

## School Administrators of Montana

# BULLETIN

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

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### Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

**June 11-12: SAM Board Meeting**

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

**July 30, 2020: SAM Delegate Assembly - Helena**

**\*\* View the full SAM Calendar\*\***

## Who are the Heroes?

*by Cathy Maloney, MACSS President*

When my daughter was in 3rd grade, she was asked to write about her hero. Her essay went into detail about a kitten that had been saved. This kitten had been abandoned, then caught in the wild. It was starving and filthy. It needed a meal and a bath and was pitifully placed in the kitchen sink. In a child's mind that made a big impression.

I was a little confused when I realized in hindsight that doing such a small thing was such a big thing to her. Heroic? I had to ask myself, what did her teacher think, putting a kitten in water was crazy, heroic? What she had known, was, that it was a really big deal to that kitten. I was just a mom that needed to get a job done.

These days my heroes include the folks that try. They try and do their best every day, getting up the next day to try again. Going to the jobs that are risky for the welfare of people they don't even know. Doing their work, completing their tasks with a smile on their face, never knowing how truly appreciated they are.

Educators fall into the category of heroes; they don't even know their influence and betterment of the days and lives of those they touch, through their creativity and compassion. Technique is important, getting the answers, solving the problems, learning the fundamentals, heroic deeds in challenging times. Teachers are probably aware that parents are learning things too, an unexpected but meaningful outcome.

Administrators are working behind the scenes, big things are being tried and tested, like the swimming pool of life, someone needs to keep the temperature of the water in check. Messages are going out in waves, outcomes are uncertain, who's learning, who's watching, who's growing and becoming a better person. Who has risen because of the task put before them? Whether we're treading water or completing high dives, both can be heroic.

Trying times bring out different ways of doing normal things, this can be quite heroic. Heroes come in many forms, playing many roles and a menial task may be significant. The hero may never realize that a moment shared, a smile, a thoughtful gesture, an act of necessity – (even though it seemed crazy) or a snippet of time made the difference of a lifetime.

Seize the day, continue to try! You're stronger than you know! Like learning to swim, these are lessons that will stick with you for a lifetime. Be someone's hero, the ripples you are making in the pond of life are far reaching and long lasting...

*Sincerely,  
Cathy Maloney  
Butte-Silver Bow County Superintendent & MACSS President*

**Springtime in Montana Schools – Transforming in our Changing World!**

**SAM Membership Drive 2020-21 Reminder!**

Thank you to this month's featured Business Partners!



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by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director



Springtime in Montana schools is always a blend – working to accomplish the learning goals for your students while planning for the ensuing school year! Culminating exercises and activities, school elections for Trustees and operational/other

development, staffing and planning for the 2020-21 are on your mind and agenda. Interesting that all of these elements, that are a regular course of events, are still necessary during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the lens for accomplishing what is necessary is very different.

We are all in the deep discussion of phasing back to normal and contemplating what that means for our schools and the delivery of education services to our students through the end of this school year. That same deep discussion is underway for what the summer brings for helping students who will need compensatory education services. Finally, that deep discussion extends itself to what it means to open our schools for 2020-21 and how are we prepared to deliver education services to our students and meet the all-important needs for socialization and social emotional learning. I believe we have discovered through this March and April with off-site delivery of education services, how much more our schools provide for our students' need to be valued, appreciated, recognized for their unique talents, supported emotionally, feel safe, and many more social emotional characteristics. I believe that we have found that our educators (all adults who work and practice their passion in our school environments) have the same social emotional needs. These are thoughts that must be included in those discussions of what the reopening of our schools will look like in the fall.

Some resources, you may want to consider around these thoughts have been developed by the Montana Safe Schools Advisory Committee (MSSAC).

A [Press Release](#) on School Re-entry including [Guidance on School Re-Entry after Pandemic](#) and [FAQs for Phase 1 Reopen MT](#) were made available to our schools on April 30, 2020.

