



MINNESOTA EDUCATOR

A publication for the members of Education Minnesota

October 2017

GREEN CARD VOICES

Sharing the stories of immigrant students is at the heart of the nonprofit organization Green Card Voices. Students in Minneapolis, Fargo and now St. Paul have shared stories about their journey to America, which then becomes a published book and online videos. Read more about Green Card Voices and how they are teaming up with teachers to make this happen on page 3.



Minnesota teachers bring training to rural Bolivia

Jackie Smith and Debbie Hadas spend their summers like most educators—teaching and participating in professional development opportunities. But unlike most other educators, for the last five years Smith and Hadas' professional development classes have been taking place in rural Bolivia.

Smith and Hadas work with the nonprofit organization Mano a Mano, whose mission is to create partnerships with impoverished Bolivian communities that improve health and increase economic well-being. They spend about two-and-a-half weeks

in Bolivia each summer, teaching the teachers and learning from them as well.

Smith is an instructional coach in St. Paul. Hadas is now retired from her English language learner teaching position in Apple Valley.

"About six years ago, a group of teachers who were connected through church and other organizations were asked to put together a professional development session for teachers in the rural communities of Bolivia," said Smith. "Teachers in rural Bolivia had few opportunities for professional growth."

Smith and Hadas, along with a few others, got to

work planning lessons.

"We had to come up with teaching strategies that could be easily shared and that would require minimal resources," said Smith.

The group has developed model large-group reading lessons and presentations for the teachers, as well as math games that increased student engagement using accessible items like dice or playing cards.

"We focus on simple tools for teachers to differentiate in their classroom," Smith said.

Each year, Smith and Hadas say they are able to better prepare for the trip and plan lessons that will

meet the needs of the teachers in these communities, the challenges they face and the profound needs of their students.

"The teachers are extremely receptive to the learning and have made it their own," Smith said. "We've returned to the places we've gone and have seen how they modified the strategies to suit their students and their environment."

And the learning is not just a one-way street.

"We're learning from them too," said Hadas. "We see teachers that don't have the material resources American teachers have, but they

are no less committed to their students."

"We've learned a lot over the last five years about the education system in Bolivia and how we can match our lessons to fit into their system," Smith said. "It's not a lot of time to be there. You have to have everything prepared before you go. It's not like you can make copies when you get there."

The first day of the trip includes visiting with the community and teachers first to see what they need most and what challenges they face.

Bolivia, page 12

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Read the first article in our series on technology in schools on page 4. Then answer the question, "What type of technology have you used in your school or on your campus and how has it helped improve your work?" and send it to us via email, Twitter or Facebook to be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Target gift card.

Email us at educator@edmn.org or post on Twitter or Facebook using #MNEducator. Find us on Facebook at Education Minnesota and on Twitter @EducationMN. Answers will run in next month's Minnesota Educator.

Congratulations to last month's contest winner, **Kathryn Kaminsky** of Elk River.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Education Minnesota President Denise Specht discusses the downfalls of our schools' focus on standardized testing. **Page 2**

A local nonprofit highlights the stories of Minnesota immigrant and refugee students. **Page 3**

Technology in Schools series. Educators use the Seesaw app to connect with parents, track student progress. **Page 4**

What is Education Minnesota's Political Action Committee? **Page 5**

Friday workshops at MEA conference will be for Education Minnesota members only. **Page 6**

Free child care available once again for members at MEA conference. **Page 6**

Another year of fun at the Education Minnesota State Fair booth. **Page 11**

Nominations open Oct. 1 for the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award. **Page 13**

Answers to last month's "We Want to Hear From You" question about the best advice you've received to help in your career. **Page 13**

NextGen EdMN program focuses on support for educators new to the profession. **Page 14**

A look at educators' rights when interacting with law enforcement. Legal brief. **Page 15**

New training on trauma-informed, restorative practices. Opportunities. **Page 16**

Choices outside the classroom affect test scores

This spring I went looking for some of the most influential people in Minnesota education and found them in London, inside a glass-and-steel conference center just down the road from their massive, 90-year-old, stone headquarters overlooking the Thames River.

It was May and the annual meeting of shareholders of Pearson PLC, the giant education corporation and Minnesota’s contractor for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. The company moved the meeting to that nearby conference center on a quiet London street to hide from all the protesters, including educators like me.

I attended the meeting as a concerned shareholder. I was there with the American Federation of Teachers and other international unions and organizations to demand Pearson divest from Bridge International Academies, a chain of for-profit schools in Africa and India. The businesses deliver highly scripted lessons through computer tablets and employs low paid and lightly trained teachers. The tuition is too expensive for the poorest families and the schools allegedly don’t accept students with special needs. These academies represent everything wrong with for-profit education.

We also called for changes to Pearson’s testing business in the United States, which sells accountability tests to states and prep materials to districts for those tests. But the angriest group of protestors were the shareholders outraged that CEO John Fallon received a 20 percent pay raise, to \$1.9 million, after the company lost \$3.3 billion for the year. They got up, one by one, and chewed out the board members for an hour.

Pearson used to make a lot of money selling overpriced textbooks to college students. Not anymore. College enrollment is declining and



Denise Specht, president

students are saving money by downloading digital books, renting, buying used or even sharing. Pearson is desperate to replace that revenue with profits from its other divisions, including its charter schools and U.S. testing business.

I remembered that meeting when reading the news coverage of the latest scores on the MCAs in August. None of the reporting acknowledged that decisions and motivations of people far from Minnesota’s classrooms affect test scores. That really needs to change.

A week before the state released the MCAs scores, Fallon told analysts in a conference call the company was pushing states to move from pencil-and-paper tests because, “that’s a more profitable business as it goes digital, as the improving margins show.”

Minnesota should consider the problem with that approach before signing any all-digital contract with a testing vendor. Researchers call it the “mode effect.” In this case, it means students who are most familiar with computers, or the quirks of a particular testing company’s software, tend to score better than students who don’t. It also shows up when students who use the best information technology outscore kids using clunky computers with slower internet speeds.

The issue made national news last year when an

analysis of one of the national Common Core exams found, as Education Week put it, “...millions of students who took PARCC exams by computer tended to score worse than those who took the same exams with paper and pencil.”

Education Week reported the Illinois State Board of Education found 43 percent of students there who took the PARCC English/language arts exam on paper scored proficient or above, compared with just 36 percent of students who took the exam online.

Someone who didn’t work in a classroom made a choice about how students would take those tests. Those choices moved the scores, probably in ways to reward wealthier, whiter students and depress the scores of students of color and students who live on poverty.

Here’s another example of a choice I believe affects test scores. Many elementary teachers say the MCA tests take too long, especially for third and fourth graders. When the little learners tune out, they just start marking answers—but some students stay focused longer than other children do. So why are the tests so long? Ask the Legislature.

In 2013, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law requiring the MCAs for students in grades 3-7 to be “fully adaptive,” which means given on computer and the difficulty of the questions changes in response to the students’ previous answer. Further, the law required the Minnesota Department of Education include questions above and below grade level, although this is exactly what not to do when measuring proficiency. The MDE followed the law and added those changes to 2016 tests.

The Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor reported on the change in a 2017 report under a section called, “Unnecessary Testing.” The report states, “...due to

federal requirements, MDE has been unable to use these questions in calculating most of the test scores it reports. As a result, statewide tests have been lengthened without much benefit.”

So what are these tests actually measuring—knowledge or attention span? Are we assessing students’ computer skills? How about the speed of the web connection on testing day, or even access to the right prep materials?

The choices made by powerful people far from Minnesota’s classrooms affect the scores we read about every summer. The best interests of Minnesota students may, or may not, be the top priority of the decisionmakers. Regardless of whether we agree with those choices, it’s vital to consider them when using test scores to set policy that spends billions of dollars of public money and, more importantly, creates the environment in which Minnesota children learn.

To be clear, I’m not saying there isn’t a serious gap in academic success between Minnesota’s students of color and their white classmates. The total effect of all the outside factors wouldn’t be enough to erase the inequalities in Minnesota schools and society. The differences in graduation rates wouldn’t change much. Test scores tend to follow socioeconomic status, and all the other indicators, from home ownership, to wages, to measures of health, point in the same direction. The barriers institutional racism put in front of our communities of color are real, and so is the huge gap between the wealthiest fraction of the 1 percent and the rest of us. It’s worth remembering while Minnesota has some of the largest test-score differences in the nation, the state with the smallest is thoroughly impoverished West Virginia.

The federal government has

forced schools in Minnesota and the rest of the country to administer and report scores on standardized tests since the No Child Left Behind law of 2001. That system will continue more-or-less intact in the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act. It is past time for policymakers, parents and even educators to become more sophisticated and skeptical consumers of test-score data. At the very least, we should insist on the level transparency of a political poll.

No good political journalist would report the results of an opinion poll without checking the questions for bias, learning when pollsters asked their questions, reporting the financial interests of the people presenting the data and giving the methodology a skeptical look. Yet reporters do none of that before presenting test-score data as if it’s as simple as a football score.

It’s worth asking if a stumbling multinational would be tempted to tip the scales toward profits on its tests—and if the state’s regulators would be able to catch it. It’s worth checking, every year, if the testing industry really has moved beyond its history of bias against young people of color. And it’s worth examining how much noise the testing technology puts into the data.

Maybe the testing industry is all fine after all, and Minnesota’s educators just worry too much. Or maybe, just maybe, we could dig deeper and find the causes of the “achievement gap” are wider and more troubling than the news stories are saying.

