

SAM

900 No. Montana Ave., Ste. A-4
Helena, Montana 59601
406-442-2510
Fax: 406-442-2518
Website: www.sammt.org

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School Administrators of Montana BULLETIN

VOLUME XXXIX

December 2016

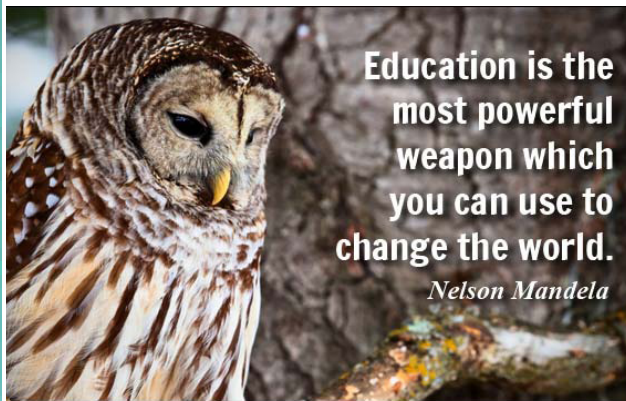
NO. 258

The Future of Education

by Jessica McWilliams, MACSS President

The recent elections have stirred up the educational waters in our nation. Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Tea Party or a bit of everything we all must come to the realization that changes are coming to education in the future. What those changes will be is hard to predict at this point, but there will be changes for sure. Some may be good changes and some may be bad ones. In the end, we have to make the most of our resources and make sure our students are still getting the education that they are entitled to.

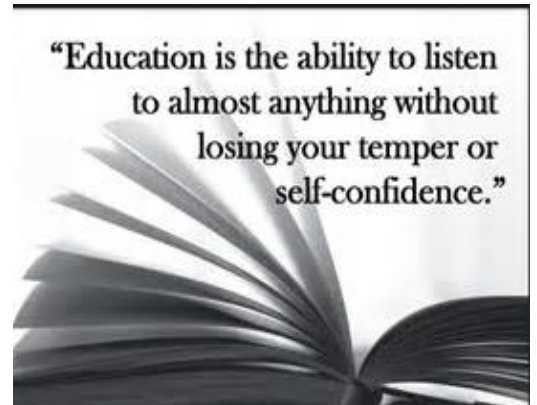
I am not one that gets too in depth with politics. I grew up in a home that didn't talk about political issues. We all knew about the happenings, but it never came up in conversation at the dinner table at night. This has carried over to my family and we didn't talk a whole lot about the election. However, the night of the election my girls had come to their own conclusions on the candidates and the reasons were quite interesting. I find it interesting how they came to their conclusions just from what they heard at school and among their peers. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions and it became a good lesson in teaching my girls. Just because they had their minds made up about the election did not mean that their way was the ultimate and absolute right way. We don't always get our way in life, but life isn't always fair. Things happen that we don't always agree with, but it doesn't mean we have the right to berate others for their opinions. I was glad they had their opinions on some of the issues they were concerned about, but I also wanted to make sure they understood that they could not brag or be rude about the outcomes in any way. Life doesn't always work that way. Whether you agree with how the National and/or State elections ended, life moves on. Education moves on. We move on.



Education is the
most powerful
weapon which
you can use to
change the world.

Nelson Mandela

“Education is the ability to listen
to almost anything without
losing your temper or
self-confidence.”



SAM Advocacy - Educating a New Classroom of Legislators!!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

As the 65th Montana Legislature prepares to meet and the statewide election is decided, we have an opportunity to begin a brand new year with a new class of legislators and the state office of public instruction! As educators, our SAM organization, is preparing to create an atmosphere for learning where these new (and returning) legislators and public officials have the opportunity to perform at their best with all of the important issues ahead. From my perspective, because we are educators, preparing to embrace the learning of each individual legislator and public official in personalized learning way, will determine continued successful attention is paid to educational opportunities for each child to reach their full education potential (a Montana Constitutional guarantee) in our system of public elementary and secondary schools.



These Constitutional statements about providing a quality system of elementary and secondary schools that guarantees every citizen reaches their full education potential, are more than just words, I believe it is a responsibility of our education association (SAM) and these public officials to work together to make this happen. Creating an all-out effort to use our best skills to provide a quality education for our public officials is an attitude that your SAM Executive Director and SAM organization intends to use in preparing for the 2017 Legislature and all that follows that work over the next 6 months. I hope you will join me in this approach to work with our public officials as they seek understanding of the issues and politics they will encounter beginning in January.

