



MINNESOTA EDUCATOR

A publication for the members of Education Minnesota

August 2018

The U.S. Supreme Court has tried to weaken unions by allowing public-sector employees to benefit from a collective bargaining agreement without paying for it. But Education Minnesota members vow to remain a strong and powerful voice for working people, educators and the people we serve – students.

Read more on page 3.



Big changes coming to MEA conference

The 2018 Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA) conference will be Thursday, Oct. 18, only and open to just Education Minnesota members and college students working to become teachers.

Condensing the conference down to one day and making other changes allows Education Minnesota to still offer almost as many classes as in previous years, and focus the offerings to our members who are paying dues to receive this professional development.

“Education Minnesota would love to be able to continue to provide this free service to the public,”

said Education Minnesota President Denise Specht. “Unfortunately, anti-union forces are trying to financially destabilize labor unions through court cases and legislation.”

“We need to give preference to the people who are paying for the conference. Education Minnesota members, who teach and support most of Minnesota’s students, are sometimes turned away from sessions on Thursday because they are so in demand.”

The conference will continue to take place in downtown St. Paul at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, and will still be the largest

professional development opportunity for educators in Minnesota.

The Thursday event will feature more than 90 workshops, with a focus on sessions that meet the state’s relicensure categories.

Education Minnesota members will need to register for the conference. Same-day registration is possible, if space is available.

To see the workshop listings and register today, go to www.cvent.com/d/3gqd75.

Attendees will receive a certificate of attendance at the end of each workshop session, but local continuing education committees

will determine whether to approve the credit.

There will be no general session this year, but multiple mini-keynote speakers will be featured throughout the day.

Confirmed mini-keynotes include the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, Kelly Holstine from Shakopee, national organizer Jitu Brown and media expert Erin Walsh. Read more about their keynotes on page 8.

Education Minnesota will be offering onsite child care during the MEA conference. The service is open to kids ages 6 months to 10 years and will be free to Education Minnesota members.

ACCENT on Children’s Arrangements is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. ACCENT has prepared a children’s program called Camp MEA, which includes age-appropriate, curriculum-enriched activities.

A preview containing the conference schedule and highlights will be in the October/November issue of the new Minnesota Educator magazine. A printable schedule and detailed workshop descriptions will be available at www.educationminnesota.org/events.aspx#mea and on the Education Minnesota Crowd Compass event app.

NEW CONTEST! WHERE ARE YOU READING YOUR MINNESOTA EDUCATOR THIS SUMMER?

Our new summer contest rolls on this month! Education Minnesota is inviting its members to share a photo of where they are reading their Minnesota Educator newspaper this summer!

Email a photo to educator@edmn.org or share it on social media using #mneducator to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card! If you have already submitted a photo, you are welcome to share another and be entered into the contest a second time!

Submissions are due Aug. 6. Happy reading!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

The 2018 MEA Conference will be only open to Education Minnesota members and will take place on only Thursday, Oct. 18. Learn about the changes and how you can register for free professional development. **Page 1**

President Denise Specht talks about the influence of dark money after the Janus decision and how educators will not let it take down our union. **Page 2**

New year, new look. Read about how the next Minnesota Educator you receive will look a little different! **Page 2**

The *Janus v. AFSCME* case may change some of the rules about unions, but it will never silence our collective voice. **Page 3**

Minnesota’s primary election will be held Aug. 14, but early voting has started. Exercise your right to vote! Education Minnesota has endorsed Tim Walz for governor and Tina Smith for U.S. Senate. **Page 4**

The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning awarded grants to members across the state this spring. The foundation also announced its 2018-19 grant deadlines. **Pages 6-7**

The new MEA Conference will feature a great selection of mini-keynotes. **Page 8**
See a selection of professional development opportunities, classroom resources and grants available for educators. **Page 8**

Educators are too smart to let dark money snuff out our union

Everyone dreads that phone call in the middle of dinner, the one with the long pause before the telemarketer gets on the line and starts talking. It's even worse when that person starts telling lies about things you know about and asks for your reaction.

The experts call the technique "push polling," and it started hitting union households in Minnesota within days of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of the client of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation in the case of *Janus v. AFSMCE*.

The telemarketers trashing our union won't say who hired them. They also won't tell you how their anonymous clients will use the data. We know the first round of emails to teachers came from a Michigan group connected to the DeVos family, but those new surveys and ads appearing in our Facebook pages? Good luck figuring out who is behind them.