Together,

Twitter: @DeniseSpecht

MINNESOTA EDUCATOR

To reach the newspaper for queries, story or commentary ideas

Email: educator@edmn.org
Mail: Minnesota Educator
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

To report a change of address or end duplicate mailings, contact the Education Minnesota membership department.

Email: susan.lynskey@edmn.org
Phone: 651-292-4805

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

October 2017 – Volume 20, No. 2

The Minnesota Educator publishes each month. It is one of the union’s print and digital publications to educate, inform and organize the community of members. The Educator is reported, edited and designed by union staff members. The paper is printed in RR Donnelley Co.’s union shop in Long Prairie, Minn. Find copies of the Educator online at www.educationminnesota.org. Go to the News menu, then Minnesota Educator.

To inquire about advertising in the Educator or on the website

Email: ilissa.morrow@edmn.org
Phone: 651-292-4864

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. Follow Education Minnesota on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.



[www.facebook.com/
EducationMinnesota](http://www.facebook.com/EducationMinnesota)



[www.twitter.com/
EducationMN](http://www.twitter.com/EducationMN)

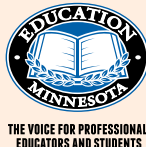


[www.pinterest.com/
EducationMN](http://www.pinterest.com/EducationMN)

Minnesota Educator (ISSN 1521-9062) is a monthly publication. Periodicals are postage-paid at St. Paul, Minnesota, and additional offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Minnesota Educator, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103-2196.

Minnesota Educator. All rights reserved, but readers are welcome to reproduce any article in whole or in part on the condition that they give credit to Education Minnesota.

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.



Denise Specht
President
Paul Mueller
Vice President

Rodney Rowe
Secretary-Treasurer

Sara Gjerdrum
Executive Director

Brandon Rettke
Director of Public Affairs

Kieren Steinhoff
Editor

Eric Widi
Art Director



MINNESOTA STUDENTS SHOWCASED IN BOOK SERIES

Gathering first-person accounts of the journey of immigrants and sharing them with the world is the core mission of Green Card Voices, a Minnesota nonprofit organization.

"We felt it was important to take back the narrative of immigrants and refugees," said Tea Rozman-Clark, Ph.D., co-founder and executive director of Green Card Voices.

Rozman-Clark and others came together in 2013 to do just that. Today, the organization has recorded 300 stories, published three books and produced digital content and exhibits to bring these stories to to a mass audience.

"(The storytellers) are willing to do it because we often feel powerless when people are talking about who we are," Rozman-Clark said. "This is them telling their stories. We all have a story. You need to take the time and listen to understand. Every new wave of immigration to this country has a new lack of understanding."

Three years ago, Green Card Voices was beginning to gather stories when Wellstone International High School, an all-immigrant, English-learner school in Minneapolis, reached out and wanted to have their students participate.

"We recorded the 30 stories of the youth and felt it was so compelling," said Rozman-Clark. "At the time, bullying was going up. Because it was an all-immigrant school, the larger community was at a loss because they weren't getting to know them. There was no opportunity for them to meet other kids if they didn't go to school together."

The Minneapolis book received acclaim, so much so that Green Card Voices got a call from a school in Fargo wanting to do its own book. Then, attention turned to St. Paul and LEAP High School, another all-immigrant, English-learner school.

"We look at the demographics of refugees," said Rozman-Clark. "They are completely different in Minneapolis, which

is primarily East African, than in St. Paul, who are primarily from Asia."

Rozman-Clark reached out to Amy Hewett-Olatunde, an English and writing teacher at LEAP High School, to help coordinate the project.

Hewett-Olatunde jumped at the chance to share her students' stories.

"They gave me the six questions that students would be asked in their interview," she said. "They were going to do the interview in January, so I embedded the questions in their journal assignments throughout the first part of the year."

Right before winter break, the 30 students had answered the six questions through different assignments and Hewett-Olatunde shared the news about the book.

"I talked with them about the Minneapolis book and said, 'Doesn't that sound like your stories and what you've been writing about?'" she said. "Some students started cheering, but some were very hesitant. I had to build the trust with them and explain the process."

First, the students did a video interview to gather their story and to be used as digital content. Hamline student teachers then came to LEAP High School and helped them transcribe their interview and helped them form their written essay.

"I got to see them editing their own work with someone besides me," said Hewett-Olatunde. "They were really growing in this process."

From there, the book went to the editors and was printed.

"The students couldn't believe this was real, once they saw the printed book," Hewett-Olatunde said. "They were so proud of themselves."

The students have had opportunities to be celebrated at a gala to launch the book, as well as participate in book readings at stores around the state and were invited to a Minnesota Twins game to be honored.

"That part has also been transformative for them," said Hewett-Olatunde. "They

get to practice presenting in front of people and be in completely new situations."

Green Card Voices has received grants from the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to help fund the cost of the video recordings.

The St. Paul book has sold 4,000 copies, just over the summer months. The books are sold online and in 10 bookstores throughout the Twin Cities area.

Schools or educators are able to purchase the books through Green Card Voices. Orders of 30 or more receive a 50 percent discount.

The books also feature classroom discussion questions at the end. There is also a teaching guide available on the Green Card Voices website.

"We want to encourage schools to use it and students to read it," said Rozman-Clark. "The teaching guide was written by an immigrant. We use the stories to teach about immigration. Immigration is a historical phenomenon, but immigrants live among people now, not just in the past."

Rozman-Clark recommends the curriculum for social studies teachers of grades six and seven, but also high school geography, social studies or English classes.

"It can make learning really relevant for today," she said.

Along with the digital content and print publication, Green Card Voices also produces exhibits, which include displays featuring the students, their photos and stories and information on the organization.

Schools can rent these displays to be used in their libraries, common spaces or classrooms.

Green Card Voices plans to do more books in schools around the country and is also working on a book to highlight immigrant entrepreneurs.

For more information about the organization, the books, videos or exhibits, go to www.greencardvoices.com.

WE ALL HAVE A STORY



App helps educators share their classrooms with parents

This is the first in a series of articles about the use of technology in schools. If you have a fun, unique or life-changing way you are using technology in your work, please contact the Minnesota Educator at educator@edmn.org. We would love to feature your idea in a future issue!

Educators are constantly looking for better ways to communicate and share with parents. Of course, there's actually an app for that! There are many apps that allow educators to share pictures, videos and message parents. One being used by many educators is Seesaw.

Seesaw has both a free and paid version of its app, which allows educators to create digital portfolios or journals for their students. Students and educators are both able to use the app and upload photos, videos, drawings, PDFs and links.

Erin Rehnblom, a first grade teacher at Prairie View Elementary and Middle School in the Elk River district, found out about

the app in a professional development session three years ago and has used it ever since.

"The app has completely changed my teaching," she said. "The most significant difference is in the ability to 'flip' my classroom to differentiate instruction to all students. I can record myself teaching mini lessons for students. They watch these while I am working with either another small group or with the whole group. I am also more aware of each individual student's strengths and weaknesses. Students record their learning or 'teach' a concept on Seesaw. I am able to see and hear firsthand their learning and understanding."

Seeing students use the technology, even at a young age, is something Katie Storlie, a kindergarten teacher at Northpoint Elementary School in the Spring Lake Park district, loves about the app as well.

"Teaching my kindergarteners how to upload their work to Seesaw

is so age-appropriate with the large picture icons," she said. "Using Seesaw has allowed a platform for my kindergarten students to become self-directed in their sharing of digital learning. It allows me as a teacher to assess in different and more meaningful ways."

"Often students will come running up to me when they feel excited about their work and ask 'Can I post this on Seesaw?' even if I didn't have it in the plans to do so. It is exciting for me as a teacher to have my students so excited about sharing their learning."

Finding ways to teach students to be digital citizens is also important for Rehnblom, and Seesaw's privacy protections are a key component to that learning.

"It is a completely safe way for students to become digital citizens at an early age," she said. "We have no idea the vast technological advances that our students will experience. I am able to safely prepare my students for digital responsibility

with a safety net. They take students' privacy very seriously and ensure that students work and identities are protected."

The feedback from parents has also been overwhelmingly positive, said both Storlie and Rehnblom.

"They have said that they feel like they get to be at school," said Rehnblom. "They get to see how their child grows and learns through the year. They get to see the small moments of the day. It's instant gratification because it pops up on their phones or devices. One parent told me it was like the highlight reel on ESPN."

"I can share progress and communication with families on a continual basis, instead of just at twice-a-year conferences," said Storlie. "Once a student posts their learning, as a teacher I am able to comment on their work and provide feedback to the students and family. I often provide next steps for the student to meet their learning targets. In the app, families can comment

TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

right back with questions, or 'great job' comments to their students."

Both Storlie and Rehnblom have become Seesaw Ambassadors, which has allowed them to learn more and train others to use the app.

Seesaw also has the ability to work with other apps, track students' work and data, connect with blogs and send direct messages to parents.

