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## *School Administrators of Montana*

# **BULLETIN**

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

**Volume XLIII**

**April 2022**

**No. 317**



### **Promote the Value Your School Brings to Your Community by Shadowing a Student**

*by Shawn Hendrickson, MASSP President*

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## **Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events**

**June 8, 2022: DaRud Golf Scramble**

**June 9, 2022:**

- **SAM Board Meeting**
- **Delegate Assembly**
- **Caucuses**
- **Evening of Excellence**

**June 10, 2022: Delegate Assembly**

**July 25 - 27, 2022: SAM Administrators Institute**

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

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

As we start to wind down the school year I wanted to do something different. In the words of SAM Executive Director Kirk Miller, "Springtime is a perfect time to re-invigorate your efforts to engage with your community, describing the rich opportunities your school provides for students, parents, and the entire community". Instead of writing about observations from the field, talking about COVID or offering advice, I am issuing a challenge to everyone who falls under the umbrella of SAM...Shadow a Student for a full school day. What is the reasoning behind shadowing a student? The idea is to put yourself in the place of the students you are serving, looking at school from their lens, and reflecting on the time spent with student(s). Speaking from my own personal experiences, it can be an eye-opening endeavor.

The first time I shadowed a student, I followed a high school student-athlete around for the day. We had student-athletes concerned about how long their day was. So I shadowed the student from practice, which started at 6am, through the school day, and then through after school tutoring, which went for an hour after school. It was a long day for me. This experience helped me empathize with our student-athletes. Two years later our district ran a bond to build a new auxiliary gym. My student shadow was the story I told parents and community members when we talked about the need for extra practice space, an unintended consequence of my student shadow.

I've talked enough about the why, now I'd like to provide you with the how. Here are a few simple steps to help get you started on your first Student Shadow. First, find a student to shadow. Teachers can help you select a student, or building-level administrators if you're not in a building. Second, make sure the student and their family know what your plan is. Nobody likes to be surprised, and in my experience, parents have felt honored to have their child chosen. Third, after you find a student, come up with a list of questions to ask that student during your day with them. For me, this was probably as helpful as actually spending a day with a student. During your student shadow, capture your observations by keeping notes, taking photos, and posting about your experience on your district social media sites. When done, reflect on your observations, question what you saw, and draw your own conclusions. Based on your Student Shadow Day findings, look for opportunities to take action or make changes in your school or district. Lastly, put your learnings into action. Find ways to make a change at your school/district. I hope this finds you in a place to get out and Shadow a Student for a day.

*Shawn Hendrickson  
Principal - St. Ignatius MS/HS  
MASSP President*

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## **SAM... Creating Opportunities!**

*by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director*



April has arrived and I can feel the rush you are all experiencing in our schools to complete the spring of 2021-22 educational programming for our students in the midst of the ever changing Coronavirus pandemic effect, political impact on your community, and the planning for 2022-23! This spring acceleration of activity and planning is normal, and because of the pandemic and political impact, has added some significant issues to contemplate in the service to your students, school and community. Thank you for the great work you do in balancing this very important completion and planning process with such perseverance. At SAM, reporting on 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter progress on the SAM Strategic Plan, this Bulletin Article has given me the opportunity to think about and reflect on SAM's core purpose to create opportunities that support you in your professional life, leading the education of our children.



## SAM Leadership

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Our SAM goals of ‘leadership involved in decisions that impact education’ and ‘professional learning and services’ are so very important, as is the ‘advocacy’ goal. The complete report on progress can be reviewed – [3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021-22 SAM Strategic Plan Update](#). Elsewhere in this Bulletin, I have provided an update on our ‘advocacy’ goal. Following are some highlights of the first two listed goals.

‘Leadership involved in decisions that impact education’ has many of our SAM members participating in the decision making that drives policy and opportunities in our schools. SAM members are deeply involved in all of the planning efforts around the mitigation of the impact of Coronavirus on the education of Montana’s children.

