



MINNDEPENDENT

June 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education,

Membership renewal begins on July 1. For our current member schools and Associate members - THANK YOU! We are hopeful to retain EVERY member into the new year. Over the last four years, member retention has remained very strong with an average of 96% of members renewing their membership. For those not currently a member but would like to gain access to robust programming, partnerships and investing in a strong public policy voice, please [contact me](#) to discuss membership. MINNDEPENDENT remains the "connector to the sector." Take a look at our far reaching [membership map](#) which continues to expand – our schools are small and large, elementary and high school, urban and rural.

The 2023 legislative session concluded on May 22, with a flurry of activity. [Here is a legislative summary](#) prepared by MINNDEPENDENT's lobbyist team of Chas Anderson and Angela Garin of [Park Street Public](#). As you know, advocacy remains at the heart of our organizational mission. Having a strong and unified voice for Minnesota's private and independent school community is critical every year. Strength comes from a connected and robust network when advocating for issues that impact private and independent schools. This also ensures each schools' unique mission is protected. Our promise is that MINNDEPENDENT will defend and advocate for the students, staff and leaders in Minnesota's nonpublic schools.

As a reminder, Governor Walz signed the Free School Meals bill into law. This program begins with the July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 school year. This legislation provides the reimbursement for a free breakfast **and** lunch to students who receive meals through their school's participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Schools that participate in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must now participate in the state funded Free School Meals Program.

Full details can be found on the Minnesota Department of [Education's Free School Meals for Kids Program page](#). This also include a link an updated FAQ document. Additional questions can be submitted to the MN Department of Education, Nutrition Program Services division by emailing mde.fns@state.mn.us.

MINNDEPENDENT has negotiated a discounted rate for member schools interested in participating in the [#SocialSchool4EDU Membership Program](#).

[READ MORE](#)

MINNDEPENDENT
Member Network

[READ MORE](#)

**MINNDEPENDENT
Jobs Board**
Member schools can post job listings for free.

[READ MORE](#)

SHARE THE LINK!

Be sure your school's faculty and staff have subscribed to our newsletter! Important information about STEM grants, Professional Development sessions, advocacy, conferences and

MINNDEPENDENT's fiscal year ends on June 30. We invite you to [make a gift](#) to support our ongoing efforts to connect and support Minnesota's private and independent schools.

We wish you a restful and peaceful summer. Thank you for your support of MINNDEPENDENT.



Tim Benz, President

more.
[CLICK HERE TO
SUBSCRIBE](#)

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



**You Can Get More Inquiries with Opt-in Forms
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Text-Us, Chat and Calendar Booking Links**

Wednesday, June 28 at 1 PM CDT

[Click here to read more.](#)

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2023 STEM Education Conference Tuesday, August 1, 2023 Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove

- Come together with other educators, STEM specialists, and school leaders to gain new insights, discover new trends, and bring innovative ideas back to your school that promote imaginative learning and student engagement.
- **Get ready for an exhilarating day of innovation, inspiration & connection!**
- Expand your knowledge with a variety of 1-hour breakout sessions led by MINNDEPENDENT member teachers, including presentations about STEM grant projects.
- **Explore ways to build social-emotional learning into STEM teaching.**
- Immerse yourself in hands-on experiences to regain student perspectives.
- Check out new education curriculum, products and resources.
- Earn 4.5 BOSA- Approved CEUs

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout sessions will be chosen upon registering. **Space is limited to 25 people for each session so register early to ensure availability**

[View Breakout Descriptions](#)

CONFERENCE FEES

NOTE: Early-bird registration pricing has been extended until June 30!

Member Schools:

\$65 Early-bird registration (through June 30, 2023)

\$75 Regular registration (after June 30, 2023)

Nonmember Schools:

\$130 Early-bird registration (through June 30, 2023)

\$175 Regular registration (after June 30, 2023)

REGISTER HERE

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM - Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM - Welcome and Keynote

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - Session One

10:50 AM - 11:50 AM - Session Two

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM - Lunch

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM - Session Three

2:10 PM - 3:15 PM - Session Four & Conference Evaluation

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM - Pick up CEU certificates

HOST SPONSOR



SPONSOR EXHIBITORS

Sponsor exhibitors will be available to showcase products and services offered to the STEM Education Community. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about sponsorship opportunities.

STEM PROGRAM SPONSORS



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STEMscopes™
THE LEADER IN STEM EDUCATION



QUESTIONS

Contact Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs
lvosbeek@minndependent.org - 651-424-4930

STEM Scoop



MINNESOTA STATE

Engineering Center of Excellence

Virtual Training Symposium

You are invited to attend the Siemens Virtual Training Symposium. There will be four separate one week in duration classes offered intended to help secondary school teachers to obtain the skills and confidence to deliver the Siemens STEM curriculum. Please share this announcement with other teachers.

Upon successful completion of these training sessions, Siemens will provide each teacher with a Certificate of Continuing Education Units (40 contact hours).

Siemens is committed to making the Siemens Engineering Pathway courses effective and affordable for any secondary school and we are pleased to offer **this training free of charge**. However, it is important to note that class enrollment is limited to 21 attendees each, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Course 1: Engineering Design

This virtual course meets daily from 9:00 AM through 4:00 PM ET beginning on **July 10th - 14th**. This is an introduction to the design process and how it is used to solve design problems.