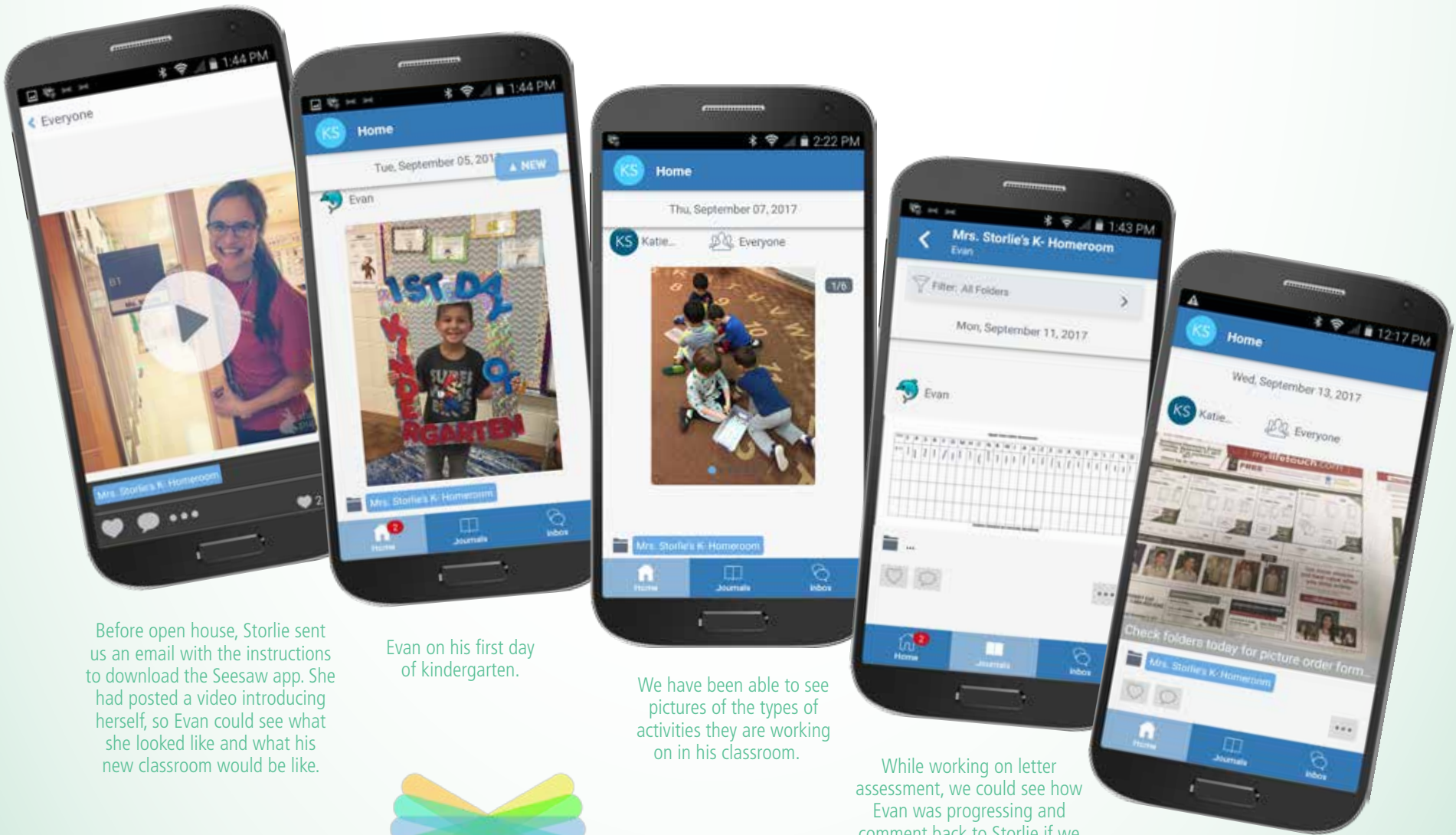
"There are so many cool ways that teachers K-12 are using Seesaw as a formative assessment and communication platform with families," said Storlie. "Seesaw is an app that is made for teachers. Their website, Facebook and Twitter is chock full of professional development for you if you are just starting out or have been using it since it started."

To learn more about the app and its offerings, go to <https://web.seesaw.me>.

A look at the first week of kindergarten through Seesaw

Editor's note: Here is a sample of Seesaw posts that we, as parents, received from Katie Storlie during the first few week of my son Evan's year in her kindergarten class.

– Kieren Steinhoff



Before open house, Storlie sent us an email with the instructions to download the Seesaw app. She had posted a video introducing herself, so Evan could see what she looked like and what his new classroom would be like.

Evan on his first day of kindergarten.

We have been able to see pictures of the types of activities they are working on in his classroom.

While working on letter assessment, we could see how Evan was progressing and comment back to Storlie if we had any questions or concerns.

A reminder that school pictures are coming up.



Political Action Committee provides members voice in political work

Education Minnesota's Political Action Committee is a group of members from across the state who guide the organization's political and election programs.

The committee's board members are appointed to represent each of Education Minnesota's election districts and specific membership categories, such as education support professionals and educators in the State Residential Schools.

The PAC recently set goals for the 2018 campaign. Their

hope is to elect a pro-public education governor and build member grassroots political power.

At the January 2017 board meeting, PAC members decided on a values framework for the 2018 campaign intended to guide a process that will elect a pro-public education governor, develop more grassroots political activists and build affinity toward union membership. This framework consists of the following values:

- Strategic and well-timed
- Inclusive and relational
- Transparent
- Participatory and democratic
- Something different

Educators throughout the state will have a chance to get involved with the endorsement process. The process begins with a gubernatorial debate at the political conference Nov. 17-18. All declared candidates have been invited. Members can submit debate

SAVE THE DATE!

The Education Minnesota Political Conference will be held Nov. 17-18 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. More details on how to register and class offerings will be available on www.educationminnesota.org in the coming weeks!

questions via social media and watch the debate on Facebook Live.

The political conference will also feature opportunities for members to meet with their PAC board representatives.

PAC board members will be reaching out to members

to find out what their priorities and interest areas for activism leading up to the 2018 election.

To learn more about the board, go to www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy.

THE 2017-18 POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE BOARD MEMBERS

To find out which election district represents you and the contact information for your board member, go to www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Election District A
John FitzSimons, Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota▪ Election District B
Doug Werner, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers/Paraprofessionals and School Related Personnel, Local 59▪ Election District C
Barb Herrington-Hall, St. Paul Federation of Teachers▪ Election District D
Mary Mohr-Scinocca, Spring Lake Park Teachers United | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Election District E
Josiah Hill, St. Croix Education Association▪ Election District F
Heather Mathews, Dakota County United Educators▪ Election District G
Melissa Del Rosario, Bloomington Federation of Teachers▪ Election District H
Ryan Redetzke, Education Richfield▪ Election District I
Anna Dougherty, Education Minnesota-Osseo▪ Election District J
Brenna Meunier, Sauk Rapids-Rice Education Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Election District K
Jeremy Peterson, Chisago Lakes Education Association▪ Election District L
Leah Hood, Education Minnesota Lakeville▪ Election District M
Linda Pfeilsticker, Winona Education Association▪ Election District N
Justin Lang, Owatonna Education Association▪ Election District O
Appointment pending▪ Election District P
Appointment pending▪ Election District Q
Roxanne Norlin, Education Minnesota-Pillager | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Election District R
Kim Davidson, Crookston Education Association▪ Election District S
Dale Christy, Education Minnesota-Grand Rapids, Local No. 1314▪ Election District T
Carrie Colonna, Minnesota State College Faculty▪ ESP Representative
Londel French, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers/Paraprofessionals and School Related Personnel, Local 59▪ SRSEA Representative
Doug Korpi, State Residential Schools Education Association |
|---|--|--|--|

United Educators Credit Union

Bringing you more value for being a member of Education Minnesota





1957 | 2017
SERVING EDUCATORS
FOR 60 YEARS

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



ESI
Member Benefits

With benefits including:

- Kasasa® Free Rewards Checking
- Low Interest & Reward Credit Cards
- Mobile App with Mobile Deposit
- Affordable Loan Options
- Student Loans & Consolidation
- Open Accounts & Loans Online
- Grants & Scholarships Available
- And much more!

Learn more at www.uecu.coop
651-264-0669 | 800-229-2848

Apple Valley | Coon Rapids | Minnetonka | Woodbury

Visit our booth at the MEA Conference for special promotions and giveaways!

Federally Insured by NCUA

Free child care available at MEA conference

Education Minnesota will again offer child care during the MEA conference, Oct. 19-20. The service will be open to kids ages 6 months to 10 years and will be free to all Education Minnesota members. Nonmembers will be able to use the service, but will be charged a fee.

Preregistration is required. You can find more information and the registration form at www.educationminnesota.org/events/mea/child-care. On-site registration may

be possible, depending on participation rates. Member registrants will be prompted to enter a credit card number to hold a spot, but will not be charged.

ACCENT on Children's Arrangements will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19, and 7:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20. The on-site center will be located in Ballroom H in the St. Paul RiverCentre.

Nonmembers will be able

to use the service, but will be charged a fee—\$60 per child on Thursday and \$35 per child on Friday.

ACCENT has prepared a children's program called Camp MEA, which will include age-appropriate, curriculum-enriched environments containing hands-on, creative activities. Lunch and snacks will also be provided.

The staff are teachers, professional child care providers or mothers, who

have all completed ACCENT's specialized training program. All supervisors are CPR and pediatric first aid certified. The staffing ratios and operating procedures will meet or exceed national standards.

A comprehensive check-in system, including a photograph of the child and parent who will be picking the child up, will be in place.

The activities will follow a program schedule, which includes active movement

time, craft time, snack time, story time, free play and quiet time.

The center will offer developmentally appropriate activity zones, including video games, karaoke machines, arts and crafts, Legos, books, jump ropes, parachutes, board games, dress-up costumes and more.

For more information on the ACCENT company, go to www.accentoca.com.

