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 and will still be the largest 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 6. 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 #meducator 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 vs. 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

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 strong and powerful voice for working people, educators and the people we serve — students.

Read more on page 3.
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 best way to deal with 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. AFSCME.

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 people 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 greed will call 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.

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 networks support secrecy, at least when it comes to the donor class. Its president was among 60 leaders of the anti-union 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 Minnesota Union empowered the groups involved in Munchin’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 campaigns, with a reported budget of $80 million, we at least know the general picture. The Guardian newspaper reported on leaked internal SPN documents that described its mission as to “defend and define” 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 work in the shadows. So the groups turned to more secrecy after Janus. They are creating front groups with friendly names, including the Teacher Freedom Project, Teacher 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 appearing in a book, “Forsaking Justice: The Janus Case: Defund and Defang.”

“Defund and defang” public sector unions to “reverse the failed policies of the American left.”

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!
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 Janus 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 not naturally 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 safeguard the future for the state’s children 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 law was invalidated 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 of 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 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 NEARA 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 the Janus case. The blow to unions turned into momentum for Janus.

The NEA representative assembly debated and adopted 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 funding 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!
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.

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

Enjoy this summer with NO PAYMENTS for 90 DAYS!

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!

You could even refinance a current auto loan you have elsewhere to take advantage of this summer break from your payment.

*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. Offer only valid for UECU members.
EXPERIENCE THE ***THRILL***
OF NICKELODEON UNIVERSE®
WITH YOUR GROUP.

**BIG SAVINGS** WHEN YOU BOOK
YOUR GROUP OF 15 OR MORE.

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Prices exclude sales tax. Prices subject to change.

To book your group please contact Mall of America® Group Sales at 952.883.8609 or groupsales@mallofamerica.com. Group orders must be placed a minimum of five business days in advance.
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
Socia clin view ing Clinical Training
$1,500

Nancy Burkhardt
Social Emotional Classroom for Center-based EBD Students
Rubabbirude Federation of Teachers
$1,500

Timothy Churchill
Duluth Federation of Teachers
OEMIS Professional Development Institute—Connecting PLC, Assessment & Instruction
$1,500

Anna Dutke
Prior Lake-Savage Education Association
Nature-Based Preschool Conference
$1,200

Tami 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-losseo
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
Litfield 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-losseo
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-losseo
Modeling Physics Workshop
$1,200

Kristan Pfarr
Le Suur-Henderson Education Association
7 Mindsets University Conference
$1,500

Erin Roeseke
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 Suur-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, conferenc attendance, etc. Faculty may request up to $3,000.

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 Pfugh
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
Ag Finance Professional Development
$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 Gardin
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
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 3, 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 Jan. 11, 2019.

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 Dec. 14.

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.

2018-19 Education Minnesota Foundation grant application timelines
The 2018 MEA Conference will take place Thursday, Oct. 18 and feature mini-keynote speakers, as well as renicurse 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 (KOCC) in 1991 and joined the staff as education organizer in 2006. KOCC has served as a resource for organizations nationwide, dealing with school closings and the elimination of community voice from the decisionmaking process.

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’s Opportunities page. Include daycare 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 core learning goals. The conference will explore science, social-emotional development and art through the lens of nature. Lunch and six continuing education units are offered. For more information, go to www.mmae.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 topics include adapted instruction, 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. The Science Museum and 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 in their classrooms. 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. 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/codewithubings.

Primary sources workshops offered across Minnesota

The Minnesota Historical Society has received a Teaching with Primary Sources grant from the Library of Congress to support inquiry-based learning 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. 25 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 Minnesota Historical Society has received a Teaching with Primary Sources grant from the Library of Congress to support inquiry-based learning 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. 25 in St. Paul. Visit http://education.mnhs.org/workshops to find the workshop closest to you and to register.

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 diagrams 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 adopted by educators. Great Lakes Aquarium’s Resource Center has books to help educators 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 guides.

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 leadership, 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, contests, models, more. The goal is for students to 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.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Target field trip grants

Target field trip grants fund extended learning opportunities through field trips for students. These grants are awarded annually 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 is Nov. 1 and Nov. 1. Grants for grades K-5 of less than $5,000 are accepted until Oct. 31. For more information or 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, the deadline is 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 significant contributions to their profession. Applicants are judged on a variety of criteria, including impact in the classroom and contributions to the teaching profession. Each winner 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.