



[Member Logout](#) 

[Search our site...](#)



[Home](#)

[About SAM](#)

[MACSS](#)

[MAEMSP](#)

[MASS](#)

[MASSP](#)

[META](#)

[MCASE](#)

[Advocacy](#)

[Prof. Learning](#)

School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

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

Volume XLV

July/August 2023

No. 330



In This Issue...

1. [MASS President Message](#)
2. [SAM Executive Director Message](#)
3. [SAM Professional Learning Opportunities](#)
4. [SAM Award Nominations are Open](#)
5. [CoSN Update](#)
6. [SAM Welcomes New Business Partners](#)
7. [SAM Business Partners](#)

Don't. Read. This. Article.

by Dale Olinger, MASS President

Okay, so you're not great at following instructions. Perhaps you saw the author's name and simply couldn't resist. I understand. Educational leaders are notorious for trying to do it all. We can always check one more thing off the list before we go home for the day. Our fallibility is what makes us human. But also we're tenacious, curious, and ambitious champions for public education. Because of these qualities and countless others, I contend that members of SAM are, in many ways, superhuman.

Every member of SAM has a tough job, regardless of their affiliate. Unquestionably tough. Jobs we fight to keep. Jobs that exist at the pleasure of the public or a board of trustees. Deeply specialized jobs. Jobs that no right-minded person could mold into an accurate job description. Our jobs often put us centered in the proverbial crosshairs; clear targets for scrutiny from every conceivable angle. Our jobs take a toll on our bodies because we work our backsides off- figuratively and literally. Much of our hind-sides get worn down by exhausting hours, stress, missing meals, and laps around the building. That which remains will invariably be chewed upon by a lunatic with an axe to grind. And yet here you are, reading your professional newsletter amid a gorgeous Montana summer. A summer you deserve more than most.

What draws us to this tough work? What drives us to forge ahead amidst the mounting challenges? It probably isn't the money, fame, glory, stress, or toll on your family. So what is it? I believe it's us. I know we got into education to work for kids, and I'm not suggesting that's any less true today. Some of us work with kids often while some much less than we'd wish, but we always work with each other. Side by side, we do this work for kids. Side by side we laugh, cry, and shake our heads in disbelief. Side by side, we share true stories that end with, "You just can't make this stuff up!" Side by side, we uphold the sanctity of public education.

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

**SAM Administrators
Institute 2023,**
July 24-26, Great
Northern, Helena

**MASS/MCASE Fall
Conference,**
September 18-19,
GranTree, Bozeman

**MACSS Fall
Conference,**
September 28-29,
Malta

**MCEL, October 18-
20,** DoubleTree,
Billings

**SAM Annual
Business Meeting,**
October 19,
DoubleTree, Billings

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

**Thank you to
this month's
featured
Business
Partners!**

This unity is powerful. I believe that our strength grows exponentially with colleagues in our districts, counties, regions, and state. This journey may be challenging from time to time, but you're in good company. SAM is about a thousand members strong, and 999 others will walk this path with you, just as you would do for each of them. Embrace this strength, for it will carry us far.

Now for goodness sake, shut down your email and heed the advice of Stephen Covey to "sharpen your saw". I hope to see you all in Helena for SAM AI where we'll learn, refresh, and rejuvenate...side by side. Until then, soak up some sun, wet your toes in the river, take a hike, and enjoy the gifts of our great state.

Dale Olinger
MASS President

2023-24: Make this your year to engage with SAM

by Dr. Rob Watson, SAM Executive Director

We have all heard the old saying, "leaders eat last," sometimes also described as "servant leadership." There is a good chance that you entered this profession because you enjoy helping others. So it is no surprise that most school leaders always invest time and resources in the success of others, but rarely make that same investment in themselves.

As you plan for a new school year, I would encourage you to make a plan to invest in yourself, which includes investing in your own professional learning. What can your professional organization do for you? How does your involvement with SAM help to sustain resiliency? How does an investment in your learning also benefit your school and district? Perhaps SAM can help answer some of these important questions.

Our SAM Theme for 2023-24 is *Resilient Leaders, Healthy Schools*. The health and success of your school depend on your well-being and resilience. In other words, your school and district will benefit when YOU invest in YOU. Your professional organization can support you on your journey of self-investment.