MEA Friday workshops for members only

A major change is taking place at this year's MEA conference. The popular Friday workshops are now open to Education Minnesota members only.

In the past, the workshop rooms have been full to capacity and Education Minnesota wants its members to be able to receive the training they want during the conference.

A majority of Friday's workshops topics fulfill the specific license renewal requirements in positive

behavioral interventions, accommodations and modifications, reading, student mental health, or technology. Others fulfill the general license renewal requirements.

Workshop topics include restorative processes and trauma-informed schools, social emotional learning, equality vs. equity, embracing fads like fidget spinners, culturally responsive classrooms, computer coding in elementary schools and the power of play in

the classroom.

Read pages 7-10 of this issue for more information about the MEA conference and the workshop offerings for both Thursday and Friday.

Register early for a chance to win gift cards. You must be present at the conference to win. Go to www.educationminnesota.org/events/mea to register.

Members can also register on site Thursday, Oct. 19, from 7 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m.

until noon.

Members attending the Thursday sessions are also

invited to visit the registration booth on the Kellogg level to enter a contest for prizes!



Attendees move throughout the workshops at the 2016 MEA conference.

How to use the MEA event app

The Education Minnesota event app allows MEA attendees to create their own schedules, locate sessions and exhibitor booths, learn about and network with speakers, exhibitors and other attendees, win prizes and stay up to date with event announcements.

To download the app, find it in your app store by searching "edmn." If you already have the

Education Minnesota event app, click on the upper left menu icon, then click the gear in the upper right corner. Click on "Back to All Events," and the MEA should automatically load.

You can also access the event app information online at <https://event.crowdcompass.com/mea2017>.



Search for workshops by topic, day or speaker.

Bookmark sessions to create your schedule and interact with the presenters.

Search for exhibitors and participate in the photo search game to win prizes.

Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Contributions to this foundation will provide financial support for innovative programs initiated by Education Minnesota members, locals and affiliates that promote educational access for learners and excellence in teaching. Grants also support professional development for education support professionals and higher education faculty.

In accordance with Education Minnesota Bylaw Article 2, Section 3, Subd. c, I hereby request the following:

____ Please refund to me \$_____ (maximum \$5) of my Education Minnesota foundation assessment that will be contributed to the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for the 2017-2018 academic year.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____

Last 4 digits of SS#: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Local/Affiliate: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

A request for refund of the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning assessment will not affect Education Minnesota membership rights or benefits but will make you ineligible to receive a grant from this foundation. Retired members and fair share are not assessed, thus do not qualify for the refund.

Deadline for refunds: Refund requests **MUST** be received by the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

- 1) by Oct. 31 for continuing members; or
- 2) within 30 days of signing a membership application for new members.

NO PHOTOCOPIES ACCEPTED.
Return this form to:
*Education Minnesota
Accounting Department
Attn: Refund Request
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103-2196*



The 2017 Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA) conference Oct. 19 and 20 features a lineup of more than 100 workshops, as well as hundreds of educational exhibits on Thursday.

You can earn relicensure credit, network with your peers, meet with prospective employers, win prizes at Minnesota’s largest professional development event for educators.

To plan your visit, check the schedule grid inside this special section, then head to www.educationminnesota.org, Events, for complete workshop details. Or download our mobile event app! Create your own schedules, locate sessions and exhibitor booths with ease, learn about and network with speakers, exhibitors and other attendees, stay up-to-date with event announcements and more! Download the free CrowdCompass AttendeeHub app from your app store. Search “2017 MEA Conference” and download the event app.

What to expect this year:

- Thursday’s workshops start at 8:30 a.m. Passing time is 20 minutes.
- Friday is open to Education Minnesota members only and almost all workshops cover relicensure areas. Register in advance at www.educationminnesota.org/events/mea. Otherwise, register onsite until 3:50 p.m. Thursday or noon Friday.
- Education Minnesota is hosting an education job fair! Meet with prospective employers from school districts and unionized charter and private schools in the Exhibit Hall.
- Learn more about what Education Minnesota offers its members. Visit our booths in the Rotunda area to find out how the union amplifies the voices of actual educators and gives them a seat at the table in the debates about teaching and learning and supports their professional growth and working conditions.

Quick Facts

When: 7:30 a.m.-3:50 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19, and 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20

Registration: None required for Thursday. Education Minnesota members are encouraged, but not required, to register in advance for Friday’s sessions. Registration for Friday’s sessions will be open 7 a.m.-3:50 p.m. Thursday and 7 a.m.-noon Friday.

Where: Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul

Admission: Free and open to the public on Thursday. Friday is free and open to members only.

Exhibits: 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday only

To get to Saint Paul RiverCentre

- From I-94 eastbound: Exit on Marion/ Kellogg Boulevard or Fifth Street
- From I-94 westbound: Exit on Kellogg Boulevard; follow to RiverCentre
- From I-35E northbound: Exit on Kellogg Boulevard, going east
- From I-35E southbound: Exit on Wacouta Street; turn right on Kellogg Boulevard

Where to park

- RiverCentre Ramp, 150 W. Kellogg Blvd.
- Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd.
- Smith Avenue Transit Center, 145 N. Smith Ave.

2017 MEA Conference Preview

Oct. 19-20, 2017 • Saint Paul RiverCentre

President’s Welcome

As educators, we value and promote educator quality and professional development.

It’s up to us to help each other maintain our licenses, grow in our professions and prepare students for the future. Being a part of Education Minnesota means frequent, diverse and valuable training for educators, by educators.

The Minnesota Educator Academy conference is one of those union-sponsored opportunities to improve your practice, develop as an instructional leader and network with other educators.

This year’s MEA conference features a rich lineup of more than 100 workshops focused on engaging students, equity, technology, student mental health, restorative practices and much more. As always, you will find ample opportunities to earn continuing licensure credit.

I look forward to seeing you Oct. 19 and 20 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre!

Together,



Denise Specht, president



Jeff Duncan-Andrade

Jeff Duncan-Andrade to deliver Thursday keynote

11:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 19, Roy Wilkins Auditorium

East Oakland teacher and school leader Jeff Duncan-Andrade will talk about equity in education and how community responsive practices can transform engagement and outcomes for all students.

Duncan-Andrade is an associate professor of Raza Studies and Education at San Francisco State University. He is also the founder of the Roses in Concrete Community School, a community responsive lab school in East Oakland, the Teaching Excellence Network and the Community Responsive Education Group.

His work on the elements of effective teaching in schools serving poor and working-class children is recognized throughout the U.S. and abroad. Duncan-Andrade lectures around the world and has authored two books and numerous journal articles and book chapters on effective practices in schools.

He holds a doctorate in social and cultural studies in education and a bachelor of arts degree in literature, both from the University of California–Berkeley.

Keron Blair talks about love as an act of resistance

8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, Ballroom A

Keron Blair, executive director of the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, will talk about love as an act of resistance—using your voice and knowledge as educators to advocate for the public schools our children deserve.

AROS is a national coalition of parent, youth, community and labor organizations who are fighting to reclaim the promise of public education as our nation’s gateway to a strong democracy and racial and economic justice.

Blair is an organizer with more than a decade of experience working for social change, most recently as the membership director for United Working Families in Chicago. He was also the field director for Raise Illinois, a statewide campaign to raise Illinois’ minimum wage, and for Illinois Unites for Marriage, the campaign that secured the freedom to marry for gay couples in Illinois.

NEA Vice President Becky Pringle moderates panel on restorative practices

9:50 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, Ballroom A

Becky Pringle, vice president of the nation’s largest labor union for educators, will lead a discussion on restorative practices and trauma-informed practices.

This panel will include educators, parents and students. Education Minnesota’s Educator Policy Innovation Center completed a research report this spring 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.

Pringle, a middle school science teacher with 31 years of classroom experience, began her leadership as a local president and then went on to serve on the board of directors for the NEA and the Pennsylvania State Education Association. She received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of Pittsburgh and a master’s degree in education from Pennsylvania State University.

Anne Gearity explores student mental health

1:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19, Ballroom A

Anne Gearity will talk about remediating social/emotional deficits so restorative practices work.

Gearity has a mental health practice in Minneapolis and is on the clinical faculty of the University of Minnesota Department of Child Psychiatry, School of Social Work and Post-Graduate Certificate Program for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. She developed an intervention model that is being used widely to change attitudes and teaching approaches with stressed children.

In addition to mental health work, Gearity also consults extensively with schools and child welfare to promote this shift.