All great educators understand that you cannot control the inputs, but that you must personalize and create opportunities for each and every student in your charge, and in fact, we have a responsibility for the progress of the whole school, not just our classroom of students. It is with this attitude that I request SAM members to unite in this effort with our best educator attitude and skills in place, to make the 2017 Legislative Session a session of supporting the Constitutional guarantees our Montana students and communities so rightfully deserve.

This effort to reach out to legislators and public officials who have a responsibility to our students is already underway. It is our intention to keep this attitude and effort to be great educators at the fore front of our work. This is what we do – we are educators – and our state, community and children need our advocacy! We certainly have the curriculum developed, skills necessary and motivation of great educators to make this happen. I know you will join our SAM team and the education community in this bright opportunity to engage a new year and a new classroom of legislators and public officials!

Thanks to all of you for the great work you do for Montana's children every single day!



Legislative Information for the 2017 Session

As we approach the 65th Legislative Session beginning on January 2, 2017, SAM is beginning the effort to create tools for effective communication to be used by our members during the legislative session. On the SAM website (www.sammt.org), under the “Advocacy” tab, click [2017 Legislative Session SAM Info](#) to review the resources we are putting together for the session. We will continue to build this information and add resources. We are also seeking SAM members who will assist in advocacy by joining the SAM Legislative Network 2017 (SAMLN17). We know that our strength in advocacy for the education of Montana’s children comes from our member’s effort during the session to help our legislators understand and balance the needs for providing an outstanding system of public schools to meet the full educational potential of each child (a Constitutional guarantee)!

Calling all SAM Members to Join the SAM Legislative Network 2017 (SAMLN17)!

Are you interested in helping SAM promote our Advocacy Priorities in the 2017 Legislative Session? How about joining the team of SAM members who are committed to effectively communicate SAM legislative issues/bills and collecting input from your colleagues in your region to let your legislators know about appropriate stances on issues/bills during the session? On the SAM website (www.sammt.org), under the “Advocacy” tab, click [2017 Legislative Session SAM Info](#), then [SAM Legislative Network 2017 Description](#) to see the description and responsibilities of the SAMLN17. We need you to help with this important part of advocating for the students served in our schools!

To join the SAMLN17, go to the SAM website (www.sammt.org), under the “Advocacy” tab, click “[2017 Legislative Session SAM Info](#)”, then “For a SAM member to join the SAMLN17 click [HERE!](#)”

Please sign up to so we can insure that educators’ voices are heard clearly in the 2017 Legislative session.

Once you sign up, the SAMLN17 will be formed and we will train together to make this a pleasant experience for you using the tools SAM is creating to communicate effectively during the Legislative session.



VALIC

VALIC Saving Matters

SAVING : INVESTING : PLANNING

Montana's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) DRAFT State Plan

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

On November 17, 2016, the Office of Public Instruction released [Montana's Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) DRAFT State Plan](#) for public comment. The public comment period is open for 30 days. Public comment closes on December 16, 2016. That draft plan is available at http://www.opi.mt.gov/ESSA/Index.html#gpm1_4.

SAM members have participated in a big way on the ESSA Stakeholder Council in helping to craft this DRAFT Plan. We are also assisting in helping to get the DRAFT Plan out to the public and our school communities' for their review and comment.

Beginning this week, staff from the Office of Public Instruction will present at MASS regional meetings an informational overview video outlining the highlights of Montana's state plan for implementing the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Superintendent Juneau urges you and your staff to [watch the seven-minute video](#) (on the web page link above), and share it with your local boards of trustees, parents and communities.

The Office of Public Instruction has created a [form for receiving formal public comment](#) on the Montana's DRAFT ESSA Consolidated plan. We appreciate your use of this form as it helps the OPI compile the comments by section of the plan. Click the link to access the comment form: <http://app.keysurvey.com/f/1084856/55ed/>.

If you choose to submit your comments in another format, send your written comments by 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2016 to opisupt@mt.gov or mail comments to the Office of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501.

It is important that the Plan submitted to the US Department of Education (on December 23, 2016) reflects the great work we intend to continue to educate Montana's children in our public schools. Please review the DRAFT Plan and provide your comments!

Montana School Broadband Project Update

by Andrew Kenny, EducationSuperHighway

A message from the EducationSuperHighway Montana Team ...

