

SAM

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School Administrators of Montana BULLETIN

VOLUME XXXIX

September 2016

NO. 255

What's Your Number 1 in Education?

by Paul Furthmyre, SAM President

I am honored to be one of the first members of SAM to welcome you to this new school year. I have the privileged to serve as your SAM President over the next year. A year that will be filled with new trials for Public Education in Montana. With the national government giving back local control to our state, we must make certain that the voice of administrators is present at all governing tables. This task cannot be left simply to our Executive and Associate Directors, but all of us need to take some responsibility for what Montana's ESSA law looks like. It has been since 2001 that we as Montana Educators really felt some control over the direction of student learning in our great state.

With the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law of 2001, we were told that education is measured by exam scores. Although I do not think any administrator would disagree with the desire of having all students proficient in math and reading, the reality of the law was setting us up for our Armageddon. We have become so entrenched with raising math and English scores, we have forgotten how to teach our students. We have developed programs for students and then placed those programs onto them without really having the student be part of the solution. Education did not change with the new demands of today's learner as we were so focused on only their academic achievements.

Fast forward to the present and you will see that we truly do struggle with understanding the personal needs of our students. We have failed to understand the new developments in brain research that could help us understand the most precious part of education, the students. We have all been told to form bonds and relationships with our students to ensure they feel safe and comfortable in our schools. We have been asked to build resiliency, self-regulation, and grit in our students to meet the changing demands that face the society we live in. We were asked to do this while focusing on the dreaded test scores. In my opinion, we did not focus on what really should be the number one focus in education, the students.

Brain research tells us that our brain is organized to complete all the simple actions first. It is no secret the personal safety is at the center of our simple actions. Our brain cannot function correctly if our hierarchy of needs are not being met. Dr. Chris Blodgett of the WSU Clear Trauma Center indicates that the foundation to support childhood trauma is relationships. However, many of our students have lost significant skills to build meaningful relationships. They struggle with expressing their emotions and dissociate their emotional reactions to others. He also states that social and emotional learning (SEL) needs to be embedded into all classrooms. Research also supports that SEL is the number two indicator of students' academic success.

continued on Page 2...

SAM President's Message Continued...

According to Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), SEL has five competency clusters. The following is taken directly from the casel.org:

- 1. Self-awareness:** The ability to accurately recognize one's emotions and thoughts and their influence on behavior. This includes accurately assessing one's strengths and limitations and possessing a well-grounded sense of confidence and optimism.
- 2. Self-management:** The ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations. This includes managing stress, controlling impulses, motivating oneself, and setting and working toward achieving personal and academic goals.
- 3. Social awareness:** The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures, to understand social and ethical norms for behavior, and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.
- 4. Relationship skills:** The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. This includes communicating clearly, listening actively, cooperating, resisting inappropriate social pressure, negotiating conflict constructively, and seeking and offering help when needed.
- 5. Responsible decision making:** The ability to make constructive and respectful choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on consideration of ethical standards, safety concerns, social norms, the realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and the well-being of self and others.

It is not that every student who steps into our school has toxic stress or trauma in their lives. However, I believe that if we seriously look at building programs that will help our at-risk students, all students will benefit. We finally have a chance to put students first again and math/reading second. It is my belief that policy makers will be watching what we do with our freedom given to us with The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). For many years, our congressional delegates have heard how bad the system was. As Bill Daggett put it, "they have washed their hands of the problem." They have given us what we have asked for and it is now time for us to create a system that will produce results for ALL students.

In closing, I hope that you will join me in putting students first. It is my sincere belief that if we focus on giving our students the skills to function socially and emotionally, we will see far better results with our students than we ever have. Congress has given us the torch to the Educational Olympics, let's light the flame and make it shine bright.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to serve as your SAM President. I wish you the best of luck this year.

Paul

SAM Resources Ready For You In 2016-17

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year. Your SAM team is here to support you in the great work you do for students. Please take a look at the following overview of our strategic plan and services provided, and let us know how we can serve you this school year!

SAM was organized as an association of administrators in 1970. It represents the interests, aspirations, and professional leadership of Montana administrators. Nearly 1000 members network under six affiliate associations ([MASS](#), [MAEMSP](#), [MASSP](#), [MCASE](#), [MACSS](#), [META](#)) to promote GREAT Montana Schools, supporting leader's passion for providing an outstanding education to Montana's children!



SAM Strategic Plan Goal Areas

1. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership
2. Advocacy
3. Professional Learning and Services

Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership

- Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools.
- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana's children!
- Active participation by SAM members in research and implementation of issues impacting education – ESSA Montana Implementation Workgroup, HB 374 Suicide Prevention Workgroup, Special Ed Coop Funding Task Force, Content Standards Committees, Montana Early Childhood Education, Chapter 57 flexibility in educator licensure review, AdvancED accreditation, and others.
- Cooperating with partners in the development of – Montana Educator Performance Appraisal System (EPAS), EducationSuperHighway Broadband Access Initiative, Montana K-12 Connectivity Workgroup, Montana Farm 2 School Task Force, Montana Afterschool Alliance Steering Council, Montana Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Workgroup, Montana CSPD Stakeholder Group.