Anne Gearity

Conference at a glance – Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017

Complete workshop descriptions at www.educationminnesota.org, Events, Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA)

Location	8:30-9:30 a.m.	9:50-10:50 a.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	12:45-1:30 p.m.	1:30-2:30 p.m.	2:50-3:50 p.m.	Location
Room 1	Financial Planning Essentials	Financial Planning for Beginners/Next Gen	General Session Keynote by Jeff Duncan-Andrade, Wilkins Auditorium	Lunch Break	Financial Concerns for Women	Understanding Your Pension Options in Retirement	Room 1
Room 2	Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators	I'm Not Your Mascot: Understanding American Indian Students in Public Schools			American Indian Media Production	The ART of Making Meaning	Room 2
Room 3	The 'T' in PTA – How Teachers Can Work Effectively with PTAs.	New Paradigms of Professionalism: College Readiness and Public Education			Syntax and Close Reading: A Dynamic Duo for Comprehending Complex Text	Preparing Students to Live on Their Own	Room 3
Room 4	Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship	Co-Creating Rubrics With Students			Youth4Education	Climbing the Ladder to Meaningful Youth-Adult Partnerships	Room 4
Room 5	It's Not Magic, It's Science	The Importance of Science Note Booking K-7			Science and Engineering Practices: Free and Fun Professional Development for Teachers of Science	10 Plants That Changed Minnesota	Room 5
Room 6	ADHD and Academic Performance	Urban Eyes: Effective Strategies for Teaching Urban Students			Hidden Narratives: Multiple Perspectives in the Classroom	Mandated Reporting and Maltreatment Investigations	Room 6
Room 7	TRA: Your Paycheck of the Future	PBS Scratch Jr.: Creating Student Stories			Expanding STEM Skills	Effective Use of Interactive Technology in the Classroom	Room 7
Room 8	Going to School With an Autism Spectrum Disorder: Personal Advice for Educators	"Create the Change"			Climate Change for Every Classroom	Practical Guidance for New Educators	Room 8
Room 9	MDE Data Center	MDE Reports and Resources			MDE Teacher-Friendly Website Brainstorming Session	Expressive Writing for Personal Growth and Empathy-Building in the Classroom	Room 9
Room 10	Up in Smoke: E-cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products	Connecting Pre-K to K-12			Reading the Art in Caldecott Award Books: What Makes a Picture Book Distinguished?	Love It Before You Learn It: Environmental Lessons for Early Childhood and Kindergarten	Room 10
Room 11	Fireproof-Building Educator Resilience	The Honorary SpEddie: Best Practices for Interface With Your Special Education Team			Teaching About Islam and Muslims: Practical Advice for Educators	Connecting Islam to Your Classroom and School	Room 11
Room 12	Classroom Behavior Management: Unpacking Positions of Control	Community Storytelling			Youth Law Part I: School-to-Prison Pipeline and Disparities for Children Graduating From High School and Arrests for School-Based Conduct	Youth Law Part II: The Long Life of Juvenile Delinquency Records and Potential Alternatives	Room 12
Room 13	Coaching Your Students and Colleagues	Becoming a National Board Certified Teacher			School Readiness Beyond the ABCs: Using Anti-Bias Education and Social Emotional Learning to Prepare Young Children to be Lifelong Learners.	How Does Equity in the Elementary Classroom Look and Feel?	Room 13
Room 14	Panel With Minnesota Teacher of the Year and Finalists	ESTEM in Action: The Raptor Lab: Engaging Students in Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and the Process of Scientific Investigation Through Technology and Role Play			Mad-Hot Ballroom! Social Emotional Learning and Community Building Through the Practice of Ballroom Dance	Calm Challenging Behavior! Learn 8 Core Strategies	Room 14
Room 15	Authentic School Improvement	Understanding and Supporting Gender Diversity in Schools			LGBTQAI+ 2.0: Real Talk!	AgCultures: A Geographical Adventure	Room 15

Conference Highlights

Download our mobile event app

Navigate MEA with ease with our event app for mobile devices. The app allows attendees to create their own schedules, locate sessions and exhibitor booths with ease, learn about and network with speakers, exhibitors and other attendees, stay up-to-date with event announcements and more! Download the CrowdCompass AttendeeHub app from your app store. Search “2017 MEA Conference” and download the event app.

Visit our job fair

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19

Are you a student teacher or an educator looking for a job? Education Minnesota is hosting an education job fair at this year’s conference!

Meet with prospective employers from school districts and unionized charter and private schools in the Exhibit Hall. Follow Education Minnesota’s website and social media accounts for an updated list of job fair exhibitors

Free child care for members

Need someone to entertain and care for your children while you receive quality professional development? Education Minnesota is offering free child care for members only during the MEA conference. Registration is required, so sign up now at www.educationminnesota.org/events/mea/child-care.

Book sales and signings

Books by conference speakers will be for sale Thursday on the ballroom level of Saint Paul RiverCentre. Check at the book table for a schedule of author signings.

Take credit

You may be able to earn general continuing education credit for attending the MEA conference. Pick up an attendance certificate at the end of any workshop you attend. In addition, some sessions might help you fulfill state relicensure requirements in reading instruction, identifying early-onset mental illness in students, positive behavioral interventions, differentiated instruction, technology, suicide prevention and English language learners. These are specially marked in the program. **Check with your district’s continuing education committee on whether you will receive credit.**

Donate books for homeless kids

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19

Donate new and gently used books for children in need at the annual “Reading and Books to the Rescue” book drive conducted by the Education Minnesota Community Outreach Committee. The goal is to get more books in the hands of children who cannot afford them and give them tools to become better readers. Bring donations to the Community Outreach booth in the Rotunda. Books will be distributed throughout Minnesota. Any extras will be donated to the Minnesota Literacy Council, which serves Minnesotans of all ages.

Stock up

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 – Exhibit Hall

Hundreds of exhibitors will display education-related products, services and programs Thursday only on the lower level of Saint Paul RiverCentre. An updated list is available on our event app.

Participate in Click, a photo scavenger hunt on our mobile event app and win prizes!

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 – Exhibit Hall

Visiting the exhibit hall? Check out our photo scavenger hunt on the mobile event app for a chance to win valuable prizes, including an iPad. Complete the photo challenges to earn badges. The more badges you complete, the more prizes you are eligible to win!

More prizes Friday

8:30 a.m.-noon Friday, Oct. 20 – Ballroom Level

Register by noon Friday, Oct. 20, at the ESI Member Benefits table for variety of prizes including gift cards. Winners will be posted by 12:30 p.m. near the ESI table. You must be present to win.

Flu shots

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 – Exhibit Hall

Flu shots are available at the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency table in the exhibit hall. MVNA accepts most major insurance plans with presentation of an insurance card. Otherwise, the cost is \$38.

Red Cross blood donations

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 – Exhibit Hall

Give blood Thursday at the American Red Cross blood donation center in the exhibit hall. Sign up in advance at 1-800-RED-CROSS or online at redcrossblood.org/make-donation; enter ZIP code 55102.

Need an interpreter? Sign language interpreters will be provided for the Thursday general session. For other needs, please contact Megan Boldt, 651-292-4818, 800-652-9073 or megan.boldt@edmn.org as soon as possible.

Thursday Ballroom Sessions

Location	8:30-9:30 a.m.	9:50-10:50 a.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	12:45-1:30 p.m.	1:30-2:30 p.m.	2:50-3:50 p.m.
Ballroom A	Keron Blair: Love as an Act of Resistance	Panel on Restorative Practices: Moderated by NEA Vice President Becky Pringle	General Session <i>Keynote by Jeff Duncan-Andrade, Roy Wilkins Auditorium</i>	Lunch Break	Anne Gearity: Getting Students Able: Remediating Social/Emotional Deficits So Restorative Practices Work	Mindfulness and Stress Reduction for Teachers
Ballroom B	Keron Blair: Love as an Act of Resistance	Panel on Restorative Practices: Moderated by NEA Vice President Becky Pringle			Anne Gearity: Getting Students Able: Remediating Social/Emotional Deficits So Restorative Practices Work	QPR
Ballroom C	Arts+Science: Using Theater to Explore Climate Change	Why Am I Still Teaching? Finding Your Purpose as an Educator			Engaging the Disengaged Students	Creating a Positive Learning Culture
Ballroom D	Disciplinary Literacy and Reading in the Content Area of Science: Yes! You Can Do Both as an Elementary Teacher!	Children’s Mental Health: The Whole Story			Teaching Immigration Through Story-Telling	What Teachers Need to Know About Human Trafficking: Teaching the Subject and Helping Students
Ballroom E	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and You	Getting Connected [or Reconnected] With School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports			TBD	Influencing for Impact
Ballroom F	Teacher Effectiveness: The Imperative Relationship Between Schools and Teacher Preparation Programs	Resources That Engage All Students			Food Insecurity and Trauma: Impact on Health, Emotion Regulation and Learning	Talking About Food, Weight, Body, Shape:How to Feed, What to Teach
Ballroom G	Fidgety Fairy Tales: The Mental Health Musical	ELL			The Rock ‘n’ Read Project: Raise Reading Through Singing and Software	Want to Teach Reading and Math? Try Singing!

Friday Sessions

Location	9-10 a.m.	10:15-11:15 a.m.	11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Room 1	Empathy Translates Into Success for Students and Teachers	Combatting ACEs With REACH	Make Play Powerful
Room 2	Spelling: The Other End of the Teeter-Totter	Reading for Meaning—Fluently	Reading Seminar
Room 3	Educators Interested in Getting Started With Computer Science	Bottle Flips and Spinners: Embracing a Fad	Using Fab Labs to Integrate STEM K-12
Room 4	Automating Feedback: Using Google Forms and Doctopus with Goobric	Teaching Writing in a Blended Classroom	Gamify Your Extension Activities: Side Quests!
Room 5	Change the Environment Not the Child: Strategies for Working With Students With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders	Multi-Sensory Teaching Strategies	Responding to Neurodiversity in Inclusive Environments
Room 6	New Techniques for Your Slide Design Toolkit	Ebooks Minnesota and ELM: Two Free Resources for Reading and Research	Computer Coding in Elementary Schools
Room 7	Mental Illness in the Classroom	Student Mental Health	The Opioid Epidemic: Stories, Stats and Strategies
Room 8	More Time to Teach: Responding to Student Behavior	Innovative Strategies for Creating the Culturally Responsive Classroom	Making It Personal: Redefining the 4 Rs
Room 9	Equipping Educators for Social Emotional Learning	Trauma-Effective Parenting and Teaching	Play is Serious Business!
Room 10	Trauma-Informed, Restorative Practice	Homeless Youth and Education	Breaking Down Barriers Through Dialogue, Study and Action
Ballroom C	Equality vs. Equity, Language and Culture, Cultural Sensitivity and Academic Achievement: What Are They All About?	Equality vs. Equity, Language and Culture, Cultural Sensitivity and Academic Achievement: What Are They All About?	QPR
Ballroom D	Kind Affect and Slow Processing: Restorative Processes and Trauma-Informed Schools	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and You	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Tier 2 Group Supports

Looking for quality training?
Join us at the state’s largest professional development event for educators!

