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School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

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

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No. 309

What's Your Leadership Theme for the New School Year?



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Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

July 26-27 2021: SAM Administrators Institute

September

October

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

Thank you to this month's featured Business Partners!

by Dr. Greg Dern, MASS President

Today opens our new school year. Ahead of us are the hopes of success for everyone who we serve, and the challenge of meeting needs in ways that fulfill our vision for education. All of us are committed to the complexities involved in leading schools, and it can be said of school leadership that leadership in K-12 education focuses on transforming organizations to achieve optimal success and advancement, and it focuses on creating and sustaining powerful learning communities. Taken separately, each application of leadership in K-12 education is premised on distinct outcomes.

On the one hand, transforming an organization requires skills to integrate and synthesize personal-, organizational-, and societal-level values to enhance the organization's economic value, create efficiencies, and align services with needs. Leaders of K-12 education organizations know these issues well when developing budgets, examining enrollment trends, and creating equity in curriculum development. On the other hand, creating and sustaining powerful learning communities supports and promotes individual and team capabilities to adaptively engage in change initiative processes. School leaders accomplish this by intentionally connecting the strategy of an organization with the professional identities and the personal development of the members of the organization.

Making headway on these two fronts of leadership may require us to develop a theme introduced at the beginning of each year and woven into the fabric of our vision for education that is carried out across the school year in what we do and speak. Since we are in the business of knowledge, themes about the value of knowledge are reasonable places to begin.

Knowledge and reason are closely tied together – specifically by truth, openness, and toleration – and the relationship between the two locates for us the sovereignty of reason. In other words, reason is not the conclusion of a particular argument, rather is a process through which knowledge is closely examined and knowledge in its many forms (e. g., instrumental, sound-knowledge) remains for us an epistemic pursuit unique to the work we do as school leaders. So, what is your theme for the school year? What will drive the way you value knowledge and the processes of reason-making in your organizations this year? As for me, I have chosen the word value as my theme for the year – it's both a noun and a verb – because our value in valuing everyone is what raises us to the next level in our work.

I wish you a happy and successful year!

*Dr. Greg Dern
MASS President*

SAM Professional Learning Opportunities



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SAM Administrators Institute 2021

SAM Administrators Institute 2021



July 26 - 27
 On-Site in Helena & Virtual

Reimagining the Future with
 Strategies of Hope Moving Forward

Empowering administrators to be a beacon of
 hope for their schools, districts, and communities

Be sure to join your colleagues at the SAM Administrators Institute 2021 (SAMAI 21)! Keynote presenters, Will Richardson and John Perricone are sure to provide engaging messages and check out the schedule for professional learning focused around Social Emotional & Mental Health, Accelerating Learning, and Infrastructure Needs: [SAM AI 2021 - Schedule of Clinic Sessions](#) This year's event will be held at the Delta Colonial by Marriott in Helena or virtually. Consider registering you and your team to attend. It is a great opportunity for your team to connect and set aside time to begin to plan for fall. You are also invited to celebrate SAM's 50th Anniversary that will launch during SAM AI 21! Come celebrate the great accomplishments of 50 years of SAM!

Click [HERE](#) for more information! Register [HERE](#)!

SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2021-22

Connecting new, experienced, and aspiring administrators through SAM LPLP's multi-faceted blended learning approach!

<p>1 One-on-One Coach/Mentor</p>	<p>2 Online Resource Center</p>	<p>3 Collegial Learning Networks (CLNs)</p>	 SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2021-22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Click HERE to Register</p> </div>
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Now is the time to consider how you might set yourself up to have the very best school year ever! New and experienced administrators have begun registering for the 2021-22 SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program! The official launch of SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) 2021-22 will take place at the SAM LPLP Summit on July 27th from noon - 3:00. The Summit is intended for members already registered

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to participate in the program and also for those wanting more information. Tailored to meet the needs of new, experienced, and aspiring administrators, SAM LPLP may be the just-in-time professional learning that will meet the needs of you and your administrative team.

Click [HERE](#) for more information or [HERE](#) to Register!