[Compare & Connect K-12](#) (copy link: http://www.compareandconnectk12.org/?utm_source=MT&utm_campaign=C-CK12Relaunch&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=bandwidth%2Bbroadband%2Bschooldistricts%2Bconnectivity) is a free online tool from EducationSuperHighway that empowers school district leaders to get the most bandwidth for their broadband budgets. With the recent release of the full version of the tool, you can more easily **view and compare bandwidth and broadband pricing information for your own and other school districts across Montana**. *Compare & Connect K-12* uses public E-rate application data to allow state and school district leaders to do the following:

- Find out what other school districts are buying to support digital learning
- Compare broadband options in a state or across the country
- See what service providers are offering to nearby districts
- View a summary of your 2016 E-rate filing

As part of the Montana School Broadband Project, we encourage you to use this tool when planning your network upgrade. For questions, contact Alyssa Cubello at EducationSuperHighway at alyssa@educationsuperhighway.org.

2017 MASSP Assistant Principal of the Year Announced

The Montana Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) and School Administrators of Montana (SAM) are pleased to announce Ms. Shanna Smith, Assistant Principal at Belgrade High School, as the 2017 Montana Assistant Principal of the Year.

The NASSP Assistant Principal of the Year award program annually recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. These assistant principals are acknowledged by their peers for the exemplary contributions they have made to the profession by demonstrating excellence in the areas of personal excellence; collaborative leadership; curriculum, instruction and assessment; and personalization.

Leland Stocker, Superintendent of Belgrade Public Schools, highly recommended Ms. Smith for the award stating that she “is special and unique because she truly listens to teachers and makes things happen.” In a letter of recommendation, a parent of a Belgrade high school student commented on Ms. Smith’s ability to utilize student activities and classroom instruction to prepare students to be college and career ready. Paul Lamb, Ms. Smith’s building principal, stated, “In making administrative decisions, Ms. Smith’s priority is to have all decisions focus on keeping the education at Belgrade High School the best it can be.”

Ms. Smith received an English Literature degree from Montana State University in 1998, where she also played basketball for the Lady Cats. Shortly thereafter she earned her teaching degree and began teaching English in the Three Forks School District. She moved to Belgrade and taught in the middle school and the alternative school before earning her master’s degree in educational leadership from Montana State University and becoming Assistant Principal at the high school, a position she has held for three years.

Ms. Smith will represent Montana when she joins honorees from the other 49 states for a recognition program in Philadelphia next summer, where she will be considered for the 2017 NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year.

MASSP and the members of SAM congratulate Ms. Shanna Smith on receiving this award.

Congrats!

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Other Events for Participating in the Legislative Session? Yes!

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

As a partner within the Montana Public Education Center, SAM would like to extend an invitation to attend and participate in two important events scheduled during the Session: **Caucus Day on the Hill** and **Day of Advocacy**; both are sponsored by the organizations of MT-PEC (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, and SAM).

MT-PEC Caucus Day on the Hill – This event will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017. All administrators, board members, teachers and friends of education are invited to this event. Lunch will be held at the Capitol in the Rotunda. Time will be provided for visitation with your legislators in the afternoon, and there will be a Reception at the MTSBA 4th Floor that evening. I hope you will come join the activities and take the opportunity to visit with your legislators.

MT-PEC Day of Advocacy – This is another legislative event that will be held concurrently with the MASS Spring Conference (March 13-14). The Day of Advocacy will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017. The invitation applies to all of the same parties mentioned above for Caucus Day on the Hill. At this point within the Session, priority bills are usually in high level play and we will need your presence and assistance in visitation with your district legislators. Again, lunch will be served at the Capitol and there will be a reception planned at MTSBA.

Mark your calendars for both of these events!

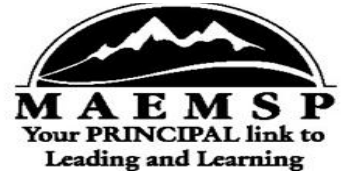


The 2017 SAM Needs Assessment Survey

Next week, you will be receiving an email with the link to the 2017 SAM Needs Assessment Survey. The purpose of the SAM Needs Assessment Survey is to learn more about our members' needs for Services, Professional Development, and Advocacy (Goals of the SAM Strategic Plan). Information obtained will be used to develop enhanced benefits to serve Montana's education leaders. You will be asked to please complete the following survey by January 9, 2017. Completion time required for survey is only 5-10 minutes.

We would very much appreciate your responses to the survey and your assistance in making SAM the best it can be for your leadership needs. Please look for this email coming to your inbox next week.

Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals



66th Annual Winter Conference

“Improving our Schools One Student as a Time”

Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT

January 25, 2017 -- *Pre-Conference Workshop with Principal Kafele*



This Pre-Conference will kick off with **Principal Kafele's** General Session Titled “*Is My School a Better School BECAUSE I Lead It?*”, Kafele will take participants on a self-reflective journey that will challenge them to view critically who they are as the leaders of their schools which will include the intentionality behind all aspects of their practice. He will challenge participants to look within themselves for deeper meaning of their own personal worth to their schools. Optional Tech Cafe on Twitter, EdCamps & Breaks with Exhibitors. We will conclude with some nice Giveaways!