MEA Conference, Oct. 19-20, 2017
Saint Paul RiverCentre
175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102

This union-sponsored professional development event is free and features more than 100 workshops and hundreds of educational exhibits on Thursday.

Earn relicensure credit, network with your peers, meet with prospective employers at our job fair and win prizes at Minnesota’s largest professional development event for educators. Free childcare is also available for Education Minnesota members.

New this year! Friday will be limited to Education Minnesota members ONLY. Visit www.educationminnesota.org to register for Friday and check out the speaker lineup.

Questions or interested in presenting? Contact Megan Boldt at megan.boldt@edmn.org or 651-292-4818.



Exhibitors — Thursday, Oct. 19 *An updated listing with booth numbers will be provided at the conference or on the event app Oct. 19.*

- A

Academic Expeditions
American Lung Association in Minnesota
American Reading Company
Anaphylaxis and Food Allergy Association of Minnesota
Animal Rights Coalition
Anoka-Hennepin School District
Augsburg College
- B

Bell Museum of Natural History
Bemidji State University School of Graduate Studies
BestPrep
Bethel University
Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
Bridges of Respect
- C

Camp Fire Minnesota
Carpenters and Joiners Training Center
Children’s Grief Connection
Christopher & Banks
Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy
The College of St. Scholastica
Columbia Heights Public Schools
Community Mediation Minnesota
Conceive Believe Achieve
Concordia Language Villages
Cooper & Kid
Costco
- D

Daybreak Press
Disability Hub MN
- E

E4effort
Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
Education Minnesota
Community Outreach
Education Minnesota Degrees Not Debt
- F

Education Minnesota
Educators of Color
Education Minnesota ESI
Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Education Minnesota Membership
Education Minnesota Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA)
Education Minnesota NextGen
Education Minnesota Photo Calendar
Education Minnesota Political Action Committee and Member Lobbying
Education Minnesota Retired
Education Minnesota Student Program
Education Minnesota Twitter Feed
Educators Benefit Consultants
Educators Lifetime Solutions – Long-Term Care and Life Insurance
EFS Advisors
The Emily Program
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
EVERFI
- F

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
Festival of Nations
Fridley Public Schools
Fun Express/Oriental Trading
- G

Global Travel Alliance
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
- H

Hamline University
Heart of Dance
Hennepin County Bar Association
- I

IMAX Theatre of the Minnesota Zoo
Immigration History Research Center and The Advocates for Human Rights
Infinite Campus
Irlen Clinic of the Twin Cities
Iron Mining Association of Minnesota: Taconite Rocks!
Islamic Resource Group
- J

Job Corps
Just Jewelry/Cookie Lee
- K

Know the Truth
- L

Learners Edge
Lifesprk
Living Justice Press
LuLaRoe
- M

March for Science Minnesota
Math Leagues/MATHCOUNTS
McDonald’s Twin Cities Co-Op
Meeker and Wright Special Education Cooperative
Melrose Center
Metropolis Resort
Minitex
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota Alpha Delta Kappa
Minnesota Attorney General’s Office
Minnesota Children’s Museum
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Department of Transportation - Aeronautics
Minnesota Disability Determination Services
Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented
Minnesota Farm Bureau
Minnesota Field Trip Library
Minnesota Forest Industries
Minnesota Health Insurance Network
Minnesota Humanities Center
Minnesota Invention Convention
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Minnesota Opera and Minnesota Orchestra
Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Minnesota Science Teachers Association
Minnesota State Academies
Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division
- M

Minnesota State University Mankato
Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association/Chicken and Egg Association of MN
Minnesota Vein Center
Minnesota Youth for Human Rights
Minnesota Zoo
Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing
MSBA High School Mock Trial
- N

National Association for Poetry Therapy
National Coalition For Men
National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota
National Youth Leadership Council
NEA Auto and Home Insurance Program Provided by California Casualty
Nickelodeon Universe
North Star Editions
Nystrom & Associates
- O

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Osseo Area Schools
Owatonna Public Schools
- P

Peace Corps
PrairieCare Child & Family Fund
Printing Industry Midwest
Pro-Choice Resources
Protect Minnesota
Public Employees Insurance Program
- R

The Raptor Center
Redleaf Press
Rogers Behavioral Health – Minneapolis
- S

St. Catherine University
St. Cloud State University
St. Louis County Schools
- S

Saint Mary’s University
School Tours of America
Science Museum of Minnesota
SEA LIFE Minnesota Aquarium
Security Benefit
Securus Solutions
Stages Theatre Company
Star Tribune – Face to Face Solutions
Star Tribune – News in Education
SteppingStone Theatre
Synergy & Leadership Exchange
- T

Tradition Mortgage
Travelers Auto & Home Insurance
Treetop Publishing/Bare Books
Twin Cities PBS
- U

United Educators Credit Union
University of Minnesota: Office of Teacher Education
University of Minnesota Extension: Youth and Money
University of Northwestern St. Paul
University of South Dakota School of Education
University of St. Thomas
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Superior
- V

Valleyfair
- W

Walker Art Center
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
White Bear Lake Public Schools
Winona State University
Women Against Military Madness
World Savvy
- Y

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

Attend an ESI Workshop at the MEA Conference

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTERS	Time/Room
Financial Planning Essentials Presenter: Tony Schutte, EFS advisor Learn about the value of accumulating assets through tax-deferred savings plans such as a 403(b), 457 and a 401(a) in addition to TSA, IRA and Roth IRA investments plans. Learn the differences and the value of using a variety of investment tools.	Thursday, Oct. 19 8:30–9:30 a.m. Room 1
Financial Planning for Beginners Presenter: Adell Hargreaves and Sam Simons, EFS advisors An informational session to learn about the basics of financial planning. Do you want to know more about budgeting, how to sign up for a 403(b) or a Roth IRA, how to save on daycare expenses using flex money or any other questions you may have about finances? Attendees direct the areas of discussion so topics covered are relevant to you.	Thursday, Oct. 19 9:50–10:50 a.m. Room 1
Financial Concerns for Women Presenter: Paulette Levasseur, EFS advisor According to statistics, 90 percent of all women will be the sole financial decision maker for themselves or their families at some point in time. This session will explore financial concepts necessary to being a financial decision maker.	Thursday, Oct. 19 1:30–2:30 p.m. Room 1
Understanding Your Pension in Retirement Presenter: Chuck Elliot and Lyle Nelson, Education Minnesota ESI retirement consultants An in-depth look at your pension features, options and fund performance. Learn how benefits are calculated and understand your pension payout options in retirement.	Thursday, Oct. 19 2:50–3:50 p.m. Room 1

ESI Member Benefit programs include identity theft protection, PerksConnect, BOSE® music products, auto and home insurance, mortgage services, health insurance solutions, senior care navigation, credit union, financial and retirement planning, pension education and long-term care insurance.



41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2196
651-292-4856 800-642-4624

Paid for by ESI, not by dues. ESI is self-supporting; revenues provide benefits, service and consumer education for members. EFS Advisors is the exclusive marketing agency for the ESI financial services program. Securities offered through Advanced Advisor Group, Member FINRA or SIPC. Investment Advisory Services offered through Educators Financial Services, a Registered Investment Advisor, 440 Emerson St N Ste 4, Cambridge MN 55008 (877) 403-2374. Advanced Advisor Group and Educators Financial Services are affiliates under common control D/B/A EFS Advisors. EFS Advisors is not affiliated with Education Minnesota ESI.

ANOTHER YEAR OF FAIR FUN

Education Minnesota's State Fair booth was once again a success. Educators who worked the booth shared stories, took pictures and gave high-fives and well-wishes to students about to start back at school. Here's a look at how the booth "fared" during the 12-day Great Minnesota Get-Together:

14,000

PHOTO CALENDARS
PRINTED

4,000

#THANKANEDUCATOR
NOTES FILLED OUT

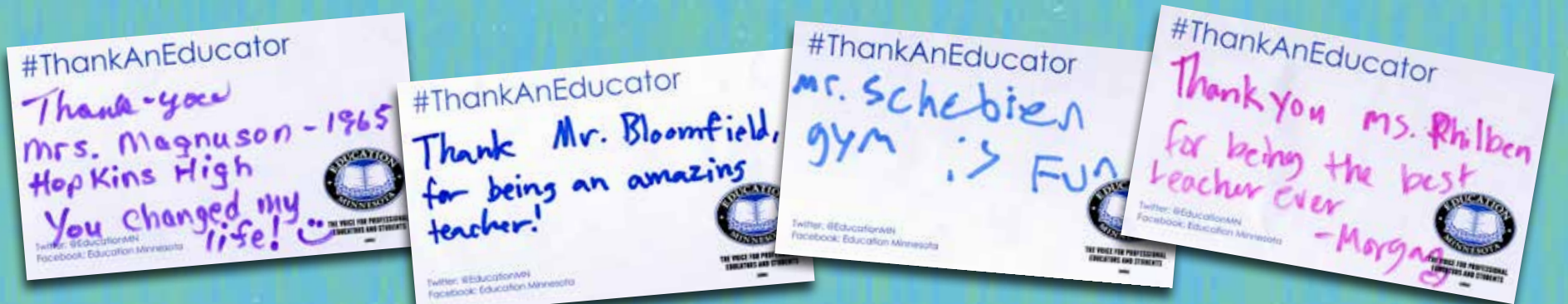
172

MEMBER
VOLUNTEERS

11

SUBJECT AREA
GROUPS HIGHLIGHTED

Every year, thousands of kids and adults thank educators who were influential in their lives at Education Minnesota's State Fair booth. We will feature a selection in each issue of the Minnesota Educator this year. Keep an eye out for your name!





