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## *School Administrators of Montana*

# **BULLETIN**

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

**Volume XLII**

**February 2020**

**No. 293**

### **Find Your Motivation**

*by Mike Perry, MASS President*



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

**February 19-21: MCEC Conference - Missoula**

**March 23-24: MASS/METAtchEd Conference - Helena - [Registration](#)**

**June 11-12: SAM Board Meeting and Delegate Assembly - Helena**

In education, we learn to serve others. Whether we are driving students to school on a bus, serving them breakfast and lunch, helping them in a classroom, teaching them or supervising those that fill all those roles. We are constantly trying to learn how to better serve our students, classified staff, certified staff, parents, board members and community members. One of our motivations should be to constantly improve how we provide the best public education possible in our communities. I believe that motivation is one of the key words in our profession and indeed in education as a whole. In the book, *Rewiring Education* by John D. Couch, he talks about motivation,

*“...if a person is motivated enough to succeed, we would have a very difficult time stopping them from doing so. The same is true in education. If a student wants to learn about something badly enough, a bad parent, teacher, and school combined could not stop them from learning it. This is why kids can memorize the words to entire songs, but can't seem to remember a math formula they were taught five minutes ago.”*

Those words now are stuck in my mind as I wander the hallways and classrooms and try to determine what motivates myself and those that I encounter every day. How do we find the proper motivation for ourselves and more importantly how do we find the right motivation for those we serve? The answer to this question will help all we serve to reach their full potential. As we move into spring, I would encourage you, if necessary, to find that motivation that led you to a career in education and expound upon it, share it with others and encourage all to find “their” motivation.

*Mike Perry  
MASS President*

## **Focusing on the Main Things!**

*by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director*



February brings that time of the school year where the second half (semester) for focus on student academic and whole child achievement hits the long stretch. Like in a marathon, our students and educators are in mile 13, digging deep for that determination to stay on pace to reach their goals. Now is a time for encouragement, the kind that comes from inside, through reflection on each child, their successes and needs, to see the path ahead to help them reach



## **Register Now - Montana's First Rural School Virtual Career Fair**

The [Montana Rural School Virtual Career Fair](#) sponsored by the MCASE Recruitment Project, SAM, and MREA is scheduled for Friday, March 13. Registration is **FREE** for candidates

**July 27-29, 2020:  
SAM Administrators  
Institute 2020 -  
Helena**

**January 24-26, 2021:  
Montana Principals  
Conference - Helena**

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

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their full potential by the end of the school year. Our school and district administrators have all of this in mind for their school team as they create an educational atmosphere that allows focus on the main things – the success of each child in striving for their full potential. Thanks for that!

Our SAM team is here for you, education leaders, as you focus on the achievements, successes, and challenges set out for this second half of the school year. Through the SAM Strategic Plan, our goals... 1) insuring administrators are involved in decisions that impact education, 2) equipped with accurate information and prepared to use it to advocate for our children, and 3) professional learning through professional development, mentorship and member services ... help us focus on the main things. Our collective membership of all six affiliates of SAM have done exceedingly well in accomplishing the strategic objectives and actions outlined in each goal area during the first half of the school year. If you want to go deeper into understanding that progress please review the [SAM Strategic Plan 2018-22 Report for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019-20](#). The Strategic Plan serves as a great way to help our entire SAM organization focus on the main things this second half of the school year.

As you focus on the main things, please consider some of the resources SAM is making available for your use. The importance for our schools and school leaders to tell the story about the great work accomplished for each child, every day in our schools is very important in 2020. Important enough, that I'm sharing once again those resources that can help you tell the story and develop strategies to do this in effective ways in your school community. SAM has developed learning opportunities for being strategic in telling the story and gaining the support of your community (See [Jamie Vollmer's Great Conversation](#) as described at MCEL and further through a SAM business partnership). Please review the [GREAT VII](#) 2019 publication developed by MT-PEC, and

looking for Montana teaching and administration jobs.

### Who is invited?

- Candidates interested in rural Montana teaching & administration jobs

### Where do I have to go?

- Nowhere, it all happens online, from your computer or smartphone!