[SAM Strategy – Promote the Value Your School Brings to the Community](#) is an ongoing approach to provide SAM members with resources to tell the story of the opportunities and challenges of your school so intricately intertwined in the heart of your community. This effort is intended to get the attention of your community members so they continue to support the school in their community during these challenging political times. This spring, you will see more resources added to this webpage to continue this effort in your community to tell the story of how important your school is to the community.

From ongoing efforts to determine the needs of our schools to be aligned with significant federal funding, to embracing learning recovery through acceleration and addressing social emotional needs, SAM members are at the table providing the necessary expertise to help guide decision-making. SAM members are actively involved on the following boards, task force, and review teams:

- Montana Board of Public Education with Constitutional authority for general supervision and leadership of our public school system.
- Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) advisory council to the Board of Public Education on licensure and professional educator preparation programs.
- Legislature, several SAM members are serving in the Montana legislature.
- Variance to Standards Review Board, looking at requests for variance to standards from the perspective of practicing school administrators in order to help make the best decisions.
- SAM has members that are key participants in Negotiated Rule Making processes that yield policy decisions.
- SAM members are participating on the Task Force and Feedback Groups in the review of Chapter 57 (Educator Licensure standards) and Chapter 58 (Professional Educator Preparation Program standards) and Chapter 55 (Accreditation standards) administrative rules keeping the best interest of our children front and center in those discussions.
- Montana School Safety Advisory Council grown out of the work of the Montana School Emergency Management Planning Advisory Council, to help Montana develop the best safe schools’ practices and make them readily available to all schools.

These are just a few instances of the contribution of administrators to the education profession and to our system of quality public schools in Montana.

I would also touch briefly on the work of the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) members and their impact in several areas on the ‘professional learning’ SAM goal. The SAM LPLP Transformational Learning (TL) CLN, over the past six years have been collecting and sharing successes and challenges in their work to implement personalized learning/proficiency based learning/student centered learning in their classrooms, school and even entire district. The work of the TL CLN led to legislation to incentivize transformational learning (HB 351, 2019 legislature), and continues to be a leading think tank on successful practices in transformational learning. The SAM LPLP Social Emotional Learning (SEL) CLN continues to work together on developing best practices for our schools around social emotional learning, ever magnified by the COVID pandemic. I bring to your attention the continuing work

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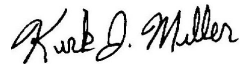
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of the Aspiring Superintendents (AS) CLN, the New Superintendent (NS) CLN, the New Principals (NP) CLN, all of which are using collaborative practices and coach/mentors to make great progress on their work to improve student learning and meet the social emotional needs of the whole child. We are also seeing great success with the SAM LPLP Huddle -- a monthly one-hour virtual discussion between SAM LPLP Members, Providers and SAM leadership, featuring monthly calendar items and resource update, thought-leader sessions around contemporary topics, and discussion/Q & A. See the [SAM LPLP 2021-22 Mid Year Executive Summary](#) to review the progress of our SAM LPLP. This collective effort of the LPLP is making difference for our state as we continue to work on best practices for educating our students. My thanks to all 56 SAM Members and our 10 SAM LPLP Providers who are actively contributing to our education system through your work with the SAM LPLP!

The discussion of the SAM LPLP crosses from insuring that 'leadership is involved in decisions that impact education in Montana', to the 'professional learning and member services' SAM goals. Certainly, the SAM LPLP is a professional learning delivery system that is personalized to meet the needs of our SAM members who participate. Our collective effort to develop this professional learning delivery system over the past 8 years is showing results about the impact of this collaboration on administrator satisfaction and longevity – ultimately the keys to improving student learning. You may want to consider joining this great opportunity and sign up for the SAM LPLP 2022-23! Details coming soon.

In this Bulletin, you will see other SAM professional learning and member services targeted to help you become the outstanding, complete administrator that you aspire to be in serving your students. Check out the membership drive information and the SAM Administrators Institute 2022 opportunity!

Thank you SAM members for your great effort to be 'leaders involved in the decision making that impacts the education of our children' and for your focus on 'professional learning and member services' to assist you in being the best leader you can be. At SAM, we are intent on creating opportunities for you! Here's to an outstanding April!!