Educators from rural Bolivian communities work on small whiteboards, and learn how to use this tool in their math curriculum.

Bolivia *from page 1*

The next two days serve as the professional development workshop or conference. “We always do it in cooperation with the local teachers to make it work for them,” said Smith. After the conference is over, the U.S. teachers are able to travel with the Mano a Mano staff, visit sights throughout the country and see some of the other work the nonprofit is doing. According to its website, Mano a Mano has built more than 300 infrastructure projects throughout Bolivia—from clinics and schools to roads and water reservoirs. “It’s a beautiful country,” said Hadas. “People are warm and friendly.”

But it’s not a vacation, says Smith. “We come home tired,” she said. “But we come home engaged and invigorated. It’s very personally empowering to work in a peer relationship. It’s really a professional exchange for me.” And Smith has been able to bring what she learns from her peers in Bolivia into her classroom in St. Paul. “There is such a sense of community there,” she said. “When you start a meeting, everyone is going to get up and greet each other. There is something special about learning about their culture. And as a teacher, I then want to give my kids time to be together as a community and

share in their cultures.” Each year, Smith and Hadas reach out to other educators to join them, but it’s not always easy. They try to get four educators to come along, and invite anyone else who is interested to help with child care or technology. “Funding has always been a challenge,” Smith said. “And you have to find teachers willing to give up two-and-a-half weeks of their summer and potentially pay for it. We always have 10-15 people who want to go, but then it whittles down.” The organization, as well as Smith and Hadas themselves, works to get donations and fundraise to help offset the costs. But



Photos courtesy of Ben Samuel Martinez and Mano a Mano
(From left) Debbie Hadas, Jackie Smith and Sarah Husbey stand with Bolivian school children during one of their visits to the country, in which Minnesota educators train Bolivian educators.

they hope to spread the word about their efforts to receive more funding, as well as more interested participants. “My dream would be to have an application process and then offer them a full scholarship,” Smith said. To learn more about

Mano a Mano and their work in Bolivia, go to <http://manoamano.org>. To learn more about the teacher professional development program, email the organization at manoamano@manoamano.org.

TEAM UP WITH CALIFORNIA CASUALTY

Give your athletes a sporting chance with a Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant. Apply to receive **\$1,000 to \$3,000** for your middle or high school’s team.

The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public middle and high school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets. As an employee of the school and a member of the National Education Association (NEA), you can apply for a grant award for your school’s sports program.

Applications received through January 12, 2018 will qualify for 2018 consideration. Recipients will be announced in April 2018.

To apply for a grant, go to:
CalCasAthleticsGrant.com

Grants not available in AK, HI, MA, MI, NY and WI. Please visit CalCasAthleticsGrant.com for full program rules.
©2017 California Casualty CA Lic 0041343

California Casualty
Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant

NEA® Auto and Home Insurance Program

nea *Member Benefits*
In partnership with

California Casualty

Nominations open Oct. 1 for 2018 Teacher of the Year award

Nominations open Oct. 1 for the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award, and remain open through Nov. 15.

Nominations can be submitted online by accessing a simple nomination form on www.educationminnesota.org. The 2018 Teacher of the Year will be named at a ceremony May 6, 2018, at the Radisson Blu Mall of America. The Minnesota Teacher of the Year also becomes Minnesota's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

Eligible nominees must meet these criteria:

- Teach in a public or nonpublic Pre-K through 12th-grade school, working at least 50 percent of the time

- directly with students.
- Hold a bachelor's degree and a Minnesota teaching license.
- Have completed three years of teaching by the nomination deadline.
- Intend to teach during the 2018-19 school year.

Anyone may nominate a teacher. Self-nominations are also accepted.

The state program has been highly successful nationally—Minnesota ranks second behind California with four National Teachers of the Year.

For more information or to receive a nomination form, call Megan McKeen at 651-292-4872 or 800-652-9073.

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year is in its 54th year as

the state's official recognition program honoring excellence in education.

Any teacher who is nominated can choose to continue in the selection process by completing a portfolio, which includes essays about their philosophy of teaching, education message, professional accomplishments and letters of recommendation.

A selection committee representing Minnesota leaders in education, business and government meet to read the portfolios and choose who moves on to the semifinalist round.

Semifinalists are required to submit a two- to three-minute video summarizing their education message. The panel reads the semifinalists'

portfolios again and watches the videos to decide who moves on to be a finalist.

Finalists have a half-hour interview with the selection panel in May. After those interviews, the panel decides who is the year's recipient.

The recipient is announced at a banquet each May. The surprise announcement comes at the end of the celebration of all teachers throughout Minnesota.

Education Minnesota organizes and underwrites the program, which means the union handles only the business of running the program, not the selection process. Minnesota is one of a small number of states in which the union runs the program. Most are run through the state's

department of education.

The business of selecting panel members and deciding on the selection process is done by the program's chairs, who are faculty at teacher education institutions in Minnesota.

Program and award support also comes from Education Minnesota ESI, Educators Lifetime Solutions, EFS Advisors, the Harvard Club of Minnesota Foundation, McDonald's Restaurants of Minnesota, Radisson Blu Mall of America, SMART Technologies and United Educators Credit Union.

Find out more about the selection process, eligibility, past recipients and more at www.educationminnesota.org/news/awards/teacher-of-the-year.

Reflections on the Teacher of the Year process

When my colleagues told me they had nominated me for Minnesota Teacher of the Year, I was floored. I had no idea of the path of self-reflection, affirmation and renewed dedication that was ahead of me. I didn't know about the amazing people I would meet. But for the moment, I was in shock. I had questions. So I did what every teacher with 27 years of experience would do if they had the chance, I called my parents for advice.

The difference is that I was not only calling my parents, but also my education heroes.

Both of my parents were high school English teachers, and my father was nominated and became the 1971 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Telling my heroes about my nomination carried some hefty significance.

I was only two years old when my dad was the Minnesota Teacher of the Year, but I've spent my life meeting people whose lives

were changed because they spent time with him.

After years of watching the impact he made, I decided to go into teaching myself. Here is how that conversation went:

Me: Dad, I've decided to become a teacher.

Dad: You know you're not going to make much money, right?

Me: Yes.

Dad: Is it your passion?

Me: Yes.

Dad: Then that's your answer.

A Secret Worth Keeping

Throughout the process of preparing my materials and sending them in, I needed to keep my dad's previous win a secret from the committee. I wanted to be judged on my own merits. While I waited to hear whether or not I was accepted as a semifinalist and then finalist, my dad would simply say, "We know who you are."

Each teacher deserves

to have their hard work recognized. Meeting the other teacher finalists was inspiring. Each is a powerhouse with an amazing message, and each walked humbly through this process. On May 7, 2017, the 11 finalists were recognized at the Minnesota Teacher of the Year banquet. We sat at a table while the previous year's winners were honored. My father stood directly in front of me. After announcing my dad's name, Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota, said, "And it must run in the family, because his daughter is sitting right behind him."

The secret was out. I have never been more proud to be your daughter, Dad. Thanks for reminding me about who I am. I'll remember. I promise.

♦ **Mary Zilge**
elementary music teacher in the Lakeville school district and 2017 Minnesota Teacher of the Year finalist



2017 Minnesota Teacher of the Year finalist Mary Zilge poses with her father, 1971 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Thomas Melchoir, at the recognition banquet last May.

What was the best piece of advice you've received or the best resource you've found to help you succeed in your job?

In last month's Minnesota Educator, we continued the "we want to hear from you" contest and received responses from all over the state via email and Twitter. Here is a selection of the answers. Look on page 1 for this month's question and how to submit an answer. Your answer enters you into a drawing for a \$25 Target gift card!

"Collaboration is key. Don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be too proud to ask for help when needed."

– Melissa Williams, Education Richfield

"Email is other people's 'to-do list.' Start the morning with your own to-do list and check email at a different time."

– Laurie Meyers, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESPs

"By far, the greatest gem for success was the book "First Days of School" by Harry Wong. It is concrete and right on point to the most important elements enhancing good discipline, classroom setup and overall setting you up for success. Seriously, if you follow these guidelines, it will be hard to fail."

– Jackie Nornes, Education Minnesota Retired

"I'm an associate educator with ECCE at Minneapolis public schools. I would say the best advice I ever received was from a now-retired teacher. She always said remember every parent wants what is best for their child. I think whenever dealing with families it's an important reminder."

– Linda Case, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESPs

"I think the answer to what is the best piece of advice and what is the best resource to help us succeed in our jobs is education labor unions. At all levels they provide help and support, now more than ever."

– Jill Nysse, Winona Education Association

"Building relationships is the #1 key to classroom management."