Advocacy

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC) creating a positive impact and strong voice on education policy issues.
- SAM Delegate Assembly has developed a long range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level (DA Steering Committee, SAM Legislative Network). Delegate Assembly met on June 16-17, 2016 creating recommendations.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor's office, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- Working closely with the K-12 Vision Group and MT-PEC to establish areas of focus for the 2017 legislative session and education advocacy issues.

continued on Page 4...

Executive Director Message Continued...

- Focus on SAM Priorities and understand relationship to MT-PEC priorities:
 - Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (Recruiting Incredible School Educators Rise4Montana). Emphasis on public school health insurance costs
 - Oppose Privatization with Public Funds
 - Support Special Education Funding Adequacy and Equity
 - Support Capital Facilities/Technology Infrastructure Needs
- SAM members' leadership and participation in the development of Montana's Comprehensive Work Plan for implementation of the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a high priority. Of the 33 participants, 19 are SAM members. Committee meetings – May 25-26, September 26.
- SAM is working closely with partners in the education community on challenges in the implementation of the SB 410 Tuition Tax Credit bill (2015 legislative session) in association with the MQEC.
- School Funding Interim Commission (SFIC) – Communicating with Commission members offering support for accomplishing their charge. Met on September 23, 2015 adopting a work plan that included the SAM and MT-PEC priorities. Meetings held on January 11-13, April 4-5, May 3-5, and June 13 continued focus on 1) Recruitment/Retention, 2) District Structure & Equity, 3) Facilities, and 4) Special Ed Funding. Final meeting on August 29 approved a final report which SAM and MT-PEC acknowledged but indicated that the report falls short of adequacy and equity to develop the full potential of every child through the basic system of elementary and secondary schools.
- Federal advocacy for the implementation of ESSA, support of the increased funding of IDEA, led the charge with Montana's congressional delegation and national associations to request USED address the burden created in completing the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) biannual report, E-Rate and Broadband access for schools, and the REST Act and NEST Act rural educator recruitment legislation.

Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- SAM 21st Century Leadership Institute and Mentor Programs are aligned to form the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP), expanding professional learning opportunities for 54 Montana administrators. Review progress at SAM LPLP 2015-16 Executive Summary.
- #SAMedchat – weekly chat group on Thursdays, 7-8 pm. Please feel free to join in!
- SAM website - a one stop repository for member resources. Social media resources.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 13 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the Conferences tab on the website.
- SAM implementing new association management software, upgrading website and tools for members.
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, SAM Bulletin and weekly SAM Updates, colleague networks, state and federal advocacy networks, legal assistance, professional liability insurance, technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions, use of social media to communicate effectively, many more...
- MCEL 2016 –GREAT III publication will be followed by GREAT IV and many learning opportunities for all education leaders at MCEL on October 19-21, 2016.
- SAM Administrators Institute provided great learning opportunities our entire membership – theme for SAM AI 2016 was “Leadership of Transformation Change for the Whole Child”!
- SAM 2015-16 Membership Report was 987, a record! Great work affiliate leaders! For 2016-17, 933 member ships renewed so far.

Have a great 2016-17 school year!



**Montana Association of School Superintendents &
Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education**

2016 Annual Fall Conference

September 19 & 20, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn & Holiday Inn -- Bozeman

(MASS) / (MCASE) Monday, September 19 -- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

***Leadership in Supporting Behavior Needs in Districts**

***Higher Education's Role in PreK-12 Public Education - *Dr. Waded Cruzado,
President MSU Bozeman***

***MASS Luncheon & Awards**

***Breakout Sessions**

***Exhibitor Breaks**

Understanding and Advocating for Montana's Public Schools - *MT-PEC Panel

Update from OPI & SAM - *Denise Juneau & Kirk Miller

***Monday Night Football Reception**

(MASS) Tuesday, September 20 -- 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

***MASS Business Meeting**

***School Size Caucus**

***Exhibitor Breaks**

Communities for Schools - *Alton Frailey, President, AASA

(MCASE) Tuesday, September 20 -- 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) - *Mark Mahnke, CRC

***OPI Special Education Division Presenters - *Frank Podobnik,
State Special Education Director & Staff***

***MCASE Business Meeting**

Hilton Garden Inn Room Block --

2023 Commerce Way, Bozeman, MT 59715 -- 406-582-9900

Refer to the **Montana Association of School Superintendents** room block to receive the \$138 per night rate.

Holiday Inn Room Block --

5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715 -- 406-587-4561

Refer to the **ADM** room block to receive the \$138 per night rate.

Hampton Inn Room Block --

75 East Baxter Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715 -- 406-522-8000

Refer to the **School Administrators of Montana** room block to receive the \$138 per night rate.

Cancellations received after September 4th are subject to a \$30 cancellation fee

There are no refunds for non-attendance.

BULLETIN

Page 6

One Night In November

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

As The November elections draw quickly near, we all need to be reminded that the outcomes of this year's elections could greatly affect Montana's public schools as we know them. That is why voter turnout is ever more important, especially with our school personnel across the state.