This year, we have designed several ways for our members to engage with SAM. Beyond face-to-face conferences, we are exploring interactive webinars, PLCs, and new social media venues. Here are some simple ways to invest in yourself, while at the same time engage with your professional organization: **[SAM Engagement Opportunities 2023-24](#)**

Thanks for considering involvement with SAM. We look forward to supporting you in your important work.

Rob

SAM Professional Learning Opportunities:

SAM Administrators Institute 2023: *Resilient Leaders, Healthy Schools*



BETTERLESSON
Personalized PD



SAM Leadership

SAM

Sara Novak
President

Carol Phillips
President Elect

Shelley Andres
Past President

MASSP

Sheri Heavrin
President

Rhiannon Beery
President Elect

Jason Slater
Vice President

KJ Poepping
Past President

MAEMSP

Julie Hornby
President

Mark Goyette
President Elect



Are you registered for SAM AI 2-23? The conference schedule has been released and is available for review on the [SAM AI 2023 Conference Landing Page!](#) Get ready to join us for three incredible days of learning, networking, and inspiration focused on *Resilient Leaders, Healthy Schools.*

Here are some of the highlights you can expect at the conference:

1. **Pre-conference Workshop by Pete Hall:** Start off strong with an instructional planning workshop led by renowned educator Pete Hall. This workshop, sponsored by MTASCD, will provide valuable insights into effective instructional strategies.
2. **Keynote Presentation by Pete Hall:** Join Pete Hall as he delivers an empowering keynote on the significance of resilience in leaders and fostering positive school cultures.
3. **Keynote Presentation by James Bailey:** Don't miss James Bailey's keynote session on "Keeping our Teachers Two Primary Strategies Leaders Can Use to Increase Retention."
4. **Focus Zone Sessions:** Dive deeper into critical areas of leadership, behavioral health, and innovation & instruction. Explore topics such as school culture and climate, the science of reading, best practices in school based behavioral health, advancements in AI, the graduate profile and Accreditation, instructional planning and assessment, ways to engage with SAM, and more.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, network with fellow administrators, and enhance your leadership skills to prepare you for the upcoming school year.

To register, visit the [SAM Administrators Institute webpage](#) or go directly to the [SAM Administrators Institute Registration Form](#)

SAM SEL for Education Leaders PLC

Take time to focus on yourself and your own resiliency skills. We are recruiting 25 leaders from across the state to participate in SAM's first ever PLC. This cohort will be 100% virtual. It will be led by two national experts in leadership and resiliency. As a typical PLC, you will have an opportunity to share and collaborate with other MT leaders, while building your own skills in the area of SEL Leadership. Space is only open to the first 25 who register so please do not delay. Info and Registration here: [SAM SEL Leaders, Professional Learning Cohort](#)

Mentoring/Coaching: SAM LPLP

SAM will continue the long standing tradition of providing a low cost 1-1 coaching/mentoring model with the Leaders Professional Learning Program. If you are new to your position OR if you would benefit from a mentor, this is the right program for you. LPLP provides each person with an experienced mentor that will provide support through 1-1 conversations and check-ins throughout the school year. Remember that leadership can be a lonely job

Kelly Kinsey
Vice President
Ted Miller
Past President
Barb Droessler
Ben Lambert
SAM Representatives

MASS
Dale Olinger
President
Joel Graves
President Elect
Hannah Nieskens
Federal Relations
Coordinator

MCASE
Taylor Salmi
President

MACSS
Pam Birkeland
President

META
Carol Phillips
President

SAM Office
Dr. Rob Watson
Executive Director
Kim Scofield
Director of Member
Services & Professional
Learning
Marcus Meyer
Director of Operations,
Membership & Finances

The LPLP provider can be a great resource for quick guidance or a confidential ear to provide a sounding board in difficult situations. Register here: [SAM LPLP: 1-1 Leadership Coaching & Mentoring](#), 2023-24 school year.

Nominations Now Being Accepted for SAM Awards

- **[G.V. Erickson Award](#)** - Nominations are open until Friday, September 29, 2023: 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 will be accepted until Friday, September 29, 2023: 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 the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program to assist during his/her first year on the job.
- **[MASSP Assistant Principal of the Year](#)** - Applications will be accepted until Friday, October 13, 2023: This award recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. The program honors high school assistant principals who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of personal excellence; collaborative leadership; curriculum, instruction and assessment; and personalization. To be eligible, the nominee must be an active assistant principal and have been an active assistant principal for at least three consecutive years.