SAM Connecting Resources During Changing Times!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director



The beginning of the 2021-22 school year begins today with optimism and hope for creating a learning environment in each of our schools that will assist each child to develop their full potential! 2020-21 has been an outstanding year for your professional association, SAM, with great contributions from over 1100 members insuring progress on our strategic plan and excellent educational opportunities for our Montana children! The COVID pandemic has impacted all lives and has driven the national and state dialogue now and into the future. Our nation and world are changing, and your SAM organization is creating an atmosphere for these changes to be implemented with the fidelity required and expected for our children. Attending hundreds of virtual meetings and a couple in-person the past 9 months, we are listening to the needs of our members. Our story of progress is easy to share resulting from the collective energy and effort of administrators all across our state. I share with you the most recent SAM Update that encapsulates the progress of this year while also points to a very robust agenda for 2021-22, with our administrators and SAM leading the way on numerous efforts to positively impact the education of our Montana students ...



New Addition to the SAM Team

Please join us in welcoming SAM's new Director of Operations - Finance, Membership, Conferences - Marcus Meyer who officially joined the SAM team today! Marcus has been working as an Investigator/Compliance Specialist for the Montana Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection for the past nine years. A graduate of Carroll College, he has also worked for the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program and as a Middle School Lead Coordinator/Supervisor for the Helena Public Schools PEAK Enrichment Program. As the son of a retired school administrator and teacher, Marcus understands and appreciates the importance of providing excellence in education to our Montana students. We are excited by his professionalism and manner, as well as his experiences, and believe he is a good match for joining the SAM team! Welcome, Marcus!!

Our previous SAM Director of Operations, Gary Wagner, accepted a new position in the banking industry. We are sad to see

Kim Scofield
Director of Member Services
& Professional Learning

SAM was organized as an association for administrators in 1971. It represents the interests, aspirations, and professional leadership of Montana administrators. Over 1100 members network under six affiliate associations ([MASS](#), [MAEMSP](#), [MASSP](#), [MCASE](#), [MACSS](#), [META](#)) to promote GREAT Montana Schools, supporting leader's passion for providing an outstanding education to Montana's children!

The [SAM Strategic Plan 2018-22](#) outlines the benefits being a SAM member affords each education leader through their contributions to the greater good of the education community to inspire our students...

SAM [Executive Director's Strategic Plan Report for 4th Quarter 2020-21](#)

Leadership Involved in Decisions that Impact Education

- AKA – SAM members working together to literally have a seat at the table (input) on all efforts that impact the education of Montana's children.
- [COVID-19 Information for Schools](#) SAM webpage for Administrators
 - [Montana ESSER I, ESSER II, ESSER III Estimated Federal Stimulus Allocations by District 4-7-21](#) (from the OPI website) is the best current estimate of funding intended for schools as the legislature finished their work on the appropriation of federal ESSER II ([HB 630](#)) and ESSER III ([HB 632](#)) federal funds.
- [Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update](#)
 - [2020-21 SAM Administrative Vacancy Report Executive Summary](#)
 - [Montana District/School Leadership Staffing Report 2020-21](#)
 - [RISE4MT Update January 2020](#) webpage
 - [OPI Educator Recruitment and Retention](#) webpage
- [GREAT 2020](#) released at MCEL 2020 on Oct 15 with polling of Montanans and public school support

him go but congratulate him and offer our thanks for his six years of stellar service to SAM. On behalf of our SAM team and all of our members, we thank Gary for all he has done for our association and the administrators his work has enhanced all across the state!

Now Accepting Nominations for SAM Awards!

- [G.V. Erickson Award](#) - Nominations are open until October 1, 2021: The G.V. Erickson Award is given to a member of the School Administrators of Montana who has made the greatest contribution to the betterment of education in Montana; something that G.V. did throughout his career. This is the most honored award a school administrator of Montana can receive.
- [Erdie Memorial Scholarship](#) - Applications close October 1, 2021: A Dr. Jay Erdie Memorial Mentor Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 will be awarded annually to a deserving educator. The purpose of the scholarship is to "train and mentor" new Montana school administrators. The scholarship will be awarded to a school administration candidate who plans to begin and/or complete his/her administrative credentials and intends to work in a Montana school district. Once the candidate has secured a position and notified the SAM office, a trained mentor will be provided through SAM's Mentor