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## **SAM Advocacy Update...**

SAM advocacy for the education of Montana's children is an ongoing effort with 50 years of history guiding the processes for engaging in advocacy.

Currently, at this time in 2022, SAM is actively preparing for the 2023 legislative session while paying direct attention to the work of interim legislative committees and federal legislation related to preK-12 education. The SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee (DASC) – consisting

## **2022-23 SAM Membership Drive Launches April 12!**

The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) Membership Drive will begin on Tuesday, April 12 for the 2022-23 membership year! We will once again be using the online renewal process that we have used the past several years. As the "key contact" for a district, district clerks/business managers will receive an email that will include information for completing membership renewals for their district's MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members. Please work with your district

of one advocacy representative from each of the six SAM affiliates – have organized SAM’s preparation for the legislative session. The key elements of that preparation include a call to the SAM membership for positions and resolutions, and selection of Delegates from the six affiliates for the SAM Delegate Assembly 2022. SAM Delegate Assembly 2022 is scheduled for June 9-10 in Helena (and virtual) to fully develop the SAM advocacy package.

Following Delegate Assembly 2022, our advocacy will focus on developing, selecting and training SAM members interested in committing to advocacy by joining the SAM Legislative Network 2023 (SAMLN23). In the past, nearly 100 SAM members representing all six affiliates and each affiliate region have developed a strong SAM Legislative Network to deliver boots-on-the-ground advocacy and effective communication during the legislative session. Expect to see more information on this in the future.

The [SAM Call for Delegate Assembly Positions and Resolutions 2022](#) was launched on February 16, 2022. The request for all SAM members to submit positions and/or resolutions to be considered by Delegate Assembly 2022 has a deadline of April 29, 2022. The details of how to do this is outlined by following the [link](#). The DASC will meet in May to review all positions and resolutions to make final preparations for Delegate Assembly 2022 in June.

These processes of developing SAM advocacy have proven effective for the past decade in making SAM a key advocate for the education of Montana’s children at the state and federal level. I hope you will become involved in advocacy by lending your expertise, passion and commitment to this important goal of the SAM strategic plan.

**Kirk**

clerk/business manager to be sure your membership is correct. MCASE members and members not linked to a school district will receive an email that will include a link to their membership renewal form.

We encourage you to renew your membership early so you can start the next fiscal year with the full benefits of your membership in place and without any chance of it lapsing. Contact the SAM Office with any questions you may have.



## Save the Date - SAM Summer Events!

Be sure to mark your calendars with the following events happening at SAM this summer!

### SAM Week of Excellence

- **June 8, 2022:**
  - DaRud Cup Golf Scramble
- **June 9, 2022:**
  - SAM Board Meeting
  - SAM Delegate Assembly Caucuses
  - SAM Evening of Excellence
- **June 10, 2022:**
  - SAM Delegate Assembly

### SAM Administrators Institute 2022

- **July 25 - 27**
  - Great Northern, Helena

**Watch for more information coming soon!**

## Congratulations to the Affiliate Award Winners Recently Recognized

Congratulations to the affiliate award winners who were recently recognized!

- **META Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award** - Wade Johnson, Superintendent, Cut Bank Public Schools
- **META Technologist of the Year Award** - Al Simons, Technology Director, Bonner Schools
- **MCASE Outstanding Administrator of Special Education Award** - Mary Meehan, Special Services Director, Evergreen Schools
- **MCASE Special Education Teacher Award** - Molly Zier-McLaughlin, Special Education Teacher, West Valley Schools
- **MCASE General Education Teacher Award** - Tawnya Hawkins, Teacher, Livingston Public Schools
- **MACSS County Superintendent of the Year** - Carolyn Hall, County Superintendent, Lake County
- **Montana Rural Teacher of the Year Application** - Lara Belice, Teacher, Cooke City

## SAM Youth Endowment Gifts Disbursed

The SAM Board of Directors recently awarded \$3000 to assist Montana students through funds allocated through the SAM Youth Endowment. Three students were each gifted funds to assist with their specific financial needs.