Please don't get frustrated with the telemarketers, or with the canvassers who will soon be knocking on your door and asking you to leave your union. Those workers are just trying to make a living and pay their bills like the rest of us.

Save your anger for the few billionaires who hired the callers and door knockers. That greedy few will never ring your doorbell or call you directly. In fact, they are going to great lengths to make sure you never know their names or see how they are using their vast fortunes against working people.



Denise Specht, president

They scheme to conceal their contributions from scrutiny, which is why it is called, "dark money."

Texas attorney Jonathan Mitchell has now filed federal lawsuits in Minnesota and six other states. His suits demand that public-sector unions refund fees paid by nonmembers over many years. He pointedly refused to answer questions from the New York Times recently about his coordinated litigation campaign, so the reporter concluded, "It is unclear who funds the work of the firm."

One clue lies with the co-counsel in the lawsuit in Washington State. She's a lawyer for the virulently anti-union Freedom Foundation, which had received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Koch brothers, two petrochemical billionaires. The foundation even won an award for its union-busting tactics in 2017 from the State Policy Network.

The State Policy Network is a national group of affiliated

public relations outfits in 49 states, including two affiliates in Minnesota. The network receives funding from the Koch brothers and their wealthy associates. One of nonprofits, the Illinois Policy Institute, hired Mark Janus as a senior fellow after the Supreme Court ruled on his case. The public relations shops like to call themselves think tanks, but when they all raise the same issues and take the same positions, it's hard to see them as independent. As the journalist Jonathan Rowe once said of the Heritage Foundation, "They don't think; they justify."

Unlike real thinkers who strive to make the world easier to understand, the network supports secrecy, at least when it comes to the donor class. Its president was among 60 leaders of conservative groups to sign a May 15 letter asking the Trump administration to stop requiring certain nonprofit organizations to send the IRS the names of big contributors. On July 16, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin agreed.

Under the headline, "I.R.S. will no longer force Kochs and other groups to disclose donors," the reporter from the New York Times quoted Notre Dame Law School Professor Lloyd Hitoshi Mayer as saying, "This will make so-called dark money a bit darker."

The lead lobbyist for Koch Industries, Phillip Ellender, told the newspaper, "Transparency is meant for the government, not for private individuals."

Keep in mind, the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling on Citizens United empowered the groups involved in Mnuchin's announcement to spend unlimited amounts of money on campaign ads, according to the newspaper.

While we may never know all the details about who pays for the State Policy Network's propaganda and drop campaigns, with a reported budget of \$80 million, we at least know the goal. Last year, The Guardian newspaper reported on leaked internal SPN documents that described its mission as to "defund and defang" public sector unions to "reverse the failed policies of the American left."

Because of the work of dedicated journalists around the country, many of the anti-union groups within the network now have toxic brands. So the groups turned to more secrecy after *Janus*. They are creating front groups with friendly names, including the Teacher Freedom Project. The Center for Media and Democracy reports there are at least 11 front groups now running drop campaigns, including Educated Teachers in Minnesota.

Educators who attended the NEA's national convention in Minneapolis this summer may have seen that group's billboards. They feature an image of chalk letters on a blackboard, telling teachers drop their union. Never mind that schools haven't used blackboards in 20 years or what educators wrote on them was directed

at students. The billboards show this group is clueless and their leaders think we're children.

I've been asked a hundred times if I thought the dark money behind the *Janus* case would snuff out Education Minnesota and other public sector unions. A month after the court ruled, my answer is still "absolutely not." Large numbers of working people won't take the advice of secretive organizations that clearly don't like or respect them. We're not fools, despite what they think.

These groups all speak for a few billionaires who rig the rules against working families. They're working against the pensions, Medicare and Social Security we depend on for a secure retirement. To pay for more tax cuts for the rich, they call for defunding the schools and campuses where we work to educate the next generation so they can pursue their dreams.

Unions will survive and grow because we allow white, black and brown people, and people from different races and from different places, to come together and fight for a better future. Just as we did in the past, unions can still win better wages, safer workplaces, smaller class sizes and expanded human rights in our communities.

Together,

Twitter: @DeniseSpecht

New year, new look! The Minnesota Educator will now be a bimonthly magazine!

