do, why we do it and the impact of our work. This process, led by a Board Committee was expansive and thorough. What came out of this process was a new name, an update to our brand and important clarity around the three principal areas of our work – programming, partnerships and public policy.

While our name has changed and our brand has been updated, what has not changed is our focus – we bring member schools together for connection, collaboration, capacity building, critical resource access and collective action. This is all done to continue to pave the way towards a bright future for member schools and their students.

We look forward to developing and sharing the next key priorities for **MINNDEPENDENT** with each of you. The foundation of the organization since 1976 is still here, but we are charting our path into the future. Thank you for your connection and commitment to **MINNDEPENDENT** and to this exciting and important journey.

Sincerely,



Teri McCloughan
Chair, Board of Directors



Tim Benz
President

2020-2021 Member Schools

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

During 2020-2021 MINNDEPENDENT's membership network consisted of 160 schools serving 34,225 students.

<https://misf.org/member-school-map/>

CLICK HERE for list of member schools



2020-2021 MINNDEPENDENT Staff

Tim Benz

President

Debbie Kaliszewski

Business Manager

Michele Skare

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Vosbeek

Director of Development & Programs

Beth Murphy Ph.D.

STEM Program Manager

2020 – 2021 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Chairperson	Teri McCloughan
Secretary	Wyayn Rasmussen
Treasurer	Brian Lynch
President	Tim Benz

PRESIDENT

Tim Benz*, *President*, MINNDEPENDENT

CLASS OF 2021

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

Lynn Farmer, *Associate VP, Marketing & Communications*,
Hamline University

Teri McCloughan*, *Attorney*, Stapleton & McCloughan, PLLC

Sumita B. Mitra Ph.D., *Partner*, Mitra Chemical Consulting LLC

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

Kari Staples, *Principal*, St. Alphonsus Catholic School

CLASS OF 2022

Michael Lamb, *Senior Vice President*, Transmission, Xcel Energy

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

John McCall, JE McCall Consulting, *Retired Executive*

CLASS OF 2023

Michael Brennan, *President*, Holy Family Catholic High School

Jennifer Cassidy, *Director of Catholic School/Church Partnerships*,
Lake Area Discovery Center

Josh Killian*, *Vice President Marketing*, Patterson Dental

Veena Lakkundi, *Senior Vice President, Strategy and Business
Development*, 3M

Joel Landskroener*, *Executive Director*,
Mayer Lutheran High School

Anna Lima, *Attorney/Owner*, Lima Law Office PLLP

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

Brian Sullivan, *Head of School*, Maranatha Christian Academy

Kate Wollan, *Principal*, Nativity of Our Lord School

BOARD MEMBER EMERITA

Rosa Miller, *Vice President*, 3M Latin America (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 MINNDEPENDENT.

2020-2021 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

Steve Lentz, J.D. – *General Counsel and Chief Compliance Office,*
Okabena Investment Services

John McCall, JE McCall Consulting

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

Blake Nelson, *Attorney,* Hellmuth & Johnson PLLP

Phil Paquette, *Principal,* Boyum & Barendscheer PLLP

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

MINNDEPENDENT'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 2020-2021 STEM Advisory Committee:

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

Ann Dougherty, *Engineering Teacher,*
Department Chair, Benilde-St. Margaret's School

Vikram Ghosh, *Technical Sales-National Accounts,*
Ardent Mills

John Henderson, *Product Development Specialist, 3M*

Dr. Jennifer Krieger, *Assistant Principal,*
Holy Spirit School, St. Paul

Michael Lamb, *Senior Vice President, Transmission,*
Xcel Energy

Debbie Monson, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor,*
University of St. Thomas

Justin Spencer, *Associate Director of Education,*
The Bakken Museum

Jorge Ulate, *Senior R&D Manager, General Mills*

2020-2021 Facts About MINNDEPENDENT

160 member schools
36% of market share



- 54% Catholic
- 26% Lutheran
- 17% Other Religious affiliation
- 3% Independent

96%

Member Schools
Retention rate



17 STEM Grants
awarded in
2020-21
totaling
\$56,606



59%

Member schools
are located in the
metro



41%

Member schools
are located in the
greater MN

14

Schools participated in the STEM Community Partnership Program with Science from Scientists and We Share Solar which allocated an additional **\$58,436** in STEM resources to schools

