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## *School Administrators of Montana*

# **BULLETIN**

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

**Volume XLI**

**June 2019**

**No. 286**

### **Summer, A Time for Reflection**

*by Karen Underwood, MCASE President*



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## Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

**June 12, 2019: DaRud Cup 2019 - Helena**

**June 13, 2019: SAM Board Meeting - Helena**

**June 13, 2019: SAM Delegate Assembly Caucus- Helena**

**June 13, 2019: Evening of Excellence - Helena**

**June 14, 2019: SAM Delegate Assembly - Helena**

I am excited as I write this. We just had our final Monday of the year. Some would think I am thrilled for the prospect of summer vacation. And truth be told, that does not disappoint me, but more than that I look forward to the opportunity to reflect and reframe my approach for the upcoming year. Every year has its challenges and this past one held challenges for many of us. A legislative year holds special anticipation, gains, and disappointments. As a cooperative director I know the stresses of what my colleagues and I face in providing services with limited resources, recruitment issues, reorganization of cooperatives as well as those stresses shared by our greater MCASE and SAM colleagues for addressing the changing needs and demands of special populations. Still, as a “Pollyanna” I recognize the gains we continue to make and the strength and talents of the staffs with whom we work.

At this point I would like to offer you some sage wisdom or inspiration as you go into summer. Knowing, as in many instances, there are more talented individuals to offer such, I am going to lean on the uplifting message of DeWitt Jones and invite you to give yourself a well-deserved break to view his Ted Talk on “Celebrate What’s Right in the World,” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD\\_1Eh6rqf8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD_1Eh6rqf8) I find Jones’ message on choosing your lens and recognizing your touchstone powerful.

Following your viewing, I invite you to gift yourself time to reflect on the following prompts in consideration of your next best year ever at school. These are patterned in part from the Council for Exceptional Children Ethics.

- How do we support challenging expectations for all our students where learning outcomes and independence are maximized in a respectful and safe environment?
- How do we extend our own professional competence and develop the talents of ourselves as well as our colleagues?
- How do we support meaningful inclusion of our students in our schools and communities?
- How do we support families in their engagement in the educational process?
- How do we expand our stakeholders’ understanding of our successes, our challenges, and our needs?
- How are we embracing new research and best practices? Providing effective and early interventions?
- How are we supporting the physical and emotional needs of our students?
- How are we improving our profession?
- Ultimately, how are we serving our students with integrity and honoring their dignity?

Congratulations on the completion of your school year! Enjoy your summer months for reflection and recharging, and of course, good luck this fall in honoring your educational touchstone.

*Karen Underwood*  
*MCASE President*

## SAM Members Making a Positive Difference!

*by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director*

## Upcoming SAM Events in June:

**Wednesday, June 12**

**July 29-31: [SAM Administrators Institute 2019](#)**

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

Thank you to this month's featured Business Partners!



The 2018-19 school year coming to an end is a perfect time to reflect on the great accomplishments administrators all across our state have created for the students they serve. Graduation time, whether it be pre-school, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, or high school, brings forward the great work accomplished by students and the outstanding partnerships that our schools engage in with our communities. Celebration of this milestone truly reinforces the great system of public schools here in Montana that have been built, nurtured, and responsive to every local communities' needs, hopes and dreams for their children! The administrators working to insure this balance is a difference maker in the education of our community.

Our SAM members all across the state have helped to make this happen for their local community and also for the greater good of Montana. We are thankful for your diligent day-to-day effort to work appropriately with challenging situations, that when resolved, clear a path for your education team to meet and exceed the needs of the students you serve. It may feel at times like the daily challenges are too overwhelming, but in the end (and especially at this time of year) your resolve to address challenges and keep your focus on the bigger education goals for your students is the difference maker! You likely don't hear it from this perspective, but know that your work is so very important to each and every child you serve, as well as to your community – so THANK YOU!

Your professional association, SAM and the affiliate you are a member of, are focused on working with you and supporting you in your educational mission for kids. In 2018-19, countless members of SAM have added their voice to the issues impacting the education of our children. Our members have participated on the Board of Public Education (thanks Darlene Schottle and Tammy Lacey), Deputy Superintendents of Public Instruction (thanks Jule Walker and Susie Hedalen), negotiated rule making committees, variance to standards review board, Montana Safe Schools Advisory Council, MT-PEC governance training, K-12 Vision Group, RISE4MT

- **10:00 - 5:00 Da Rud Cup Golf Event at Bill Roberts Golf Course**  
- Register [HERE](#)

**Thursday, June 13**

- **8:00-9:00 SAM Investment/Finance Committee Meeting at SAM Office**
- **9:00-10:00 SAM New Board Member Orientation at SAM Office** (SAM Executive Board officers meet with New SAM Board members)
- **10:00-2:00 SAM Board Meeting at SAM Office** (Lunch will be served)
- **2:00-2:30 SAM Delegate Assembly New Delegate Orientation at SAM Office** (All new Delegates required to attend this half-hour session)
- **2:30-4:00 SAM Delegate Assembly Caucus at SAM Office** (DA Steering Committee reps meet with their affiliate Delegates)
- **6:00-9:00 SAM Evening of Excellence at Great Northern Hotel** (Recognizing over 20 award-winning MT educators - Dr. Darlene Schottle is the Keynote speaker)

**Friday, June 14**

- **8:00-4:00 SAM Delegate Assembly at SAM Office** (May conclude by 12:30 pm)
- **Afternoon MCASE Executive Board meeting** (Following Delegate Assembly)



## **SAM Leadership**

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and the MUS Rural Recruitment and Retention Task Force (both focused on recruiting and retaining quality educators for Montana schools), and literally nearly every opportunity where the voice of an experienced administrator can add to great policy making to serve all students. I will also mention the SAM Legislative Network, 95+ SAM members who worked diligently during the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative session from January to May to help ensure the SAM advocacy priorities were front and center in this session – your great work made a difference!