As the calendar changes to a new school year, Education Minnesota will be changing some things, too! Next month, your Minnesota Educator will arrive featuring a new look—a magazine. And with that new look will be a new publication schedule—every other month. Read more about the change and new ways you can get all of your education news from Education Minnesota in the upcoming August/September magazine!

MINNESOTA EDUCATOR

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By web: www.educationminnesota.org and choose the Contact Us link to send a change of address.

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For general inquiries and business at the state headquarters

Phone: 800-652-9073 or 651-227-9541

For information about union activities, work and resources, go to www.educationminnesota.org.

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The Minnesota Educator is published for members to share news about education issues and training opportunities for educators as well as union and political news that affects public education in Minnesota.



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Janus decision changes union rules

On June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned four decades of precedent and sound law, making it harder for working people to join together in strong unions to build better lives for families and communities.

The 5-4 decision in the *Janus v. AFSCME* case now allows public sector employees to enjoy the benefits of a negotiated contract without paying for it.

Janus does nationally what right-to-work laws did state-by-state—make all union fees voluntary.

“Neither this ruling nor the right-wing groups that will weaponize it, will silence the voices of Minnesota’s professional educators,” said Education Minnesota President Denise Specht. “We will still stand for effective and welcoming schools for our students, proud and healthy communities for their parents, and salaries and benefits that will sustain the families of Minnesota educators.”

Mark Janus, a child support specialist and public employee in Illinois, challenged the \$45 per month in fair-share fees he was required to pay to his AFSCME local union as a nonmember.

Like Minnesota, Illinois has a law that allows public sector unions to charge members a fair share of the union’s expenses on collective bargaining and representational activities, also known as an agency fee.

The lawsuit was initiated by Illinois’ Republican Governor, Bruce Rauner, but the district court subsequently allowed Mark Janus to be substituted as the plaintiff.

Janus challenged the constitutionality of the Illinois labor law allowing his employer and the union to collect fair-share fees from nonmembers.

Janus argued that the fair share fee requirement to subsidize activities he did not necessarily support was “compelled speech” in violation of his rights under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The court’s decision does not affect the provisions in Minnesota’s public sector labor law, PELRA, that require employers to recognize local unions as the exclusive representatives of bargaining units certified by the state’s Bureau of Mediation Services. This means that everyone who is part of the certified bargaining unit continues to be covered

EDUCATION MINNESOTA AND ITS MEMBERS WILL NOT BE WEAKENED OR SILENCED BY THE ANTI-UNION CORPORATE INTERESTS BEHIND THE JANUS CASE. WHY DOES BELONGING TO EDUCATION MINNESOTA MATTER?

- **Our voices:** Our voices as professional educators are elevated and heard when we join together as Education Minnesota. It will be harder for us to have influence when decisions are made about public education if we are smaller in number.
- **Our strength:** The strength of educators to advocate for their profession and their students increases with each individual who chooses to work in union toward shared goals, but it weakens us all when even one educator opts out. Only together can we improve our learning and working conditions, bargain enough pay to sustain a family and win the time and training to constantly improve as educators of our students.
- **Our pay and benefits:** Minnesota educators enjoy better pay and pensions than educators in many other states because previous generations of educators fought for them. Teachers in so-called right-to-work states earn \$7,609 less on average than Minnesota teachers.
- **Justice for all:** Those who want to weaken unions want more power in the political process. Unions have fought for the rights of all Minnesotans, and we can still fulfill the responsibility to alleviate the racism, discrimination and income inequality that hurt our students and their families.

by the collective bargaining agreement, regardless of whether or not they are a member.

It will still be a violation of PELRA and the local’s collective bargaining agreement with an employer for employers to negotiate individual contracts or agreements with members that deal with or affect pay, benefits, schedules or other terms and conditions of employment without the union’s agreement.

The court’s decision does not affect the duty of fair representation of Education Minnesota and locals under current Minnesota law.

Although certain benefits and services are limited to members—ESI-sponsored benefits, professional liability coverage, member-only professional development including the MEA Conference, attorney representation for MDE, criminal, and licensure/code of ethics investigations,

and licensed educator terminations—Education Minnesota and locals have an obligation to represent members and nonmembers fairly in any issues relating to rights under the collective bargaining agreement, including disciplinary investigations by the school district.

Learn more about how Education Minnesota will remain a strong union at www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy.

Minnesota educators host, attend national meetings

Members of Education Minnesota attended the business meetings of our two national unions this summer, including hosting the National Education Association Representative Assembly in Minneapolis.