34,225 Students
52% of market share



93%

Engagement rate
with 160 member schools

294

STEM Grants awarded
to member schools
since the program
began

\$1,472,339

STEM support awarded to member schools to date

2020-2021 Private & Independent Education Awards

Leadership Award Honorees

Mary Gangelhoff

Elementary Principal,
St. Mary's Catholic School
Sleepy Eye

Andrew Hilliker

Principal,
St. Joseph's School
Moorhead and
Diocese of Crookston

Honor Teacher Honorees

K-8 Honor Teacher

Anne Flynn

St. Charles Borromeo School
St. Anthony

9-12 Honor Teacher

Trish Flock-Johnson

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Minneapolis

Education Awards Honorees

Behind the Scenes Award

Melissa Schleppenbach

Virtual Coach,
Pine Harbor Christian Academy
Hastings

Community Champion Award

Robert and Teri Crosby

Volunteers, Academy of Whole
Learning - Minnetonka

Program Award

College Success Program

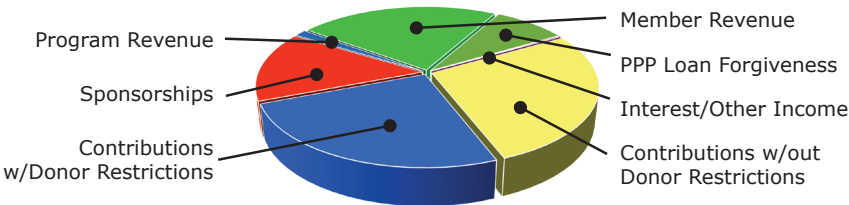
Raquel Gudiel

Director of College Counseling,
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Minneapolis

Financial Activity 2020-2021

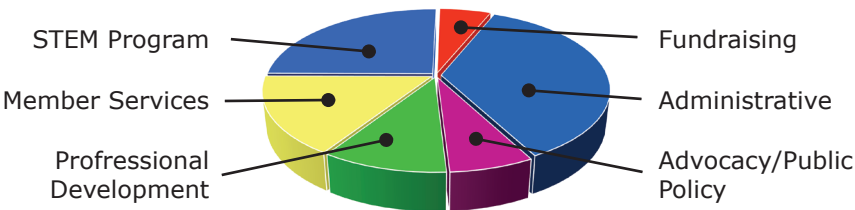
Revenue and Support

Contributions-without donor restrictions	\$196,234
Contributions-with donor restrictions.....	\$178,800
Sponsorships	\$104,450
Program Revenue	\$9,840
Member Revenue.....	\$164,501
PPP loan forgiveness	\$59,925
Interest/Other Income	\$1,387
Net Assets released from restrictions and/or satisfaction of program restrictions	\$216,282
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$715,137



Expenses

Program Expenses	
Advocacy/Public Policy	\$43,978
Professional Development	\$65,080
Member Services	\$102,140
STEM Program	\$162,238
Fundraising.....	\$37,644
Administrative.....	\$231,714
Total Expenses	\$642,794
Change in Net Assets	\$72,343
Net Assets-Beginning	\$373,009
Net Assets-Ending	\$445,352



2020-2021 Donor Recognition

MINNDEPENDENT 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, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

\$40,000 - \$99,999

3M Foundation*
GHR Foundation
Helen Harrington Charitable Trust*
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
Schott Foundation*

\$25,000 - \$39,999

Hardenbergh Foundation*
Rosa M. Miller*
Xcel Energy Foundation*
WEM Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Frels/Frels Family Foundation*

\$5000 - \$9,999

Catapult Learning, LLC
Mairs and Power*
Philip J. and Constance Paquette*
Jon and Lea Theobald*

\$3000 - \$4999

Boston Scientific Corporation
Therese and Kevin McCloughan
Sumita and Smarajit Mitra*
Premier Banks*