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.

AI and Generative AI:

The arrival of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI (i.e. Chat GPT) on the K-12 education scene have generated a broad spectrum of responses, ranging from fear and anxiety to curiosity and even celebration. Amidst of it is one underlying reality...we all need to learn more about AI and how best to leverage what it can provide for our educators, administrators, students and families.

CoSN is pleased to share the following resources to assist school leaders in navigating their AI paths:

1) EmpowerED Superintendents Critical Focus Issue One-Pager on “Artificial Intelligence & Generative AI”.

<https://www.cosn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/EmpSupAI.pdf>

This document provides an overview of seven essential guidelines for Superintendents and school district administrators to use when working with their leadership teams in creating action steps and policies dealing with AI and Generative AI.

2) Artificial intelligence in K-12 Primer

<https://www.cosn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CoSN-AI-Report-2023-1.pdf>

The CoSN Artificial Intelligence (AI) in K-12 report was originally released in 2020. It was recently updated to reflect today's ecosystem.

3) **CoSN AI web page** (<https://www.cosn.org/ai/>) provides links to the above AI open resources as well as to Member Briefs on Generative AI, titled “*Chat GPT...Above the Noise*” and “*Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom Privacy Considerations for New Technologies*”. A link for CoSN members to Join the AI in Education CoSN Network Discussion Area is also provided.

EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Series

The EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Series just concluded its fifth year of monthly broadcasts. This series is co-hosted by AASA and CoSN in partnership with edWeb.net. [ClassLink](#) has graciously sponsored the series for all five years. If you missed any of the live broadcasts you are welcome to access recordings as well as podcasts of many of the broadcasts at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>. A few of the topics covered during the 2022-2023 edLeader Panel Series include:

- *Leading and Implementing Educational Technology Innovations: Hurdles, Accelerators, and Tech Enable*
- *Addressing Technology's Diversity and Equity Through District Policies, Practices, and Personnel*
- *Leveraging Technology Tools to Provide Equitable Learning Opportunities for ALL Students*

Introducing *edWeb Voice*, edWeb.net's Online Magazine:

edWeb.net recently launched “*edWeb Voice*”. In this publication edWeb.net highlights “the Voices of Education Leaders on Important Topics in Education”. CoSN and AASA were honored to have two of our recent edLeader Panel broadcasts featured in the June-July issue of *edWeb Voice* which you can access at this link:

<https://home.edweb.net/edweb-voice-june-2023/>

CoSN Membership:

If you, your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN, please contact membership@cosn.org.

SAM Welcomes New Business Partner



[STOPit Solutions](#) is dedicated to improving the safety and well-being of K12 communities by providing reliable, user-friendly safety tools and wellness resources that promote positive school cultures. Their solutions provide students, staff and families a safe place to ask for help or report safety concerns without having to self-identify, protecting their privacy and dignity. STOPit Solutions in partnership with

WMPLC and MSSA have created the Montana CARES Safety & Wellness App. This app is fully funded for Montana K12's until 6/30/2025.

Thank you to SAM's Business Partners!

Please take time to visit their websites.

Montana Big Sky Sponsors



Health Insurance
PO Box 4579
Helena, MT 59601
aholmlund@ms-sf.org
406-457-4401



Total Education Solutions in
Technology (T.E.S.T.)
PO Box 2900
Missoula, MT 59805
liz@testkids.com
888-401-6950



Empowering Teachers To
Drive Their Own Professional
Learning
84 Sherman Street
Cambridge, MA 02140
jeff.liberty@betterlesson.com

Montana Glacier Sponsors



Infinite Campus is the largest American-owned student information system
stephanie.sondrol@infinitecampus.com
763-458-1752



A turn-key library of interactive lessons
that enrich K-12 instruction
Erin Murphy
erin.boardworks@gmail.com
406-929-1903



School property & liability insurance
1200 North Montana Ave.
Helena, MT. 59601
rholman@paynewest.com
406-533-1035



K-12 online curriculum and
blended learning solutions
Chet Riddle
chet.riddle@imaginelearning.com
480-347-6008



A leading provider of
cloud-based education
products
45 E Madison Ave, Ste 7
Clifton, NJ 07011
888-963-7550



Helping Families and Schools Create
Two- and Four-Year College Graduates
With Minimal Debt
211 N. 14th Street, Suite 315
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-475-7737