### What are job seekers saying about a Virtual Career?

- "I got four solid job leads while sitting in my living room, drinking coffee. Can't beat that."
- "This was a great experience! I was able to search for openings, have my resume viewed, and communicate just with the employers I was interested in, all without leaving my desk. The idea of a virtual career fair takes the pressure off the job seeker and employer."
- "The virtual career fair went great. I got one interview already and I am expecting more. I think that this was a great idea ..."

There is a \$195 early registration fee for those districts interested in participating. **The deadline for early registration is February 7th.** Contact the SAM Office, [Lori Ruffier](#), or [Dennis Parman](#) with questions.

**Congratulations to the  
Recent MAEMSP and  
MASSP Award  
Recipients!**



MSGIA

### **SAM Leadership**

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use this for reference to advocate in your school community. Another recently developed tool to impact your community is the [MT-PEC Flexibility PD Series](#). This access to deep professional learning about the many efficiencies and flexibility provided in legislation, law and administrative rules is intended to help you advocate for programming necessary in your schools to meet the needs of the children served.

If we collectively work together to tell this local story of rich and diverse opportunities provided to our children we will make a difference in capturing back a positive, supportive attitude about our schools all across the state. Accomplishing this support is most certainly a main thing for our focus!

Thanks for all you do to serve your children, school and community with expertise, compassion and passion!



## **MASS/METAtechED**

### **2020**

### **March 23-24**

### **Delta by Marriott in Helena**

**Keynote - Tom Ryan, Past Chair,  
CoSN; President, Emmersion**

The Montana Principals Conference was held in Helena January 27 - 29. Over 200 attendees had the opportunity to listen to national speakers, connect with colleagues from around the state, and honor several outstanding educators and friends of education. The following awards were presented on Monday, January 28th at the MAEMSP/MASSP Awards Banquet:

#### **MAEMSP:**

- National Distinguished Principal - Travis Niemeyer, Beartooth Elementary, Billings Public Schools
- Adrian Langstaff Award - Norah Barney, Lincoln Elementary, Anaconda
- MAEMSP Executive Board Award - Dr. Bruce Whitehead, Retired, Missoula
- MAEMSP Friends of Education Award - Tom Wardell Family, Billings
- MAEMSP Aspiring Principal Scholarship Award - Matt Carey, Fairfield Public Schools
- MAEMSP Appreciation Award - Hawthorne Elementary Parent Advisory Council, Bozeman
- MAEMSP Conference Incentive Scholarship Award - Roxie Benjamin, Fort Benton Schools

#### **MASSP:**

- MASSP Principal of the Year - Shawn Hendrickson, St. Ignatius HS/MS
- MASSP Assistant Principal of the Year - John Larsen - Dawson County High School, Glendive
- MASSP Community Partner in Education Award -Fairfield Lions Club
- MASSP Future Administrator Scholarship Award - Denikka Miller, Eureka Public Schools
- MASSP Conference Incentive Scholarship Award - Sheri Heavrin, Broadwater High School, Townsend

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## Learning

### "Leading K-12 Innovation in the 4th Industrial Revolution"

*What do K-12 education global leaders, practitioners, and change makers identify as major themes in driving, hindering, and enabling teaching and learning innovation? Many experts believe we are entering the 4th Industrial Revolution due to the significant changes impacting our culture, economy and society because of technology advancement in robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, quantum computing, biotechnology, and The Internet of Things (IoT). This presentation will address:*

- \* How could these societal changes impact how we prepare students for their future?*
- \* What does the Driving K-12 Innovation series of Hurdles, Accelerators, and Tech Enablers tell us about education trends*
- \* What is the 4th Industrial Revolution and the possible impact on our education systems?*

\* **Gov. Steve Bullock and Evan Marwell**,  
CEO, EducationSuperHighway

#### \* **Breakout Session Topics:**

Cyber Security, Student Data Privacy,  
MakerSpace, E-Sports, IMS Global/Data  
Interoperability,  
ByteSpeed, Cisco Meraki, Newline Interactive,  
Pine Cove Consulting