January 26-27, 2017 -- *Winter Conference with Pete Hall*

Thursday - the Conference will be PACKED with some great information. Starting with **AS-CD's Professional Learning Expert Consultant, Pete Hall's** presentation on “*Building Teacher's Capacity for Success; Principal Leadership*” -- He will be discussing Trauma and working with students and families that experience trauma throughout their lives. We will have the Luncheon/MEAMSP Business Meeting & Exhibitor Prize Drawings, Hospitality Hour Sponsored by Lifetouch (Jersey Night!) & MAEMSP Banquet - Wear Your Favorite Jersey!

*(Wear Your Favorite
Jersey)*



Friday - the final day of the conference will begin with a Hot Breakfast and Candidate speeches. **Pete Hall** will spend time with participants on working with district coaches and the roles of the administrator, coach & teacher. We will close with more Drawings.

Hotel Room *Block Expires December 28, 2016*

Hotel rooms are available at the Holiday Inn Great Falls, MT 1100 5th St. South -- (406) 727-7200. Please advise the hotel you are booking under the **MAEMSP/SAM's room block** to receive conference rates of \$98.00 plus tax.

Additional Room Block Hotel rooms are available at the Hilton Garden Inn Great Falls, MT 2520 14th St. SW -- (406) 452-1000. Please advise the hotel you are booking under the **MAEMSP/SAM's room block** to receive conference rates of \$98.00 plus tax. Expires 12/24/16

Additional Room Block Hotel rooms are available at the Hampton Inn Great Falls, MT 2301 14th St. SW -- (406) 453-2675. Please advise the hotel you are booking under the **MAEMSP/SAM's room block** to receive conference rates of \$94.00 plus tax. Expires 12/27/16

Register TODAY!
*Registrations received after
5:00 pm on January 8th will
be assessed a \$30 late fee*



*Rigorous Learning For
All Students*



International Center for Leadership in Education

RIGOROUS LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Health Insurance

Professional Learning



Technology Innovation

SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2016-17



School Administrators of Montana is proud to offer innovative professional learning opportunities to district and school leaders across Montana. A combination of the SAM Mentor Program and the SAM 21st Century Leadership Institute (21 CLI), the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) is unlike any program available today. In our 4th year, the LPLP provides a unique opportunity for those who register for the program(s) to receive **one-on-one coaching/mentoring** and **innovative, student learning focused, blended professional learning opportunities** while working with experienced, highly qualified Montana administrators (mentor/coaches called Providers) in each of the 9 MASS region areas of the state.

SAM Mentor Program

Helping School leaders succeed...

The SAM Mentor Program uses trained, effective, recently retired and practicing administrators from each of the Superintendent Regions in Montana. Using a regional model allows SAM to take advantage of the knowledge and experience these leaders possess regarding the culture and values of the communities in their region. Understanding the culture and values of a community is key to the success of a school or district leader.

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- ✓ Trained mentors who are respected and successful in the field of educational leadership
- ✓ Mentors who are current and up to date on today's education issues and research
- ✓ Supported by the Montana University System, OPI and Private Business
- ✓ Online networking and webinars through the Resource Center at sammt.org
- ✓ One-on-one support
- ✓ Mentoring specific to the needs of the mentee
- ✓ On-site visits based on mutual agreement between mentor and mentee
- ✓ Confidentiality - what is discussed in mentoring stays in mentoring
- ✓ Renewal units through OPI

21st Century Leadership Institute

Montana takes the lead . . .

SAM 21 CLI is a unique approach to professional learning and school improvement, incorporating all the critical elements of what we know is exemplary practice in professional learning.

What is Profound Professional Learning?

Professional Development measured in terms of impact on STUDENT LEARNING!