\$1,000 - \$2,999

Tim and Anastasia Benz
Bethel University
Boulay PLLP*
Boyum & Barescheer PLLP
Canopy IT Solutions
Mark & Mary Davis Foundation*
Facts/Nelnet Business Solutions
Gradelink
Hellmuth and Johnson PLLC
Linda and Kenneth Holmen
Josh and Sue Killian
Veena Lakkundi
Michael Lamb
Maranatha Christian Academy
Gregory Margarit
Mathiowetz Construction Company*
MN Private College Council, Inc.*
Redpath and Company
Kelly Regan*
Ryan Companies
The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
Sowles Company
Thrivent Financial
Ulteig

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this publication. If we have omitted, misplaced, or misspelled any name, please accept our apologies. For corrections, please contact the MINNDEPENDENT office at 651.297.6716 or office@MINNDEPENDENT.org.

\$500 - \$999

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Benilde - St. Margaret's
Catholic Schools Center of Excellence
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DeLaSalle High School
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Dr. Michael and Mary Partington
Wyayn Rasmussen
Saint Mary's University of MN
Steve and Margaret Tanzer

\$100 - \$499

Aim Higher Foundation
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St. Odilia School
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Smith Foundry Company*
Rebecca Tofte
Toucan Tech
Lisa and Chris Vosbeek
Kate Wollan

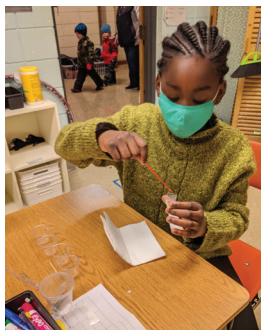
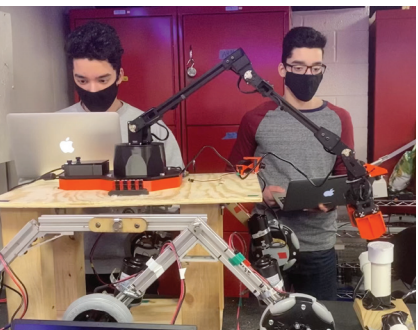
Under \$100

Timothy Barrett
Bewald Roofing Company, Inc.*
Jennifer and Ed Cassidy*
Richard Wallin
Theodore Jessen
Frances Murnane
Drs. Gene and Carrie Pfeifer
Kevin Szozda
Bob Tift
Brenda Tollas
Kari Zobel

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

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For Private & Independent Schools



STEM Grant Program Testimonial

"By receiving this grant from MISF, I have finally been able to bring real time, reliable data collection into my anatomy classroom. Students can collect data which can then be used to complete formal lab reports, which gives students practice communicating their results in a clear and concise manner."

Elizabeth Moravec, Academy of Holy Angels

STEM Community Partnership Program Testimonial

"Our students love Science from Scientists, and they look forward to it and ask about it. It's such a significant event that they are even willing to postpone recess for it!"

Kevin Dalum, Risen Christ Catholic School, Minneapolis

"The We Share Solar Solutionaries program itself provided multi-faceted learning opportunities for the students and for me as a teacher. The integration of science and social studies curricula combined with the driving question on energy access and climate change made the entire experience real and relevant. The students pursued their Knowledge to Action proposal, and, as a result, a local businessman donated nine 375 watt PV solar panels. In addition, we are raising funds to sponsor another solar suitcase for a humanitarian project in Kenya led by a former St. Mary's teacher."

Mary Beth Botz, Saint Mary's Catholic School, Sleepy Eye

What School Leaders Value the Most About Their Membership with MINNDEPENDENT.

"Unified representation and communication to and from MDE and MDH through the pandemic."

"I appreciate that MINNDEPENDENT is responsive to our needs and questions. It is also good to have someone who is advocating for our nonpublic schools."

"The support we receive from the MISF team, the professional development opportunities, and the connectivity to other independent/private school leadership."

"The membership opens possibilities for collaborations that wouldn't normally arise between the different private schools."

"I most value the direction we receive when there is new legislation, changes to laws, new mandates, etc."



MINNDEPENDENT

A Trusted Partner For Private & Independent Schools



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