Course 2: Manufacturing and Automation

This virtual course meets daily from 9:00 AM through 4:00 PM ET beginning **July 17th - 21st**. This is a course that solves problems in design for manufacture, CAM, CNC and Programmable Logic Controllers.

Course 3: Mechatronics and the Internet of Things (IoT)

This virtual course meets daily from 9:00 AM through 4PM ET beginning **July 24th - 28th**. This course will focus on the engineering of mechatronic systems, a combination of robotics, electronics, computer programming, control, and product engineering, as well as communications between systems securely over the internet.

Course 4: Engineering Research and Development

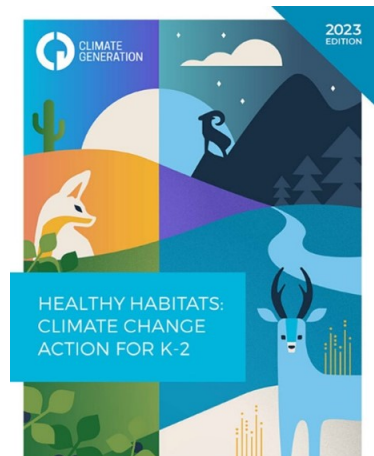
There will be a virtual overview of this course late summer. Date to be announced. Learn more and register:

<http://siemensdesign.tomwhitestem.com/training-schedule>

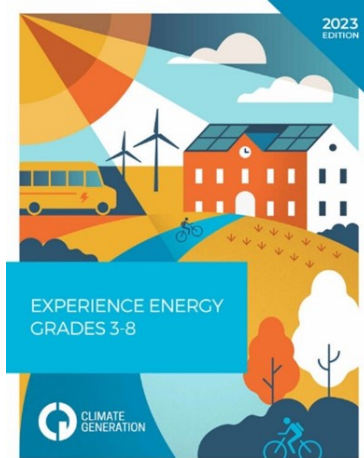
Healthy Habitats: Climate Change Action for K-2

...is Climate Generation's first K-2 curriculum. In three lessons, students will identify the components of habitat around their school, discuss their local observations of climate change and how it impacts their habitats, and collaborate on a class action project that can make their school habitats healthier and more resilient to climate change!

[Download](#)



Experience Energy for Grades 3-8



...has been fully updated with new interdisciplinary activities, more current data, and most importantly, stronger connections between energy and climate justice. In this curriculum, students will define energy; investigate energy use in their community; determine how energy use is connected to climate change; perform an energy audit on their school to think about energy conservation and efficiency; explore various climate solutions related to energy; and develop and implement a climate action project at school!

[Download](#)



Project Scientist is a national education non-profit that helps ALL girls discover the fun and excitement of science, technology, engineering, arts and math. We are here for your future innovator, inventor, engineer, mathematician, researcher and scientist!

[LEARN MORE about After-school Steam Club](#)
[LEARN MORE about Summer Stream Lab](#)

Free Middle Grades Science Curriculum

Propello Science 6-8 is free for teachers and students & includes classroom-ready, inquiry-based curriculum paired with language translations, leveled text, hands-on activities, and more!



[LEARN MORE](#)



Summer Clubs

Looking for computer science programming to inspire young people this summer? [Free Clubs](#) offer curriculum and community-building activities for young people in 3rd-12th grades. Unlock our boot camp model for a concentrated CS experience or incorporate our standard scope and sequence to support longer-term learning. [Sign up](#) for access.

thrivent

Educators Deserve Financial Clarity!

Include **FREE, Financial Education Workshops** at teacher prep trainings, before or after school, or let Thrivent provide a Lunch and Learn.

Workshops run between 30-60 minutes and can be customized to meet your specific needs. No products will be sold.

[LEARN MORE](#)

To schedule a workshop, contact:

Sue Furry, Thrivent's Engagement Leader
sue.furry@thrivent.com or 651-666-8695



Membership Renewal Starts July 1, 2023

Membership renewal invoices will be emailed starting on July 1, 2023. Please watch your inboxes.

Not a member and interested in learning more? [Send us an email!](#) Special pricing for new members is available.



Every lead your school obtains is precious and converting them to a successful application for your school is **key**. Enquiry Tracker sees the lifetime value of every enquiry and captures every single lead. Enquiry Tracker presents a brilliant solution for schools to easily manage future families.

From inquiry to fully integrated 'smart' online enrollment, schools can automate personalized emails, run events, virtual tours and get key insights to manage and grow a robust pipeline. With all data captured in one user-friendly centralized database that can easily be transferred to your school system, at long last you can put an end to your lengthy, cumbersome spreadsheets forever!

Designed exclusively for K-12 schools, Enquiry Tracker can replace a range of existing and often expensive platforms including: Constant Contact, Mailchimp, Campaign Monitor, Active Campaign, Eventbrite, Google Sheets, HubSpot, Hubbli, smartsheet, School Admin, and Open Apply.

With more than 375 schools already using the system, hear how Enquiry Tracker can save you hours every week, deliver powerful and critical reports at the click of a button and build a sustainable future for your school enrolments.

Find out more about Enquiry Tracker through our animated video [here](#)

Book A Free Demo tailored to your school today and go in the draw to win tickets to Australia!

Important Dates

Tuesday, August 1, 2023
STEM Education Conference
Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove

September 25-27, 2023:
School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

A TRUSTED PARTNER
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