With thanks, our thoughts now turn to the 2019-20 school year where the same great collective effort of our SAM members will continue to add to the outstanding system of schools we have in our state...

The SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee met and prepared our association for the SAM Delegate Assembly that will take place on June 13-14 in Helena at the SAM Office. A letter to all Delegates was sent on 5/30/19 to inform them of the information that will make the Delegate Assembly an uplifting experience through their participation. All SAM members can follow the Delegate Assembly on the [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) webpage. My thanks to Chair Rick Duncan, the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee, and all 45 SAM members who are Delegates for your intelligence, input, and participation in this important SAM advocacy opportunity!

MT-PEC has collaborated in developing a unified plan for the professional development of our members on key topics related to funding, flexibility, efficiency, safety and security, community ownership and local control. A [Framework](#) including a planned syllabus, with desired outcomes driving the content is what we intend to deliver to our members over the coming 2019-20 year. Expect to see more information at Delegate Assembly 2019, SAM Administrators Institute 2019, and MCEL 2019.

Please consider the professional learning opportunities outlined in this Bulletin, for your own development, sharpening your saw, and preparing for the best for the 2019-20 school year. Your SAM association has worked to develop professional

## **SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2019-20**

Now is the time to start thinking about professional learning for you and your district administrators for next year.

SAM LPLP's multi-faceted blended learning approach consists of a rich online resource center, collegial learning networks designed to be dynamic based upon topics of interest as they arise that allow participants to focus on specific areas of interest, and personal learning networks including the option of one-on-one coaching/mentoring with experienced Providers.

Tailored to meet the needs of new, experienced, and aspiring administrators, learning networks meet both virtually and face-to-face allowing participants to share challenges, successes, and thought leadership with like-minded Montana leaders experiencing similar job roles, situations, and context while bringing professional development to the administrator. **Be sure to check out the new and continuing [Collegial Learning Networks \(CLNs\)](#) planned for the 2019-20 program year.**

The goal of the SAM LPLP is to provide intentional, personalized professional learning to Montana educators through research-based strategies resulting in improvements in job satisfaction, administrator longevity, and ultimately to increased

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**SAM Office**  
**Kirk Miller**

learning opportunities that are targeted to meet your needs. Please check out the [SAM LPLP 2019-20](#) and [SAM Administrators Institute 2019](#) and register to join administrators from all across the state to enhance opportunities for your students and community!

Hoping June will be a great time for reflection and opportunity for you to energize and regenerate that enthusiasm you have for educating children. Thanks so much for your contributions to SAM and education in our state!

*Kirk J. Miller*



**Save the Date!**  
**July 29-31, 2019**

**SAM AI 2019**

The Montana **HOW:**  
**HOPE** for Education...now and in the future  
Providing **OPPORTUNITY**  
Having the **WILL** to Succeed

## **SAM Administrators Institute 2019**

**Monday, July 29**

MTASCD Summit -

student achievement and quality of instruction which will positively impact the education of students across Montana.

**Register for SAM LPLP  
2019-20!**



## **Digital Equity**

The [Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\)](#) and its 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. Last month we addressed the issues involved with [Strategic Technology Planning and Investment](#).

This month we focus on “*Closing the Homework Gap: Digital Equity Strategies for Learning Beyond the Classroom*”. Just over 20 years ago, the E-rate program was created to provide basic Internet connectivity for all classrooms. Since that time, significant new challenges have emerged. Learning simply doesn't begin and end in the classroom. The promise of anywhere, anytime learning for all students requires that we close the "homework gap" and the widening disconnect that impacts parents and guardians as well. For a quick

*Executive Director*  
**Gary Wagner**  
*Director of Operations &  
Membership*  
**Kim Scofield**  
*Director of Member Services  
& Professional Learning*

**Kristin Souers** "A Culture of Safety & the New  
3 R's"

**New Superintendent/Clerk Finance Summit -  
MASBO**

**Tuesday, July 30**  
Instructional Leadership Summit

Keynote - **Sean Covell** - "The Power of How"

Clinic Sessions

**Wednesday, July 31**  
Instructional Leadership Summit

**Keynote - Garret Garrels** - Pink Gloves Boxing

Clinic Sessions

**Wednesday, July 31**  
LPLP Summit

**Delta Hotel by Marriott, Helena Colonial**

**[Click HERE for more  
information and to  
register!](#)**

overview, check out CoSN's one-page document that encourages thinking outside the box to achieve digital equity. Five specific strategies are outlined in the document found at this link: [Closing the Homework Gap](#). To access a more in-depth study and additional resources, check out [CoSN's Digital Equity Toolkit](#).

CoSN has partnered with edWeb to provide a monthly webinar series 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 title of the June 10, 2019 webinar (scheduled for 5:00 pm ET) is "Closing the Homework Gap: Digital Equity for All Students". [Learn more and register for this free webinar HERE](#).

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](mailto:bcalvary@cosn.org).

**Thank you to SAM's Business Partners!**

**Please take time to visit their websites.**

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