

**SAM Bulletin - March 2020**

1 message

School Administrators of Montana &lt;saom@memberclicks-mail.net&gt;

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*School Administrators of Montana***BULLETIN***Visionary leaders united in providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students!***Volume XLII****March 2020****No. 294**

**Read the March Bulletin on the SAM website. Click [HERE](#).**

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**Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events**

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

**April 21-22, 2020:** MACSS Spring Conference - Sidney

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

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

**You're Invited: MASS/METAtechED 2020***by Brian Norwood, META President*

Spring is just around the corner! Even Phil the groundhog says only six more weeks of winter. Well if you're looking to get out and enjoy some fun and learn something new along the way, come join us at the MASS/METAtechED 2020 Spring Conference in Helena, March 23-24, 2020! We have some great speakers and sessions planned that will impact you and your district. We will be discussing our new Montana Student Privacy Alliance (MTSPA) and how every district can meet the requirements of House Bill 745. This was a two-year project that culminated in a partnership with META, OPI, and MTSBA providing professional development to help teachers and administrators make informed decisions about the technology being used in the classroom, complying with HB 745, and helping ensure student data privacy is protected.

In addition to the great sessions planned, you don't want to miss our keynote speaker Tom Ryan, Past Chair, CoSN; President, eMMERSON Learning and "Leading K-12 Innovation in the 4<sup>th</sup> 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?

If you haven't registered yet, just go to [www.sammt.org](http://www.sammt.org) or give one of the great staff at the SAM office a call. Hope to see you at the conference in a session or after hours where the fun continues!

Think Spring!

*Brian Norwood  
META President*

**Spring is a Great Time to Tell Your Story!***by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director*

Spring is in the air, and we can feel this in our schools by the culmination of winter activities and the beginning of the season of transition where you are completing your goals for this school year while planning for what is to come for

**Montana 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 looking for Montana teaching and administration jobs.

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

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Calendar\*\*

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2020-21. I'm seeing that administrator vacancies (mostly superintendents in January and February and soon principals and other district leadership later this spring) have given those districts with openings, an interesting opportunity to

craft the story of their school district in order to entice would-be candidates to consider their community. I have observed many superintendent position vacancy announcements that highlight the great story of the school district and the value of community support for schools as a key way of engaging why a candidate would consider applying for the position. This is a prime example of a good strategy for all school districts, even outside of the administrator hiring process, to invest their time and energy into crafting the story of your schools that can be outward facing to your community and public.

The importance of creating your story and the strategies for sharing that story are at the top of the list for "what our schools can do" to engage support of their own community and in the broader picture, support of public education in our state! So important that through the SAM Needs Assessment 2020 results and the deep and profound data collection on the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) from those 90 participants, SAM has created the theme for the 2020 SAM Administrators Institute (July 27-29 in Helena) – "Tell Your Story"! With that theme, you can expect to see a conference filled with the sharing of ideas on the most effective ways for telling your schools' story.

Expect to see fantastic keynotes and clinic sessions around focus zones -- Social Emotional Learning, Safe Schools, and Strategies for Excellent Leadership/Flexibility and Efficiency. A Call for Presentations will be coming out in March to our SAM members who would want to share their great strategies and work with Institute attendees. I hope you will prepare to share!

A featured keynote at the SAM AI 20 will be the Jamie Vollmer "Great Conversation", and given it was Public Schools Week this past week, Jamie has shared a selected short of his work to build support for America's public schools - <https://player.vimeo.com/video/394543771>. You can use this in helping to build "Telling Your Story" for this spring. Expect to learn much more from Jamie at the SAM AI 20! Our goal for the SAM AI 20 will be to bring administrators from all across the state together to share their successes and challenges and learn together how to create the right kind of relationships for a successful 2020-21 school year. You will be engaged and enthused; so I hope you will Save the Date and attend the SAM AI 20, and bring your leadership team with you to plan together!

Thanks for all you do for your students, schools and community. I wish you a fantastic March!

*Kirk J. Miller*



**MASS/METAtchED 2020**  
March 23-24

#### 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 registration fee for those districts interested in participating. Contact [Kirk Miller](#), [Lori Ruffier](#), or [Dennis Parman](#) with questions.

**Save the Date - SAM Administrators Institute: July 27-29, 2020!**



Preparation for the SAM Administrators Institute 2020 (July 27-29 in Helena) is underway. The Institute theme is "Tell Your Story" with support of strategies for telling your schools' great story in the most effective way. Keynote and clinic sessions will be organized around the focus zones -- Social Emotional Learning, Safe Schools, and Strategies for Excellent Leadership/Flexibility and Efficiency. A Call for Presentations will be coming out later this month to our SAM members.

**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](#).

**SAM Membership Drive 2020-21**

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## Delta by Marriott in Helena

### PLATINUM Sponsor - Newline Interactive

### Keynote - Tom Ryan, Past Chair, CoSN; President, eMMERSION 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?*

### Celebrating Broadband in Montana Schools

Gov. Steve Bullock and Evan Marwell (CEO, EducationSuperHighway)

#### \* Breakout Session Topics:

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

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

**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.

## Launches April 6th!

The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) Membership Drive will begin on **Monday, April 6th** for the 2020-21 year! We will once again be using the online renewal process that was launched for the 2017-18 membership year. 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 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 full benefits of your membership in place and without any chance of it lapsing. Contact the SAM Office with any questions you may have.

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## Accessibility for All: Creating an Equitable Learning Ecosystem

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 how and why school district leadership teams collaborate on the implementation of online assessments within a school district system. As online assessments become routine within a variety of school settings, a coordinated leadership team effort among multiple district level departments is more essential than ever in order to successfully implement and utilize online assessments. The [CoSN Critical Focus Area: Issue One Pager on Online Assessment](#) offers nine key recommendations for school districts to use in order to leverage online assessment capability and capacity.

This month we turn our focus to the topic of accessibility for all. As learning environments

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.



continue to move toward digital learning settings, it is critical that schools assure that an equitable, effective learning ecosystem exists everywhere, at all times, for all students. CoSN is pleased to provide school leaders (and all the stakeholders they serve) with five compelling steps to take now to ensure accessibility in the [CoSN Critical Focus Area: Issue One Pager on Accessibility](#).

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 March 9, 2020 webinar (5:00 pm ET) is "Accessibility for All". Three superintendents who are recognized for their effective leadership in leveraging digital tools for learning share how they assure accessibility for all learners within their school systems. You are invited to 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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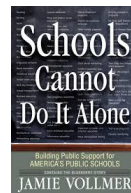
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