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School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

Visionary leaders united in providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students!

Volume XLI

DECEMBER 2018

No. 280

Twas the Month before Legislature

by Linda Marsh, MACSS President



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Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

**January 27-29:
Montana Principals
Conference - Helena
- [Register](#)**

**February 14-16:
[AASA National
Conference on
Education](#) - Los
Angeles**

**February 20-22:
MCEC Conference -
Helena**

Whew! Elections are finally over. I must say I am enjoying television much more since the campaign ads are no longer airing. Now the 66th Session of the Montana Legislature is at the forefront. Newly elected and returning legislators met last month in Helena for orientation. There they had an opportunity to meet and learn about the duties of their important job. With our legislative agenda in place, SAM members are gearing up for legislature. We are prepared to endorse an excellent platform of bills, which will make education in Montana stronger and provide our kids with greater opportunities. Kirk has summoned the troops to be ready for "Call to Action". All systems are in place for January 7 and the start of the 2019 Legislative Session.

However, individually, we all can prepare to assist with education issues at the local level. During the session, we are often asked to contact our local legislators in support or opposition of various bills. This will be much more effective if we begin to build a relationship with legislators now, regardless of their political affiliation. I encourage you to seek out your local legislators and begin conversations before they leave for the Capitol. I invite you to share your thoughts on the issues and offer to provide information, if needed.

Newly elected county superintendents have begun or will begin positions in 15 counties across the state. If you are new, I welcome you to join our association and invite you to the MACSS Mid-Winter Conference in Helena on February 25-28, 2019. Training will take place for new county superintendents. While in Helena, we will be visiting legislators at the Capitol, watching the House and Senate in session, and testifying before committees, if desired.

If you have not spoken before a legislative committee, but wish to during this session, there is a good resource on the Montana Legislature site. The brochure, "Having Your Say before a Montana Legislative Committee", contains lots of information on topics like how to find the most current bill language and procedures for speaking. You can access it at <http://leg.mt.gov> Follow the link at the bottom of the Home page.

Lastly, I would like to recognize those retiring or leaving MACSS. They include: Vicki Gale, Big Horn County; Jane Swanson-Webb, Carbon County; Jamie Bailey, Cascade County; Michael O'Rourke, Deer Lodge County; Jessica McWilliams, Garfield County; Darryl Omsberg, Glacier County; Nancy Higgins, Lincoln County; Jeanne Moon, Pondera County; Jamie Smith, Prairie County; Joby Parker, Rosebud County; Judy Martin, Stillwater County; Lynne Nyquist, Valley County; and Patricia Zinda, Wibaux County. Thank you for your service and contributions to our association. I wish you the best in your new endeavors.

Have a wonderful holiday season,

Linda Marsh
MACSS President

A Good Time to Consider this Great Profession!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

In the midst of the holiday season, it is a good time to reflect on the amazing profession you have chosen. The passion, expertise and work ethic of Montana school administrators is a credit to the education profession. As you create and implement

The 2019 SAM Needs Assessment Survey is Coming Soon to an Inbox Near You!

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

Next week, each individual SAM member from all affiliates will be receiving an email that will contain a link to accessing the 2019 SAM

**February 25-28:
MACSS Mid-Winter
Conference - Helena**

**March 18: Day of
Advocacy - Helena**

**March 18-19: MASS
Spring Conference -
Helena**

**March 18-19:
METAtchED -
Helena**

**** [View the full SAM
Calendar](#)****

Thank you to this
month's featured
Business Partners!



an educational environment for the students and education team you serve, the holiday season is a great way to showcase your school and the value it provides to the community. From holiday programs at the center of gathering your community, to the kind giving projects and

community service, to the educational focus on supporting others at this time of year, your schools and the work you do with your students are critical to the future of your community. Please consider this as you go about your work this month, knowing that you have a substantial purpose in helping students grow into healthy, happy productive citizens, and the impact of that great effort on your community.

At SAM, we are coordinating efforts to assist our profession, and the administrators we serve, with professional learning and advocacy efforts. Professional learning opportunities are at an all-time high. We have 54 administrators in the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) this year. Each of these administrators is working on their personalized professional learning plan that they have developed to impact their students, school, and district. Great work is being accomplished in so many areas. SAM assists in the development of 11 conferences annually that are important for our Montana administrators to gather to learn together and plan together. The [Montana Principals Conference 2019](#) is the next conference on the schedule, January 27-29, in Helena. I hope all principals are planning to attend this outstanding agenda of contemporary issues that will help you with your work for students. District leaders please urge your principals to join their colleagues at this professional learning event. Click on the link to register.

Advocacy work is front and center with the 66th legislative session fast approaching – begins on January 7, 2019. The preliminary work to get SAM's advocacy priorities in front of legislators is underway. We have sent a letter to each legislator describing SAM, our advocacy package and our

Needs Assessment Survey. Each year, this survey serves a very important and distinct purpose in deriving what the needs of the membership are in services, professional development, and advocacy. It is also a very in-depth way of deciphering how SAM can improve in providing the best services possible for members.

It should be noted that the survey has been revised and shortened from previous years and should take less time to complete.

In the past, participation in taking the survey has been minimal in comparison to the number of members within the SAM organization which has steadily increased to over a thousand members. Here is a look at the participation rate for the past five years:

2014 – 35% participated

2015 – 21% participated

2016 – 23% participated

2017 – 19% participated

2018 – 24% participated

The SAM Board of Directors and SAM Office Team kindly request 10 minutes or less of your time to complete this survey and help to make SAM the best association it can be for you and all members! Again, the 2019 SAM Needs Assessment Survey will be coming at you in an email to be sent out next week!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia C. Audist".