The NEA RA is the national union’s annual business meeting. The meeting convened July 2, less than a week after the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision in the *Janus v. AFSCME* case. The blow to unions turned into momentum for delegates, as they worked to make the union stronger.

According to the NEA, delegates spent the majority of their time at the Minneapolis Convention Center debating and adopting new policy statements, resolutions, amendments to existing policies and more than 100 new business items, which, taken together, create

a detailed NEA education policy blueprint for the upcoming year.

Education Minnesota members also traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the American Federation of Teachers Convention in the second week of July.

The post-*Janus* momentum was also felt at the AFT Convention, with thousands of nurses, social workers, public safety workers, school staff and teachers joining together in union.

“Despite their ruling and the predictions of some who tried to write labor’s obituary, our union is demonstrating labor’s strength, not weakness,” said AFT President Randi Weingarten. “Working people see that, through their union, they can accomplish together what would be impossible on their own.”



Education Minnesota members also volunteered their time on the host committee and in various roles throughout the convention to help make the NEA RA in Minneapolis run smoothly. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make the convention a success!

(Top right) The Education Minnesota delegates to the National Education Association Representative Assembly wore their red polo shirts in solidarity with the “Red for Ed” movement. (Bottom right) The American Federation of Teachers Convention included a march of union members showing the power of the labor movement and educator unions, in the wake of the *Janus* decision.

Early voting in primary election now open

Vote for Education Minnesota-endorsed candidates

The 2018 Primary Election Day is Aug. 14, but early voting is open now at locations in every county and by mail.

Education Minnesota encourages all of its members to be a voter—both in the primary and general election in November.

Find your early voting options and Election Day polling place at mnvotes.org.



Educators across the state pledge to vote!

Earlier this summer, Education Minnesota held a “selfie” contest, asking people to share a photo of themselves with an “I Will Vote” sticker on social media. Thanks to everyone who participated and everyone else who will vote this summer and fall!

THOUSANDS OF EDUCATORS PARTICIPATE IN CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

TIM WALZ FOR GOVERNOR

Tim Walz spent 20 years as a teacher and coach. He taught in classrooms in Mankato during the Pawlenty cuts. He knows what educators go through, and will represent us as governor.



Imagine a governor who knows the frustration of having to administer MCA tests instead of teaching, who's dealt with large class sizes and shrinking budgets all while being told to raise test scores. Someone who has walked the halls and managed the lunchroom in our schools, paid union dues, contributed to a pension, shared our contracts and truly understands what we go through each and every day. Imagine that person writing the state's budget, overseeing the Department of Education and being the person to sign or veto education policy. Tim Walz is one of us!

Members of the Education Minnesota Political Action Committee voted overwhelmingly to endorse Walz and his running mate, state Rep. Peggy Flanagan, after the longest, most engaging endorsement process in union history. More than 1,200 members

participated in this process, attending meetings, hosting school visits, talking face-to-face with candidates and writing screening questions for the PAC board.

TINA SMITH FOR U.S. SENATE

Education Minnesota has also endorsed Sen. Tina Smith's campaign for re-election to the U.S. Senate. Smith was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton to replace former Sen. Al Franken.



As lieutenant governor, Smith was one of the fiercest advocates for Minnesota educators at the Capitol. In Washington, she has championed the education debt crisis and efforts to recruit and retain educators.

Smith met with a group of Education Minnesota members in April for a Q&A broadcast live on Facebook. Based on that event and thorough questionnaires, the union decided to endorse Smith. The political action committees of the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association have also endorsed her campaign for Senate.

Schedule your summer, fall voting days with these timelines!

Primary	Early voting begins 6/29/18	Election Day 8/14/18
General Election	Early voting begins 9/21/18	Election Day 11/6/18
Save the date	United day of early voting for educators is 10/19/18	

The Election 2018 coverage in this issue is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by Education Minnesota PAC, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103 in support of named candidates. The independent expenditure material is not approved by the candidates nor are the candidates responsible for it.

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In the market for a new vehicle this summer? Take advantage of UECU's great rates while taking a vacation from your first payment for up to **90 days!**

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Apple Valley
Coon Rapids
Minnetonka
Woodbury

*Offer valid until August 31, 2018. Subject to credit approval and qualified borrowers may defer payments up to 90 days after loan signing. Interest will accrue from date of loan until payments begin and could result in a negative amortization. Refinanced loans must be from another institution. Federally insured by NCUA.