- Learn by Doing - Connect your PD to your everyday work and professional goals and growth plans
- Individualize, Personalized and Differentiated - Utilize a powerful ONLINE 21st Century Professional Learning Center with teaching modules and a wealth of resources: hundreds of books, articles, videos and more
- Learning Teams - Participate in teams with opportunities for networking, collegiality
- Learning Cycles - Designed to provide a framework for continuous collegial dialog with a well-organized, user-friendly interface and methodology
- Coaching & Mentoring - A critical element of professional learning that includes guided practice with available providers that are experienced and adept in educational processes
- High Impact - Achieve measureable improvement in student learning

Learn more about the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program by visiting 'www.sammt.org' then, under Accouncements click 'SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2016-17'

Montana Big Sky Sponsors

Health Insurance

P O Box 4579 - Helena, MT 59601

Email: dbarrett@ms-sf.org

Phone: 406-457-4400



Technology Innovation

1309 NW Bypass - Great Falls, MT 59404

Email: bruce.wallace@vision.net

Phone: 406-727-5994

Rigorous Learning For All Students

1587 Route 146 - Rexford, NY 12148

Email: STraub@leadered.com

Phone: 518-399-2776



Professional Learning Organization

1031 N. Academic Way, Ste. 242

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Email: hrogers@ncce.org

Phone: 208-292-2529

Montana Glacier Sponsor



Infinite Campus is the largest American-owned student information system

4321 109th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449
763-458-1752

stephanie.sondrol@infinitecampus.com



Website development

Innovation Park at Penn State
200 Innovation Blvd., Ste. 201, State College, PA 16801
Email: pweyandt@Schoolwires.com
Phone: 814-689-1046 Ext. 304



Mileposts™ cloud-based achievement data management

408 E. Parkcenter Blvd., Ste. 300 - Boise, ID 83706
Email: rlewis@silverbacklearning.com
Phone: 208-481-2300

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SAVING : INVESTING : PLANNING

Annuities, life insurance

430 Ryman St., #102- Missoula, MT 59892
Email: john.wing@valic.com
Phone: 406-329-5500



Western States
School Program

School property & liability insurance

1200 North Montana Ave. Helena. MT 59601
Email: dpillatzke@paynewest.com
Phone: 406-457-4531

Montana Mountain Sponsor



Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Solutions
34 West 6th Avenue, Suite 2B, Helena, MT 59601
Email: bsolan@ameresco.com
Phone: 406-461-7432



Lowest total operational cost for clean buildings
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Billings, MT 59102
800-652-1020
brucoeducation@gmail.com

We Teach Clean



School portraits, yearbooks, sports portraits
2110 Overland Ave., #115A - Billings, MT 59102
Email: jvagner@lifetouch.com
Phone: 800-862-7183



Bullying Prevention Program
15251 Pleasant Valley Road - Center City, MN 55012
Email: srthomas@hazelden.org
Phone: 651-213-4068



Education Employee Financial Products & Services
621 W. Mallon, Suite #301, Spokane, WA 99201
Email: Cheryl.Brandt@americanfidelity.com
Phone: 509-279-2540, Ext 353



Auto, homeowners, life insurance and financial services
617 W Stolley Park Road, Grand Island, NE 68801
Email: keith.jorgensen@horacemann.com
Phone: 866-517-6870



A leading provider of comprehensive Custodial, Grounds & Facility Operations and Maintenance services
4702 Western Ave. Suite 101--Knoxville, TN 37921
gcaeducation@gcaservices.com
888-736-0863



Safe, Easily Managed School Networks
106 East Sixth Street, Suite 500, Austin TX 48701
rick.berger@lightspeed-tek.com
800-732-8999



School Workers' Compensation & Property/Liability Coverage
PO Box 7029 - Helena, MT 59604
Email: sbubb@mtsba.org
Phone: 406-457-4418

SAM Business Partners **BULLETIN**

Montana Mountain Sponsor



Education's Premiere Recruitment Service
 PO Box 2519
 Columbia, MD 21045
 Email: llayton@teachers-teachers.com
 Phone: 877-812-4071 x94

Montana Meadow Sponsor



Black Mountain Software
School Accounting Software
 145 Southlake Crest, Suite 1, Polson, MT 59860
 Email: sales@blackmountainsoftware.com
 Phone: 800-353-8829



Technology Services Partner
 16 6th Street North, Ste 42
 Email: jeffp@schoolhouseit.com
 Phone: 406-235-7020



Technology planning, project & solution services
 2135 Charlotte Street, Suite 2
 Bozeman MT 59718
 406-294-5478
 bbassett@pinecc.com

Upcoming 2016-17 Conferences & Meetings

2017

January	25-27	MAEMSP Winter Conference	Great Falls
February	13	MT-PEC Caucus Day on the Hill	Helena
	14-16	MACSS Conference	Helena
	15	MCEC Conference	Missoula
March	13-14	Day of Advocacy/MASS Spring Conference	Helena
	14-15	METAtechED Conference	Helena
April	6-7	MASSP Spring Conference	Helena
June	14	DaRud Cup Golf Tourney	Helena
	15	SAM Evening of Excellence	Helena
	15-16	SAM Delegate Assembly	Helena