Transformational Learning is the broad category for personalizing learning through student-centered and proficiency based strategies. Many of our schools have been working on Transformational Learning for their students for many years. The COVID-19 pandemic required a change of education delivery that may be considered transformative, but I would like to add that successful transformation of any sort requires the support of all audiences impacted by the transformation. Transformational Learning requires the support of the education team delivering the learning strategies, the students who need to take charge of their learning, the parents' support of their changing role for supporting the education of their child, and community to support the transformation. The complicated need to develop ownership and support takes time and requires that each of these audiences, as part of the Transformation, are listened to and have a say into what the implementation will look like. A forced, top down, change process as we have experienced during this time of COVID, is not likely to establish a new norm for educating our students because it is missing the value of having all audiences contribute to what the Transformational Learning will look like for our children. The pandemic may be a catalyst for considering blended learning and strategies, but true Transformational Learning will require our school leaders to implement in a purposeful, input-driven, and all-inclusive way to meet the comprehensive needs of the students served.

SAM (our office team and your many colleague administrators) will be there for you and your schools to assist you with resources and strategies

The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) Membership Drive began with great success on April 20th for the 2020-21 year! We are once again using the online renewal process that was launched for the 2017-18 membership year. MCASE members and members not linked to a school district received an email that included a link to their membership renewal form. As the "key contact" for a district, district clerks/business managers received an email that included information for completing membership renewals for their district's MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members.

Please check with your district clerk/business manager to make sure your membership is correct. 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.



## SAM Event Schedule Update - July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

The SAM events originally scheduled for June 10-12, 2020 have been rescheduled for the end of July in conjunction with the SAM Administrators Institute. The schedule changes include:

- SAM Golf Scramble: July 26th
- Evening of Excellence: July 28th
- **SAM Delegate Assembly: July 30th**

## SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2020-21

### SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program

Connecting new, experienced, and aspiring administrators through SAM LPLP's multi-faceted blended learning approach!

**1**

One-on-One Coach/Mentor

**2**

Online Resource Center

**3**

Collegial Learning Networks (CLNs)

SAM LPLP is a unique approach to personalized professional learning for Montana education leaders that results in improvements in job satisfaction, administrator longevity, and ultimately to increased quality of instruction and student achievement.

**1** One-on-One Coach/Mentor - A personal learning network including the option of working with an experienced Provider

**2** Online Resource Center - A vast collection of books, articles, videos, websites, and activities organized around the ten Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) and a Leader's Personal Mastery Tool Kit

**3** Collegial Learning Networks (CLNs) - Designed to be dynamic allowing participants to focus on specific areas of interest. CLNs anticipated for 2020-21 include:

- Transformational Learning
- Social Emotional Learning
- Tier II/Tier III Behavior Project
- New Leaders
- New Superintendents
- AASA/SAM Aspiring Superintendents
- Special Education
- ESSA Comprehensive Support
- Trusted Learning Environment
- GEAR UP

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Professional Learning

as you contemplate these deep discussions to end the 2019-20 school year and launch the 2020-21 school year!

*Be Safe! Be Well!*

*Kirk J. Miller*



## SAM Administrators Institute 2020

SAM Administrators Institute is scheduled for July 27-29, 2020 in Helena at the Delta by Marriott Hotel. 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. If you are interested in potentially presenting at this event, please submit a [2020 SAM Administrators Institute - Call for Presentations form](#) by June 12, 2020. We value hearing from you and hope you will consider sharing your experience and expertise with Montana Administrators.

## SAM Youth Endowment Gifts Awarded

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 \$1000 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 SAM affiliates 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.

Nominations are submitted by SAM members at any time throughout the year and disbursed in the spring after SAM Board approval. To receive a SAM Youth Endowment gift, the youth must be a Montana K-12 student with a financial need such as a health concern, financial emergency, or educational need. The student must be nominated by a SAM member and the nomination must include a summary about the student and the specific financial need.

It isn't too early to start thinking about professional learning for you and your district administrators for next year.

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. Follow the link [SAM LPLP](#) for more information.