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Foundation awards next rounds of grants

Education Minnesota's Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Board of Trustees awarded grants this winter and spring in the classroom-focused, IMPACT and professional development for classroom, education support professionals and higher education faculty grant categories. More grant opportunities will be available this coming school year. Learn more about this year's grant offerings and application deadlines on page 7.

For more information about the foundation, go to www.edmnfoundation.org.

Classroom Project Grants

Classroom Project Grants are intended for licensed personnel, such as classroom teachers, guidance counselors and others who require a license to carry out their work with students, who work with students and wish to improve their practice and student achievement. Educators may request up to \$3,000 for a project.

Maureen Bechard

Dakota County United Educators
Surviving Middle School When You Are 13 and Neuroatypical

\$1,404.38

Dawn Blankenship

United Teachers of South Washington County
Social Thinking Clinical Training

\$1,500

Nancy Burkhardt

Social Emotional Classroom for Center-based EBD Students
Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers

\$1,500

Timothy Churchill

Duluth Federation of Teachers
OEMS Professional Development Institute—Connecting PLC, Assessment & Instruction

\$1,500

Anna Dutke

Prior Lake-Savage Education Association
Nature-Based Preschool Conference

\$1,200

Tamie Egge

Education Minnesota/Jackson County Central
Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills—World Language Proficiency Project

\$1,075

Jill Fast

Litchfield Education Association
Southern California Kindergarten Conference

\$1,500

Jessica Gillespie

Education Minnesota-Osseo
World Language Best Practices at ACTFL

\$1,500

Karen Huberty

Dakota County United Educators
The Road to Understanding ADHD and Executive Functions

\$1,500

Bethany Janson

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
Border Crossers: Talking About Race for Parents

\$1,500

Tara Kennedy

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
EL Calm

\$1,110

Joyce Kiehn

Litchfield Education Association
Southern California Kindergarten Conference

\$1,500

Dawn Kuechle

Eden Valley-Watkins Federation of Teachers
Southern California Kindergarten Conference

\$1,500

Anne Marie Martin

Education Minnesota-Osseo
ACTFL National Conference

\$1,500

Valerie Matthews

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
Border Crossers: Talking About Race for Parents

\$1,500

Laurie Meyers

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
Augsburg University Professional Development Week for Educators

\$1,475

Jason Olson

Education Minnesota-Osseo
Modeling Physics Workshop

\$1,200

Kristan Pfarr

Le Sueur-Henderson Education Association
7 Mindsets University Conference

\$1,500

Erin Roeske

South St. Paul Teachers' Association
Southern California Kindergarten Conference

\$1,500

Anne Rohe

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
Border Crossers: Talking About Race for Parents

\$1,500

Jenna Rowley

Chaska Education Association
Master's in Education

\$1,500

Mary Theresa Schmitz

Elk River Education Association
Trauma: Given its Stored in the Body, if I Move it and Heal it will it then RESTORE Practices to Connect Us to Ourselves, Our Colleagues, and Our Students?

\$1,500

Mary Theresa Schmitz

Elk River Education Association
Mindfulness, SEL & Neuroscience: Creating A Systemic, Sustainable Framework for Integrated Education

\$1,500

Colleen Winters

Le Sueur-Henderson Education Association
7 Mindsets University

\$1,500

Education Support Professionals Professional Development Grants

These professional development grants are intended to provide education support professionals (ESPs) with opportunities to take the lead in acquiring and sharing new skills and knowledge. These skills might include new instructional ideas, technology, working with parents, etc. ESPs may request up to \$1,500.

Cayenne Dupay

Saint Paul Federation of Teachers
Region III Interpreting Conference

\$1,100

Amanda McKinnon

Saint Paul Federation of Teachers
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Region III Conference 2018: Coming Together to Create Community

\$800

Lisa McQuerter

Education Minnesota Osseo ESP Paraprofessionals
Techniques for Children with Emotional and Behavior Disorders

\$678

Ingrid Miera

Education Minnesota Osseo ESP Paraprofessionals
How to Speak Up for Racial Justice

\$1,366.28

Ellen Olsen

Saint Paul Federation of Teachers
2018 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Region IV Conference

\$1,087.65

Sarah Pflugh

Saint Paul Federation of Teachers
RID Region 3 Conference: Coming Together to Create Community

\$850

Joan Roberson

Education Minnesota Osseo ESP Paraprofessionals
Certificate in Special and General Education

\$1,500

Sue Snyder

Saint Paul Federation of Teachers
Sign Language Interpreter Conference: RID Region IV

\$1,087.65

Higher Education Professional Development Grants

These professional development grants are intended to provide higher education faculty of colleges and universities with opportunities to take the lead in acquiring and sharing new skills and knowledge. These skills might include new instructional ideas, technology, conference attendance, etc. Faculty may request up to \$3,000.