**Last Chance - - Call for the
SAM Legislative Network 2019**

**Calling all SAM Members to Join the
SAM Legislative Network 2019**



SAM Leadership

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Vice President

request to work with them on educational issues before, during and after the session. The SAM Advocacy webpage has been updated to include the [2019 Legislative Session](#) where all SAM activities before and during the session will be updated on a regular basis. As an example, the committees for the 2019 Session have been selected and you can review the legislators assigned to each committee on this webpage. The formation of the SAM Legislative Network ([SAMLN19](#)) is nearly complete – please sign up if you haven't done so already. We are planning some webinar training for those participating in the SAMLN19 coming in December. We are working on bills that are SAM action resolutions and have identified legislators to carry these bills. Reports on our specific progress will be uploaded to the webpage on a regular basis, so check in often.

SAM efforts in professional learning and advocacy are examples of our collective effort to improve our great profession! Thank you SAM members for your participation in professional learning and advocacy, as this is how the difference is accomplished!

Have a great December and Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you from your team at SAM!

Montana Principals Conference 2019



Sunday, January 27:

(SAMLN19)!

Are you interested in helping SAM promote our Advocacy Priorities in the 2019 Legislative Session? How about joining the team of SAM members who are committed to communicating effectively about SAM legislative issues/bills and collecting input from your colleagues in your region to let your legislators know about appropriate stances on issues/bills during the session? Click [HERE](#) to see the description and responsibilities of the SAMLN19. We need you to help with this important part of advocating for the students served in our schools!

For a SAM member to join the SAMLN19 click [HERE](#)!

Please sign up to so we can insure that education leaders' voice is clearly heard in the 2019 Legislative session.

Once you sign up, the SAMLN19 will be formed and we will train together to make this a pleasant experience for you using the tools SAM is creating to communicate effectively during the Legislative session.

Cloud Computing

The [Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\)](#) is pleased to continue to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations. Last month CoSN shared information on Cybersecurity with SAM members.

https://cosn.org/sites/default/files/Superintendents%20Initiative%20-%20Cybersecurity_o.pdf.

This month we focus on the topic of Cloud Computing.

Lance Boyd
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Marlin Lewis
Dale Olinger
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Federal Relations
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Kirk Miller
Executive Director
Pat Audet
Associate Director
Gary Wagner
Operations Manager
Kim Scofield
Communications
Specialist

- Keynote - **Jimmy Casas** - "[Live Your Excellence Starting Today!](#)"
- De-Stressing Techniques & Deskercise
- Social Hour Sponsored by T.E.S.T. Inc.

Monday, January 28:

- Keynote - **Dave Weber** - "[Sticks & Stones Exposed](#)"
- **Jimmy Casas** - Culturize - Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes
- **Breakout Session 1** - "[I'm Spread So Thin You Can See Through Me](#)" (Time Management & Organization)
- **Breakout Session 2** - "[I Am NOT Stressed Out!](#)" (Stress Management)
- Hospitality Hour - Sponsored by Lifetouch
- Awards Banquet - EDUCATIONAL SUPERHEROS

In attendance will be:
NASSP President Christine Handy & Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti
NAESP Executive Director Earl Franks

Tuesday, January 29:

- Hot Breakfast
- Candidate Speeches
- EdCamp Breakout Sessions
- Closing Keynote Speaker - **Matt Kuntz** - NAMI

More information

Register HERE!

Upcoming Award Deadlines

December 14, 2018

MAEMSP

- **Adrian Langstaff Award**

Today many school districts - as well as other large and small organizations - are migrating to cloud-based services. The reasons are many and varied, including cost reductions, security, flexibility, easier access, and simplified network management to name just a few. Although moving to the cloud may offer great benefits, it also requires new skills and analysis to determine what, when, and how to successfully make that move. To learn more, check out CoSN's one-page review at:

http://www.cosn.org/sites/default/files/Superintendents%20Initiative%20-%20Cloud%20Computing_1.pdf.

CoSN is pleased to help school leaders understand the urgency for assuring that school systems are secure by providing a list of the top five reasons why school leaders must make cybersecurity a priority. you are encouraged to read this one-page document at

https://cosn.org/sites/default/files/Superintendents%20Initiative%20-%20Cybersecurity_0.pdf.

CoSN has partnered with edWeb to provide a series of monthly webinars on topics essential for leading digital transformations. School superintendents serve as panelists on each webinar and share their stories and expertise. Every webinar is recorded for viewing by those who are not able to join the live broadcast. The focus of the December 10 webinar (scheduled for 5:00 pm ET) is on Cloud Computing. Learn more and register for this free webinar at

<https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20181210/>

If your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please contact Brian Calvary, CAE, CoSN Director of

- **Friends of Education Award**
- **Aspiring Principal Scholarship Award**
- **NAESP Conference Incentive Scholarship Award**
- **Appreciation Award**
- **National Distinguished Principal Award**

More information: [2019 MAEMSP AWARDS](#)

MASSP

- **Future Administrators Scholarship**
- **Community Partner**
- **Principal of the Year**
- **Conference Incentive Award**

More information: [2019 MASSP AWARDS](#)

January 11, 2019

MCASE

- **Special Education Director**
- **Special Education Teacher**
- **Regular Education Teacher**

More information: [2019 MCASE AWARDS](#)

Membership and Chapters,
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Thank you to SAM's Business Partners!

Please take time to visit their websites.

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