## SAM Welcomes New Business Partner, Edgenuity

Edgenuity is the leading provider of online curriculum and instructional services for K-12 education. We offer initial credit courses, honors, Advanced Placement courses, CTE, social-emotional learning and other electives, credit recovery, intervention, and test readiness. As schools experience closures and outages, Edgenuity's online curriculum can help provide content to students at home. Montana aligned, online courses for students in grades 6-12 are customizable and feature a full suite of learning tools and scaffolds that can be used for concept or credit recovery, blended or competency based learning, and initial credit courses. For grades K-6, personalized intervention tools support targeted support for math and reading with fun, motivating content that builds foundational skills.

For more information, please visit <https://www.edgenuity.com/> or contact Michael Bullock at 480-347-6008 or [Michael.bullock@edgenuity.com](mailto:Michael.bullock@edgenuity.com).



## Leading Learning During COVID-19 & Strategic Technology Planning

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.

### COVID-19

CoSN has created a special web page with resources to provide information for school leaders as they deal with this current national emergency: "[CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\) EDTECH GUIDANCE](#)" at <https://www.cosn.org/coronavirus>. Under the "CoSN Resources" tab you are able to access the following documents: "[Video Conferencing Tools in the Age of Remote Learning: Privacy Considerations for New Technologies](#)"; "[Preparing To Take Your Schools](#)

Thank you for the donations you have made to the SAM Youth Endowment this year!



## SAM Welcomes Discovery Education as New Business Partner

Discovery Education is the global leader in standards-aligned digital curriculum resources, engaging content, and professional learning for K-12 classrooms. Through its award-winning digital textbooks, multimedia resources, and the largest professional learning network of its kind, Discovery Education is transforming teaching and learning, creating immersive STEM experiences, and improving academic achievement around the globe. Discovery Education currently serves approximately 4.5 million educators and 45 million students worldwide, and its resources are accessed in over 140 countries and territories. Inspired by the global media company Discovery, Inc., Discovery Education partners with districts, states, and like-minded organizations to empower teachers with customized solutions that support the success of all learners. Explore the future of education at [www.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.discoveryeducation.com). Discovery Education is offering the dynamic *Experience* platform at no cost through the remainder of this school year. Please view more details at [www.discoveryeducation.com/virtual-learning](http://www.discoveryeducation.com/virtual-learning) and complete the [Access Request Form](#) if you do not already have access within your district.



## Thank you to SAM's Business Partners!

Please take time to visit their websites.

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Online"; "Cybersecurity Consideration in a COVID-19 World". You can also access a recent webinar presented in partnership with AASA titled, "Virtual Collaboration and Learning Continuity"

Resources will continue to be added in the weeks and months ahead.

### CoSN 2020 - Going Virtual

The 2020 CoSN Annual Conference that was originally scheduled to be held in mid-March in Washington DC is now going forward as a lively interactive virtual conference scheduled for May 17-21. Learn more and join *CoSN 2020: A Breakthrough Virtual Experience* by accessing this web page: <https://cosnconference.org/cosn2020-is-going-virtual/>

### Strategic Technology Planning & Investment – CoSN Resources

A one-page document, [Strategic Technology Planning and Investment](#) provides leaders with three essential focal points for SmartIT decisions. The [SMART IT web page](#) features a new resource created in collaboration with the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) along with additional information on total cost of ownership, value of investment and more.

### The Empowered Superintendent edWebinar Series – Monday, May 11, 2020, 3:00 pm MT

#### "Strategic Technology Planning: Aligning Priorities, Costs, Outcomes and Sustainability"

CoSN, in partnership with [edWeb.net](#), hosts *The Empowered Superintendent* monthly edWebinar series on topics that are essential for all educators engaged in leading digital transformations. Technology has never played a more crucial role than today in schools being able to continue teaching and learning for all students. Join superintendents Dr. Jeanne Barker, Dr. Chris Gaines and Dr. Randy Ziegenfuss in a lively interactive conversation as they share their strategies for technology planning and sustainability. Each will also update webinar participants on how they are leading learning in their school districts during the current COVID-19 health crisis. Their stories and expertise have great value for all school leaders. 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).



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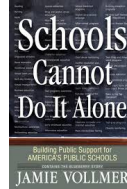


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