Erica Berg

MSCF – Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Moorhead
NCLEX Camp for Nurse Educators

\$3,000

Jessie Breyer-Peterson

MSCF – Century College
National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology: Active Learning and Evidence-Based Approaches to Teaching

\$2,550

Thomas Brown

MSCF – South Central College-Mankato
Ag Finance Professional Development

\$3,000

Mark Carlson

MSCF – Vermilion Community College
2018 ISKES Conference

\$3,000

Christy Cook

MSCF – Northwest Technical College-Bemidji
Transcultural Approaches to Advance Health Care

\$3,000

Shannon Dahms

MSCF – Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Moorhead
Transcultural Nursing Society Annual Conference

\$2,997.20

Jay Gerdin

MSCF – Anoka Technical College
Laser Weld Training

\$3,000

Paula Gudmundson

University Education Association
Learning to Listen—Study and Performance of Oral Traditions of the Flute

\$3,000

Tracy Hoffman

MSCF – Anoka Technical College
Attend Ethical Hacking Course

\$3,645

Robert Kilbourn

MSCF – North Hennepin Community College
Forensic Psychology Conference

\$2,629

Renu Kumar

MSCF – Minneapolis Community and Technical College
American Society of Microbiologists Microbe Meetings

\$3,000

Rick Nelson

MSCF – Century College
Best Practices/Trends-Nutrition and Sport Careers

\$2,810

Lynette Neppel
 MSCF – Northland Community and
 Technical College-East Grand Forks
 Enhancing Anthropology in the Classroom
\$2,500

Steve Potts
 MSCF – Hibbing Community College
 Mining the Archives
\$3,000

Georgina Sampson
 MSCF – Anoka Technical College
 Assembly on Education for Health
 Information Professionals
\$1,863.90

Ann Schroder
 MSCF – Inver Hills Community College
 Internet Librarian Conference 2018
\$1,444.30

Maura Smyth
 MSCF – Century College
 Instructional Design Certificate
\$2,646

Erica Stene Winkler
 MSCF – Anoka Technical College
 Technical College Counselor Development
\$1,950

IMPACT Grants

IMPACT grant projects must be coordinated by an active member of Education Minnesota who has teamed up with a nonprofit organization. Approximately \$15,000 is available for one year. The budget should reflect a one-year project.

Leslie Frosaker
 Blackduck Education Association
 Social Emotional Safety Project
\$15,000

Roberta Hernandez Rasmussen
 Education Minnesota Roseville
 Absent Narratives No Longer
\$15,000

Stephen Szczodroski
 Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
 Community Engagement and Enrichment for
 At-Risk Students Using Mountain Bikes
\$14,950

IMPACT Grants – Second year

IMPACT grant projects are eligible for a second year of funding.

Susan Bianchi
 Bloomington Federation of Teachers
 Year 2–Resiliency 360: Embracing Mindfulness to Create
 More Active and Engaged Teaching and Learning
\$15,000

Kelly Wilson
 Education Minnesota Osseo
 Trauma-Informed and Restorative Practices Training
\$15,000

2018-19 Education Minnesota Foundation grant application timelines

The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning offers the grants to eligible members during the 2018-19 school year.

For more information on the grants, how to apply, the grant-making process and grantee spotlights, go to www.edmnfoundation.org.

Professional Development Grants

Professional Development Grants are intended to provide education support

professionals, higher education faculty and teachers with opportunities to take the lead in acquiring and sharing new skills and knowledge. ESPs and teachers may request up to \$1,500, and higher education faculty may request up to \$3,000.

Applications are due Nov. 2, 2018, and April 5, 2019.

Bruce Vento Science Educator Professional Development Grant

The Bruce Vento Science

Educator Professional Development Grant supports educators who teach science as part of their day and want to acquire and share new skills and knowledge. Applicants may request up to \$1,500.

Applications are due Dec. 14.