I am not writing this article to emit a political stance nor will I go into great detail of the changes that could occur with several state wide & legislative seats open. I will leave that to the readers' due diligence in looking at the issues that public schools face especially during each of the most recent legislative sessions. I will, however, provide that brief reminder of what those issues are that would result in Montana's public schools being in harm's way: Privatization, School Choice and Charter Schools – match the candidates that support such legislation and you realize the attempts of the unconstitutional funneling of public money - enough said.

We would like to provide school leaders an important, friendly reminder to encourage your staff to vote in the general election on Tuesday, November 8. We would also like to remind leaders to avoid challenges to your encouragement and be steady with the restrictions that are in place that do not allow use of school equipment and use of school time for lobbying efforts.

Together, we can make the difference in protecting public schools here in Montana and keep the focus on the innovative efforts to effectively and successfully educate all students in our great state! Let's help to make one night in November a triumphant celebration for the educational excellence that you and your staff produce within our public schools!



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Montana School Broadband Project Continues - Claim Your Spot!

(September 1, 2016)

Today Governor Bullock visited Evergreen School District to reaffirm the state's commitment to connecting all schools to high-speed broadband. Evergreen was one of twenty-eight school districts that worked with nonprofit EducationSuperHighway last year to connect its hard-to-reach schools. EducationSuperHighway continues its partnership in Montana this year, seeking to work with the more than 140 school districts that lack fiber connectivity or are unable to find affordable options. If your school district lacks high-speed connectivity that can support digital learning, we encourage you to sign up for a brief consultation with the networking experts at EducationSuperHighway. EducationSuperHighway works with school districts at no cost. You can sign up by following this link: <http://tinyurl.com/montanateam>



**Education
 SUPERHIGHWAY**



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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. Entering 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'

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October 19-21 2016 -Billings, Montana

Association Board of Director Meeting – Wednesday, October 19:

- 8:00 am – 10:00 am MTSUIP Board Meeting w/Breakfast
- 8:00 am – 10:00 am WCRRP Board Meeting w/Breakfast
- 10:00 am – 12:30 pm SAM Board Meeting w/Lunch
- 10:00 am – 12:30 pm MASBO Board Meeting w/Lunch
- 10:15 am – 12:30 pm MTSBA Board Meeting w/Lunch
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm IISM Board Meeting w/Lunch

Visit www.mcel.org for more information

Visit <http://www.mcel.org/registration> to Register as an Attendee

Visit <http://www.mcel.org/exhibitors> to Register as an Exhibitor

Visit <http://www.mcel.org/callforclinics> to Submit a possible Presentation

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016

- 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration – Radisson
- 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm School Law Pre-Conference Session
- 2:55 pm – 3:10 pm Break
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm MQEC Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016

- 7:30 am – 5:00 pm Registration – Radisson
- 7:30 am – 8:00 am Continental Breakfast, Montana Convention Center
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am Presentation of Flag & Awards Ceremony

9:00 am – 9:15 am	Break
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Opening General Session, Montana Convention Center
10:40 am – 11:30 am	Clinic Sessions I
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Strolling Lunch, Montana Convention Center OR Lunch on your own
1:10 pm – 2:00 pm	Clinic Sessions II
2:10 pm – 3:00 pm	Clinic Sessions III
3:10 pm – 4:00 pm	Break - with exhibitors, Montana Convention Center ** 3:30 pm Exhibitor Drawings
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	MTSBA Regional Director Meetings SAM Business Meeting MASBO Membership Meeting
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Indian School Board Caucus Board Meeting
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	University Alumni Receptions (MSU & UM)
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	MREA & MCS Reception – Everyone Welcome - Radisson Lobby

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

7:30 am – 11:00 am	Registration – Radisson
7:30 am – 8:30 am	MTSUIP/WCRRP Membership Meeting and Breakfast
8:30 am – 10:30 am	MTSBA Annual Business Meeting - Trustees
8:40 am – 9:30 am	Clinic Sessions III
9:40 am – 10:30 am	Clinic Sessions IV
10:40 am – 12:00 pm	Closing General Session, Montana Convention Center
12:10 pm – 1:00 pm	MTSBA Board Meeting

****Schedule subject to change****

Information on how to Register for MCEL 2016 -- <http://www.mcel.org/home>

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SAM Business Partners **BULLETIN**

Montana Mountain Sponsor



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 Bozeman MT 59718
 406-294-5478
 bbassett@pinecc.com

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 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



School property & liability insurance
 1200 North Montana Ave. Helena. MT 59601
 Email: dpillatzke@paynewest.com
 Phone: 406-457-4531

Upcoming 2016-17 Meetings Dates

2016

September	16-17	META Board Retreat	Bozeman
	18	MASS Board of Directors Meeting	Bozeman
	18	MCASE Board of Directors Meeting	Bozeman
	19-20	MASS/MCASE Fall Conference	Bozeman
	27-28	MACSS Fall Conference	Big Timber
October	19-21	MCEL 2016	Billings

2017

January	25-27	MAEMSP Winter Conference	Great Falls
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