- [K-12 Vision Group](#) webpage
- [School Safety](#) and [MT-PEC Project Safe Schools and Suicide Prevention](#)
- [SAM Needs Assessment 2021 Executive Summary and the SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2021](#) provides recommendations for future professional learning, advocacy, and services
- [Broadband Connectivity Progress](#), ESH [Report](#) and [Montana Progress Report, One-Pager 6/8/20](#)
- [Student Data Privacy/Terms of Service META Project – HB 745 – Launch – MTSPA](#)
- ARM [Chapter 57](#) (Educator Licensure) and [Chapter 58](#) (Prof Educator Prep Programs) Task Force

Advocacy

- [2021 Legislative Session](#) Update
- [SAM Delegate Assembly 2021](#)
- [Federal Advocacy](#) Update

Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- The [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program \(LPLP\)](#) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators. Over the past 7 years, SAM LPLP has supported 490 administrators in meeting their personalized professional learning needs.
 - [SAM LPLP 2020-21](#) with 70 administrators registered and 8 [CLNs](#) collaborative efforts in progress, and the [SAM LPLP Huddle](#) highlighting resources. See the [SAM LPLP 2020-21 Mid Year Executive Summary](#).
 - [SAM LPLP 2021-22](#) launched on April 16, 2021. Many creative opportunities for personalized professional learning are being developed. SAM LPLP Summit 2021-22 on July 27.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 11 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the 'Professional Learning'

Program to assist during his/her first year on the job.

Welcome to Our New SAM Business Partners

- **K12 Montana, Inc**



K12 Montana, Inc is a Great Falls based innovation company specifically focused on K12 education. They offer a wide range of technology projects and can support your district technology team or provide complete managed services. K12 MT created K12 Panel, the first of its kind K12 focused computer management system that simplifies inventory-management and technical functions, including tracking and mapping PCs and Chromebooks, remotely installing software and managing PCs, easily reimaging PCs, detailed reporting, and more!

For a full description of the K12 business model and partnership opportunities, click [HERE](#).

- **Nexus Portal**

[‘Conferences’](#) tab on the website.MT-PEC planning Collaborative Professional Learning following the 2021 Legislative Session. MT-PEC After the Advocacy Virtual Event – [MT-PEC 2021 Legislative Session Summaries – Bills Impacting Education 5.24.21](#) and [Recording](#) of the event.

- [SAM Administrators Institute 2021](#) on July 26-27, 2021 – Planned for blended delivery with in person conference in Helena. “Reimagining the Future with Strategies of Hope Moving Forward” with focus zones including Social, Emotional & Mental Health, Accelerating Learning, and Infrastructure Needs, along with Celebrating 50 Years of SAM. Event plans will follow COVID-19 CDC guidelines.
- [MCEL 2021](#) on October 20-22, 2021 planned for Helena with blended delivery.
- [MT-PEC Collaborative Professional Development Flexibility & Efficiency - Framework](#)
- [SAM Membership Join Here Benefits SAM Web Calendar](#)
- [SAM Youth Endowment](#) – Distributed
- [SAM and Affiliate Awards – Current Award Opportunities](#)
- SAM developed web-based communication tools for the use of our Members. Click [HERE](#) to see the instructions on how to use the E-list tool. Click [DOCUMENT](#) or [VIDEO](#) to learn how to use SAM Community Forums.
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, [SAM Bulletin](#) and weekly [SAM Update](#), colleague networks, state and federal advocacy networks, legal assistance, professional liability insurance, technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions, use of social media, E-Lists, digital [Community Forums](#) to enhance member communication, many more...

Make sure to follow SAM on Twitter [@MTEDLeadership](#) & on Facebook at [Sam Montana](#)

Thank you SAM members for your excellent work in 2020-21. SAM is ready to continue our collective effort for the greater good of the education community to inspire our students in 2021-22!



Nexus Portal is a next generation community engagement platform. It brings common day-to-day tasks onto a seamless, digital platform. Each module of the Nexus Portal is purposefully built and “goes the extra mile”. It provides a powerful platform that’s geared towards community building and not restricted to the classroom, convenient and useful features across mobile and web interfaces, a modern user interface and user experience and is designed to evolve. Visit [Nexus Portal](#) for more information.