\* **Working Session for  
Implementing Student Data  
Privacy/Terms of Service**

## Congratulations to all of the award winners and honorees!

**Mark your calendars: Montana  
Principals Conference 2021 -  
January 24-26 in Helena**

## MACSS Award Nominations Close March 15th

1. It is time to nominate an outstanding county superintendent for the **County Superintendent of the Year Award**. Please see the [County Superintendent of the Year 2020 Criteria and Nomination Form](#) for details. County Superintendents can be nominated for this award by fellow MACSS members, teachers, school administrators, school board members, parents, or County Commissioners

2. **Rural Teacher of the Year Award** is open for nominations. Please consider nominating one of your phenomenal teachers and give them the chance to attend the National Rural Conference. Follow the link for more information: [2020 TOY application and information.](#)

## META Award Nominations Closing

**META-Palooza 2020: 6:00 PM**  
**Monday, March 23rd**

**[Register HERE!](#)**

## **SAM Youth Endowment Nomination Deadline - March 3, 2020**

Nominations are open until March 3rd for the 2019-20 SAM Youth Endowment. The purpose of the School Administrators of Montana 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.

Awards to nominated recipients are given in April of each year and announced in the May SAM Bulletin. Emergency requests will be accepted and presented to the board on an as-requested basis made throughout the year. Recognition of the award will also be given annually at the SAM Administrators Institute.

**Nomination guidelines are listed in the [SAM Youth Endowment brochure](#).** Please note that only SAM members can make the actual nomination.

Click [HERE](#) to access the **2019-20 SAM Youth Endowment Nomination Form!** The application deadline is March 3, 2020.



## **Soon**

Please consider nominating an outstanding technology director or empowered superintendent the following 2020 META awards. Nomination forms must be completed by **February 21, 2020**. Find out more about each award and nominate/apply by clicking [2020 META Awards](#).

- **META Technologist of the Year Award**
- **META Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award**



## **Online Assessment: An Effective, Coordinated, District Leadership Team Approach**

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 focused on the strategies necessary for leading digital learning with an emphasis on succeeding with 1:1 implementations. [CoSN's Leadership for Digital Learning Critical Issues Guide](#) provides – in a concise, single-page format - an itemized check list for each of the main systems (both human

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For more information, visit the FICO website at <https://ficomt.com>.

and technological) that need to be properly established when implementing 1:1 technology for learning initiatives.

This month we turn our attention to how and why school district leadership teams collaborate on the implementation of online assessments within a school district system. As an ever increasing number of school districts launch online assessments as part of their standard practice, school leaders are learning that the challenges associated with implementing and leveraging online assessments to drive student learning are far more complex than simply adding technology. Today technology is an essential tool for planning, creating, delivering, and evaluating successful instruction. Online assessments are becoming routine within many school settings and are used not solely for summative or high stakes testing, but also for formative measures of learning as well. It takes a coordinated leadership team effort among multiple district level departments to execute online assessments successfully. The [CoSN Critical Focus Area: Issue One Pager on Online Assessment](#) offers nine key recommendations for leveraging online assessment capability and capacity.

CoSN, in partnership with [edWeb.net](#), hosts *The EmpowerED Superintendent* monthly webinar series on topics that are essential for all educators engaged in leading digital transformations. The focus of the February 10, 2020 webinar (3:00 pm MT) is "Online Assessment: An Effective, Coordinated, District Leadership Team Approach". Three members of Pennsylvania's Hampton Township School District leadership team (Dr. Michael Loughhead, Superintendent; Dr. Jacquelyn Removcik, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Ed McKaveney, Director of Technology) share how they collaborate and effectively coordinate their work in order to successfully lead the implementation of online assessments as well as the strategic use of the resulting student learning data within all schools in their district. Learn more and register for this



free webinar as well as access recordings of previously broadcast CoSN/edWeb webinars at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>.

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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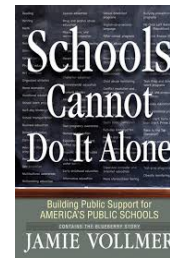
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