Healthcare Reimagined
4500 N. Lewis Dr.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Montana Mountain Sponsors



Energy Efficiency and Renewable
Energy Solutions
34 West 6th Avenue, Suite 2B
Helena, MT 59601
bsolan@ameresco.com
406-461-7432



Partners in Clean, Safe & Healthy
Buildings
2525 Overland Avenue
Billings, MT 59102
adamu@bruco.com
800-652-1020



Targeted Professional Development
Daniel Sybrant
557 Cow Creek Lane
Corvallis, MT
Daniel.Sybrant@measuredprogress.org
888-413-3669, ext. 5776



Nexxus
Next generation education
ecosystem
38 Grenville Street, Suite 4403
Toronto, ON M4Y1A5
tony@coffeechatnetwork.io



Corebridge Financial (formerly Valic)
Annuities, life insurance
430 Ryman St., #102
Missoula, MT 59892
brian.olsen@corebridgefinancial.com
406-329-5500



Reach Higher Montana
Jason Butcher
Outreach Director
406-366-0777
406-422-1275 Ext. 801
jbutcher@reachhighermontana.org



Standards-based digital curriculum
resources for
K-12 classrooms
Emily Keith
EKeith@discoveryed.com
847-337-9546



Online Learning for students grades 6-12
One East Broward Blvd. Suite 1599
Ft. Lauderdale FL 33301
matthew.krise@edisonlearning.com
754-778-2617



Auto, homeowners, life insurance and
financial services
617 W Stolley Park Road
Grand Island, NE 68801
keith.jorgensen@horacemann.com
866-517-6870



School Workers' Compensation & Liability Coverage
 PO Box 7029 - Helena, MT 59601
 sbubb@mtsba.org
 Phone: 406-457-4418



Provides Orton-Gillingham Sunday System Programs and Training
 Amanda Burnette
 3001 Metro Drive, Suite 480
 Bloomington, MN. 55425
 amanda.burnette@winsorlearning.com



School portraits, yearbooks & sports portraits
 2110 Overland Ave., #115A
 Billings, MT 59102
 800-862-7183



C&C School Accounting Software For Schools In Montana Since 1980
 Help@CandCSchoolAccounting.com
 800-442-6107



Safe, Easily Managed School Networks
 106 East Sixth Street, Suite 500
 Austin TX 48701
 JArnold@lightspeedsystems.com
 512-904-0544



Protecting every child's digital journey
 11545 W. Bernardo Court Suite 204
 San Diego, CA 92127
 844-723-3932



National provider of scalable, fiber technology solutions
[Spectrum Enterprises Local Contacts](#)



Powering Your School's Identity
 2201 Brookwood Dr. Suite 115
 Little Rock, AR 72202
 samantha.bentley@apptegy.com
 501-472-5636



Providing tech solutions to Montana since 2004
 Karl Moritz
 karl@communicationres.com
 406-552-2374

Montana Meadow Sponsors



A Kelly Services® Company

Substitute Staffing Service
Maya Burnaugh
3001 Metro Drive, Suite 200
Bloomington, MN. 55425
mburnaugh@teachersoncall.com



K12 Montana, Inc.
Creator of K12 Panel -
Making IT work for you!
Jeff Patterson
jeffp@k12mt.com



Therapy Your Way
811 E. Washington Ave,
Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703
844-536-8266
TheTeam@dotcomtherapy.com



ARCHITECTURE

Collaborating with you to innovate
1627 W. Main Street Suite #325
Bozeman, MT 59715
Berickson@45arch.com
406-577-2345



Systems and applications to reduce
the financial burden of federal
student loans
breck@essources.com
833-468-9666



WE MAKE IT BETTER!

Managed IT Services, Advanced
Cybersecurity Services, Product
Procurement
500 N Higgins Ave #201
Missoula, MT 59802
406-721-6462
Sales@firstsolution.com



Technology planning, project &
solution services
2135 Charlotte Street
Bozeman MT 59718
bvanceeve@pinecc.com
406-294-5470

- [June 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [May 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [April 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [March 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [February 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [January 2023 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [December 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [November 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [October 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [September 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)
- [July-August 2022 SAM Bulletin](#)

SAM Bulletins from Previous Years

© School Administrators of Montana

900 N. Montana Ave., Suite A-4 Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (406)442-2510 Fax: (406)442-2518



Back to top 

Having technical issues? Click [HERE](#) for help!

powered by  **MemberClicks**