• D.A. Davidson



Founded in Montana in 1935, D.A. Davidson & Co. is the largest full-service investment firm located in the Northwest. D.A. Davidson is proud to assist in the process of making our schools as safe and effective as possible by issuing bonds to finance school improvement projects as large as a new school to as small as a new roof. They understand first-hand the vital importance of continued investments in our school facilities for the long-term success of our Montana communities. The D. A. Davidson team works closely with schools across Montana to help Superintendents and other officials successfully navigate the bond issue process. They offer tailored financing solutions designed specifically for each individual school that also capitalizes on the past experience of other schools. Visit the [website for more information](#).

Keith D. Miller

CoSN Innovative Technology Solutions to LEADING EDUCATION INNOVATION **Address Digital Equity**

The [Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\)](#) and its Montana state affiliate chapter, [Montana Educational Technologists Association \(META\)](#) are pleased to continue to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations.

The Empowered Superintendent edWebinar Series – Monday, July 12, 2021, 3:00 pm MT

“Innovative Technology Solutions to Address Digital Equity: Award-Winning Collaborative Leadership Strategies”

The next episode of the monthly EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar series, co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net, and sponsored by ClassLink, airs on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 3:00 pm Mountain Time. The July webinar is titled *“Innovative Technology Solutions to Address Digital Equity: Award-Winning Collaborative Leadership Strategies”*.

Student access to robust digital tools is key to their success as 21st-century citizens. Yet many students have limited access to these tools both at school and at home. Closing this gap entails a broad approach which requires that schools and communities work together. CoSN created the Community Leadership Award for Digital Equity to encourage and recognize those districts that are working to eliminate inequities and narrow the access gap. The winning district team is selected based on its efforts to build community awareness and actions taken to narrow the Homework Gap and other issues related to Digital Equity.

The Superintendents and District Technology Leaders from each of the school districts that were awarded CoSN’s Community Leadership Award for Digital Equity in 2021 (Desert Sands USD, CA) and in 2020 (Santa Fe Public Schools, NM) are the featured guests in the July 12 edWebinar broadcast. Join the conversation with Superintendent Scott Bailey and Dr. Kelly May-Volmer, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services, from Desert Sands USD, CA along with Dr. Veronica C. Garcia, Superintendent, and Dr. Tom Ryan, Former Chief Information and Strategy Officer from Santa Fe Public Schools, NM as they share the strategies they use to build community awareness and the actions they have taken to address a wide variety of issues related to digital equity. Tools and resources from CoSN’s Digital Equity Initiative will be presented. Additionally, the latest information from CoSN’s Student Home Internet Connectivity Study will be reviewed.

Free registration for the July 12, 2021 webinar is now available [HERE](#). Webinars in this series are also freely available as recordings [HERE](#) and via podcast [HERE](#) a day or two after the initial live broadcast.

CoSN Resources:

1) CoSN Digital Equity Toolkit

CoSN's Digital Equity Toolkit spotlights ways in which schools and districts have successfully addressed digital equity challenges and identifies community engagement opportunities around digital access and inclusion. The toolkit discusses five strategies schools and districts can implement to address the "Homework Gap" and four steps school leaders can take to collaborate with local governments and other community leaders. You can read the executive summary and access the link to download the complete Digital Equity Toolkit at <https://www.cosn.org/DEtoolkit>

2) CoSN Student Home Internet Connectivity Study

CoSN recently released the preliminary findings of a breakthrough study on students' at-home internet connectivity which provides guidelines on bandwidth, devices, and other remote learning needs based on the data. The study was supported by a grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI). The findings serve as a guide for school district leaders who are working to improve online learning equity. Key findings from the Student Home Connectivity Study as well as a link to access the full report are available at <https://cosn.org/digitalequity>.

CoSN Membership

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 Membership and Chapters, at bcalvary@cosn.org.

Thank you to SAM's Business Partners!

Please take time to visit their websites.

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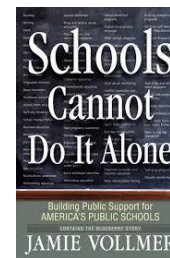
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