The purpose of the SAM Youth Endowment is to make a positive impact on the youth of Montana by providing financial assistance to benefit children's health, welfare, and/or education. Each of the six affiliates under the SAM umbrella contributes to the SAM Youth Endowment each year. Contributions are also received through donations and memorials.

The SAM Board of Directors first discussed the endowment possibilities in 1998. At that time the Board felt it was important for SAM to be involved financially with a cause that affected the youth of Montana. The discussion led to the establishment of an endowment that would contribute to different charities making a positive impact on the youth of Montana. In the spring of 2001, the Board approved the SAM Youth Endowment Fund Guidelines for Assistance.

Thank you, SAM members, for submitting nominations for students in need. The SAM Youth Endowment is an excellent way for you to give back to the students you work with each day. The desire to assist Montana youth in helping to ease their specific financial need speaks to the integrity of each of you who are dedicated to creating education excellence for Montana students.



## CoSN 2022 Driving K-12 Innovation Reports and

## SAM Welcomes New Business Partners



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## The EmpowerED Superintendent edWebinar Series

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.

### ***CoSN 2022 Driving K-12 Innovation Reports***

CoSN recently released the final installment of the 2022 Driving K-12 Innovation Reports which are created and published to support the use of emerging technology in K-12 education to transform learning.

The CoSN 2022 Driving K-12 Innovation Reports are divided into three areas of focus:

- 1) Hurdles - Obstacles that make participants slow down, evaluate, practice, and then make the leap to better support teaching and learning.
- 2) Accelerators - Megatrends that drive change — sometimes suddenly and sometimes so gradually the implications aren't readily apparent.
- 3) Tech Enablers — Tools that support smoother leaps over the hurdles and expansive changes in global K-12 Education.

Learn more and check out access to the complete CoSN 2022 Driving K-12 Innovation Reports and other aligned free resources [HERE](#).

### ***Leadership Strategies to Assure Student Data Privacy: The Trusted Learning Environment Seal***

The most recent broadcast of the EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar series aired on Monday, March 14, 2022, and was titled, "*Leadership Strategies to Assure Student Data Privacy: The Trusted Learning Environment Seal*". The concerns and challenges involved in protecting student data privacy have always been critically important to school operations. However, as



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schools today increasingly rely on digital tools for teaching, learning and school administration, assuring student data privacy is now more urgent than ever. One strategy many school districts have used is successfully completing the process of earning The Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal. The TLE Program is the nation's only privacy framework designed specifically for school systems.

In the March 14, 2022, EmpowerED Superintendent webinar, two leading-edge school superintendents shared their recommended leadership strategies to assure student data privacy. The Superintendents related the processes their districts employed to earn the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal. Webinar participants were able to listen and learn from the insights provided by Dr. Lori Rapp, Superintendent, Lewisville Independent School District (TX) and Dr. Oskar Scheikl, Superintendent, Rockingham County Public Schools (VA). Linnette Attai, Project Director for CoSN's Privacy Initiative and the Trusted Learning Environment Program served as the panel moderator.

**Free access to webinar recording:** If you missed the Monday, March 14, 2022, EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar, co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net, and sponsored by ClassLink, you can still access the free webinar recording at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>. You will also be able to access free recordings and podcasts of multiple previously broadcast webinars in the EmpowerED Superintendent series at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>.

**CoSN 2022 Annual Conference:** The CoSN 2022 Annual Conference will take place on April 11-13, 2022, in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference will be a hybrid experience to accommodate all who wish to meet safely in-person as well as those who elect to participate remotely. You can preview the conference program and access registration information at <https://cosnconference.org/>.

**CoSN Membership:**

If you, your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more





This is big, **don't miss out!**

You have until **Oct. 31, 2022** to find out how you and your employees can take advantage of the limited-time changes to **Public Service Loan Forgiveness**.

[Learn more](#)



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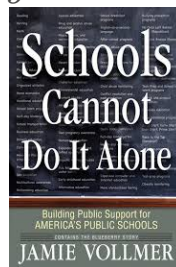
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