Classroom-Focused Grants

Classroom-Focused Grants are intended for licensed personnel who work with students and wish to improve their practice and student

achievement. Applicants may request up to \$3,000 for a project designed now and implemented in the upcoming school year.

Applications are due Dec. 14.

IMPACT Grant

IMPACT Grant projects must be coordinated by an active member of Education Minnesota who has teamed up with a nonprofit organization or their local union/school district. Approximately \$15,000 is available for one

year. The budget should reflect a one-year project.

Applications are due Jan. 11, 2019.

National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) Scholarship

The NBCT process is demanding and complex. The foundation board is looking to award scholarships to members who are familiar with and able to commit to that process.

Applications are due Nov. 2.

MEMBERS WANT TO KNOW

LIFESPRK – WHOLE PERSON SENIOR CARE

Lifesprk is your ESI sponsored Senior Care partner for helping seniors thrive!

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EDUCATION MINNESOTA OPPORTUNITIES

2018 MEA CONFERENCE FEATURED SPEAKERS

The 2018 MEA Conference will take place Thursday, Oct. 18 and feature mini-keynote speakers, as well as relicensure and other professional development workshops. Read more about the conference and big changes happening this year on page 1.

Mini-keynote speakers include:

Jitu Brown: How to use community organizing to fight against the privatization of public schools



Jitu Brown is the national director for the Journey for Justice, an alliance of more than 30 grassroots groups in two dozen cities fighting against the privatization of public schools. Brown was born on Chicago's south side and is a product of Chicago's public school system. He started volunteering with Chicago's Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO) in 1991 and joined the staff as education organizer in 2006. KOCO has served as a resource for organizations nationwide, dealing with school closings and the elimination of community voice from the decisionmaking process.

Minnesota Teacher of the Year Kelly Holstine: Inclusion in the classroom



Kelly D. Holstine is an English teacher at Tokata Learning Center in Shakopee, an alternative high school that serves student in grades 9-12. Holstine's school serves students with varying temperaments and abilities, but she understands that students can flourish and succeed when educators adapt their teaching styles and make kids feel safe and valued. Holstine has taught at Tokata since 2012, and has been teaching in Minnesota since 2007. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts and a master's degree from Augsburg College. She was named the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year in May.

Erin Walsh: Social media and its effect on adolescents



Erin Walsh and her father run Minneapolis-based Mind Positive Parenting, an organization that helps parents raise children who will thrive

in the age of digital media. They track the digital landscape, take the latest research on child brains and use it to develop parenting tips. Walsh has consulted with schools, school districts, parent groups and other youth-serving organizations throughout the country on issues related to digital media and children.

Educator panel: How restorative practices transform school climates

This panel will explore how restorative and trauma-informed practices transform school climates. Education Minnesota's Educator Policy Innovation Center completed a research report last year on exclusionary practices and how schools should plan for a transition away from such interventions and toward the full-scale adoption of a restorative culture.



Learn more about the MEA Conference session offerings and how to register for sessions at www.educationminnesota.org/events.aspx#mea.

ABOUT THIS PAGE

The Minnesota Educator provides opportunities listings on this page as a member service, highlighting the free and low-cost professional development the union provides. The page also lists conferences, training and resources of possible interest. Readers interested in pursuing an opportunity should check it out carefully. The Educator tries to include only legitimate, useful opportunities that support education practice.

To submit an opportunity:

- Send a complete description of your opportunity to educator@edmn.org.
- Send your item by the first Friday of the month to be considered for the next month's Opportunities page. Include daytime contact information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Environmental education annual conference

The Minnesota Association for Environmental Education is hosting its annual conference Aug. 11 at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage. Participants will be able to explore the connections between environmental education and other areas of learning. The conference will explore science, social-emotional development and art through the lens of nature. Lunch and six continuing education units are available. The registration fee is \$75 or \$65 for MAEE members. Scholarships may be available.

For more information about the conference or how to register, go to <http://minnesotae.org>.

AFT Share My Lesson Summer of Learning series

The American Federation of Teachers' online database, Share My Lesson, is holding free professional development webinars Aug. 2 and 9 as part of its Summer of Learning professional development series. Webinar topic areas include addressing equity, classroom management, current events, educator wellness and new teachers, school leadership, social-emotional learning and teaching strategies. Each session is worth an hour of continuing education units.

To learn more or register, go to <https://sharemylesson.com/summerPD>.

Science Museum education support, professional development

The Science Museum of Minnesota offers its SciEd programming to all educators. SciEd is science education and program support for educators. Through the program, educators can have access to field trips to the museum, in-school visits, curriculum support, the Science House lending library and professional development opportunities. A free email subscription offers teaching tips and ideas, as well as invitations to teacher events, including Free

Teacher Preview invitations. The Science House is a circulating library and professional development center with over 2,000 hands-on items educators can borrow for use with students.

For more information, go to www.smm.org/educators.

Code.org August workshops

Six Code.org computer science fundamentals workshops will take place across Minnesota this August, aimed at K-5 teachers who have varying levels of computer science knowledge. These free workshops will provide participants with an intro to computer science, pedagogy, overview the online curriculum, teacher dashboard and strategies for teaching "unplugged" classroom activities. These workshops work for educators who have access to varying levels of technology in their schools.

For more information about the workshops, locations and how to register, go to bit.ly/codewithangies.

Primary sources workshops offered across Minnesota, Wisconsin for free

The Minnesota Historical Society has received a Teaching with Primary Sources grant from the Library of Congress to support inquiry-based instruction in K-12 classrooms. Workshops are free, but registration is required and space is limited. Teachers who attend the full day receive lunch, continuing education units and a stipend. Upcoming workshops include Oct. 6 in Thief River Falls, Nov. 3 in Duluth, Dec. 8 in Rochester and Jan. 12 in St. Paul.

Visit <http://education.mnhs.org/workshops> to find the workshop closest to you and to register.

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Free classroom materials from Great Lakes Aquarium

The Monnie Goldfine Teacher Resource Center at Great Lakes Aquarium has downloadable curriculum, teaching kits, equipment, props and media for educators to borrow for free. The aquarium also offers field trips. Each teaching kit includes a lesson plan aligned to Minnesota State Standards, materials to run most activities and background information. Great Lakes Aquarium Curriculum is a library of lesson plans that have been written or adapted by educators and scientists. Great Lakes Aquarium's Resource Center has books to help you learn background information, curriculum guides to help you design lessons and children's books to use in your classroom. The resource center also has DVDs to use in the classroom and CDs with information and curriculum.

To learn more about the resource center and how to request kits, go to <https://glaquarium.org/learning/for-teachers/teacher-resource-center>.

Project Paradigm Challenge for classrooms

The Paradigm Challenge is an annual competition that inspires youth to use STEM skills plus kindness, creativity and collaboration to make a

difference. Youth ages 4 to 18 compete in three age divisions. Submission types include posters, videos, inventions, public messages, community events, websites, mobile apps or anything else that will help address one or more of the Paradigm Challenge projects. There are student prizes awarded, as well as grants for educators who assist in the project creation. Projects are due May 1.

For more information, go to www.projectparadigm.org.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Target field trip grants

Target field trip grants fund extended learning opportunities through field trips for students. These grants are awarded nationally to cover costs that are increasingly difficult to manage in tight school budgets. Grants are available to K-12 schools. The application window opens Aug. 1 at noon and closes Oct. 1. The maximum grant is \$700.

For more information, go to <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants/field-trip-grants>.

NEA Foundation grants available

The NEA Foundation has two categories of grants available for members. The next application deadline for both grants is Oct. 15. The leadership and learning grant is for teachers, education support professionals and higher education faculty who are interested in taking part in professional development experiences or to fund collegial study. The student achievement grant helps educators improve the academic achievement of students in public schools or public higher education institutions.

For more information or how to apply, go to www.neafoundation.org/pages/grants-to-educators.

Toshiba EdTech grants

The Toshiba America Foundation accepts applications from teachers who want to make science and mathematics more engaging for their students. Applications must be for project-based learning, not solely for computers, laptops or tablets. Applications for grades 6-12 for grants less than \$5,000 are accepted at any time. For grant requests of more than \$5,000, deadlines are May 1 and Nov. 1. Grants for grades K-5 of less than \$1,000 are accepted until Oct. 1.

For more information or to apply, go to www.toshiba.com/taf.

Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize

The annual Global Teacher Prize was created to honor one outstanding educator who has made a significant contribution to their profession. Applicants are judged on a variety of criteria, including impact in the classroom and contributions to the community. One educator receives a \$1 million award; finalists also receive prizes and recognition. The application and nomination period closes Sept. 9.

For application materials, go to www.globalteacherprize.org.