– Kathryn Kaminsky, Elk River Education Association

"The best piece of advice I received was from the director of the Campus Lab School at St. Cloud State University, Dr. Douglas Johnson. He always encouraged his teachers to express our complaints to him with one caveat: If we came with a complaint, we also had to come with a solution to the problem. I have used this advice throughout my life as a teacher, a parent and as a citizen."

– Mary Martini, Education Minnesota Retired

"One of the best resources I have found is the Get STEM site where updates are emailed on a weekly basis. This is one of those emails I always open as I have found so many great free resources, events and experts related to STEM. A resource I have used after being introduced to it from this site is the Ag Mag. It is free and packed with so much local information regarding MN Agriculture. You can order a class set for free and it comes several times per year!"

– Jodi Prchal, New Prague Education Association

NextGen committee supports new union activists

It took Heather Giese 10 years of working in the Willmar School District to learn what the union is all about. Giese and others now work to help make sure that is not the case for all educators new to the profession.

NextGen EdMN is a committee for members who have been in the union working in education for 15 years or less. Giese, a graduate support specialist with the Minnesota Regional Centers of Excellence, recently took over as committee chair but has been active for many years.

“We need to reach these younger members and

get them involved in the beginning,” she said. “It can’t be 10 years before they understand what the union does for us.”

NextGen has been doing outreach at Education Minnesota events and this year at Summer Seminar started a cohort to get members to create NextGen groups at the local level.

“We want newer members to get involved at the local level and influence the union as a whole with our lens in mind,” Giese said. “We want people to bring up the issues that are important to them at the local level, at the bargaining table.”

Each member of the cohort was given a small grant to plan a NextGen event in his or her local and was asked to find out what attracts those newer members to go to union events.

The statewide NextGen committee will continue to have a presence at events like the upcoming MEA conference, and Giese hopes any NextGen members will make sure to find the committee members to connect and learn more about the group.

“All of our newer educators are part of NextGen. You just need to reach out and we’d love to help you,” she said.

“Teaching is a tough career. Our union is here to support us. As a NextGen group, our voice needs to be heard. What do you need? What supports should we put in place to help support you in your career?”

If you are interested in learning more about NextGen, reach out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NextGenEdMn or follow the group on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/NextGenEdMn>.

Get yours at our MEA booth!

NEW! Leaf Identification Booklets

Informative booklets that identify trees and include pockets into which leaves can be inserted! Papermaking Kits and posters will also be available at our booth.

MFI
MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES
TreezyDoesIt.com

HELP EDUCATORS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HARVEY, IRMA

The National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers have joined forces to help educators in Texas and Florida who were affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The NEA has donation links to their foundation, which will be used to help support educators living in Texas and Florida. Their site, www.nea.org/home/71517.htm, also has links to classroom resources and books on talking about hurricanes.

The AFT’s website, www.aft.org/our-community/disaster-relief-helpful-resources, has links where people can donate to its disaster relief fund, as well as links to support other relief organizations and information on how to talk in your classroom about natural disasters and the recent hurricanes.

The AFT and First Book are working together to create a school supply and basic needs fund for Texas educators affected by Hurricane Harvey. Go to www.firstbook.org for more details on how to donate directly to classrooms.

Education Minnesota encourages its members to help support our union brothers and sisters in these affected areas. Please consider donating, if possible.

Resources for students, educators with questions about DACA

Educators may be facing questions from students or worry themselves about the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Education Minnesota, the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers have resources available to help educators talk with students who have questions and get help and training for themselves.

Education Minnesota training, legal help available

Education Minnesota has professional development opportunities available for members looking to receive training on the rights of immigrant students. Training focusing on English language learners and how best to meet their needs is part of the improvement of educators’ professional practice.

Education Minnesota legal staff can also offer guidance

if members have questions about their status under DACA. Contact Community Outreach Coordinator Robin Wonsley at robin.wonsley@edmn.org or 651-227-9541.

NEA EdJustice offers resources for educators supporting DREAMers

The NEA’s social justice and political website, www.neaeducationjustice.org, features advice for educators dealing with students who have questions about their family or friends and the stories they hear about injustice or bias. The site also features a guide for educators to get familiar with unique mental health issues facing youth in immigrant communities. Also available are resources to help educators stay up to date on the rapidly changing immigration policy landscape impacting DREAMers, and ways to tie these current events into your classroom.

AFT guide to rights of immigrant students

The AFT, along with other partners, has developed a guide about the educational rights of immigrant students now that the DACA program has been rescinded. The guide talks about the right for all students in this country to have access to a free public education, as well as what educators can do if they feel a student’s rights have been violated. AFT’s Share My Lesson website also features classroom resources for educators wanting to teach students about immigration and create inclusive school communities. Also available online is a classroom poster that states “DREAMers Welcome.” To see all of the resources available, go to www.aft.org/our-community/immigration.

Political Action Committee Refund Request

Thousands of members of Education Minnesota decide to contribute to the union’s political action committee. The PAC is one of our main tools to bring the educator voice to the policy debate by electing people who will listen. Those PAC dollars are used to win local levies and to back candidates and organizations that support lower class sizes, high standards and professional educators.

If you would like to request a refund of your contribution please use the form below

In accordance with Education Minnesota Bylaw Article 2, Section 3, Subd. b, I hereby request the following:

____ Please refund to me \$25 of my contribution to Education Minnesota’s dues that will be contributed to the general account of Education Minnesota Political Action Committee for the 2017-2018 academic year.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____

Last 4 digits of SS#: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Local/Affiliate: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

A request for refund of the Education Minnesota Political Action Committee contribution will not affect membership rights or benefits. Retired members and fair share fee payers are not assessed, thus do not qualify for the refund.

Deadline for refunds: Refund requests MUST be received by the Education Minnesota Political Action fund:

- 1) by Oct. 31 for continuing members; or
- 2) within 30 days of signing a membership application for new members.

NO PHOTOCOPIES ACCEPTED.

Return this form to:

Education Minnesota
Accounting Department
Attn: Refund Request
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103-2196

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
For the Period Ending 10-2017
Publication Title: Minnesota Educator
Issue Frequency: Monthly
Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
Annual Subscription Price: \$25
Owner: Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196
Kieran Steinhoff, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196
Same as above
Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
For the Period Ending 10-2017
Publication Title: Minnesota Educator
Issue Frequency: Monthly
Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
Annual Subscription Price: \$25
Owner: Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196
Kieran Steinhoff, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196
Same as above
Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
For the Period Ending 10-2017
Publication Title: Minnesota Educator
Issue Frequency: Monthly
Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
Annual Subscription Price: \$25
Owner: Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196
Kieran Steinhoff, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196
Same as above
Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN 55103-2196

What are educators required to say to the police?

One of the difficult situations educators face is when a member of law enforcement requests protected data about a student.

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) is more protective than the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in this regard and requires there be a court order, not just a subpoena, to release private educational data. Private educational data includes information such as immigration status or DACA status. It also includes attendance records, discipline records, parent communications and health records. Law enforcement officials do not have automatic legal access to this data, whether it is a school liaison officer investigating something from the community or an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer investigating a family. If you are ever in doubt about what you can and cannot share, you should contact your supervisor and request advice on how to proceed prior to releasing anything. In the end, the district has an obligation to protect this data and should advise you on what can be shared.



Debra Corhouse

These situations can be especially difficult when they involve a police liaison officer who has been assigned to your school. By virtue of this assignment, the liaison officer may have legal access to private educational data, but only if the district has designated him or her as a “school official” under its records policy and he or she has a “legitimate educational interest” in receiving the information. This means the officer needs to be working on a school-related matter, not using his or her position in the school to investigate crimes occurring outside the school setting. Your school district should communicate with you clearly as to whether or not your particular liaison

officer is entitled to this data when there is a legitimate educational interest. The MGDPA also has an exception for “health and safety.” For example, if it is a situation in which there is a weapon, the educator could call the liaison officer to immediately address the situation. However, once the immediate safety issue has been addressed, the educator needs district permission prior to providing private educational data, unless the officer is a designated school official.

It is also important to remember that the police liaison’s job is to fulfill his or her duties as a police officer and he or she is not acting as an educator or friend. This person may also be called upon to assist in the investigation of staff, not just students, and educators should not assume the officer is acting in the educator’s best interest. No matter how nice or helpful the person is with students, they often take advantage of their relationship with staff to get them to talk freely. Always call for representation before you speak to an officer regarding your own conduct. Education Minnesota members are entitled to free legal representation in the

pre-charge investigation of matters that are employment-related.

If you are contacted by a police officer outside the employment setting, you have no obligation to disclose anything to the police about yourself or students. You do not have a duty to cooperate with an investigation. You can almost always say you prefer not to answer a question, provided you are not engaging in obstruction. For example, if an officer asks you where you work, you are not obligated to tell him or her that you are an educator. You can politely decline to answer. But, of course, you should use your best judgment as the refusal to answer could lead to your arrest, even if unjustified. Similarly, you also do not have to consent to a search or to give up your phone or other personal devices without a warrant.

If you encounter the police interacting with someone else out in the community, you are allowed to watch and even photograph or record, even if they ask you to move away, provided you are not engaging in obstruction or interference.

Educators may also be in a position to talk with their students about how

LEGAL BRIEFS

to most effectively interact with police officers out in the community. In St. Paul, for example, police officers are currently getting apps on their phones that can provide important background data on vulnerable individuals that are within 30 to 50 feet of the officer. The person registers online, wears a bracelet, button or card that sends a signal, linking the officer to important vital information, including how best to interact with the individual. Educators are uniquely positioned to assist vulnerable students and their families in communicating these strategies to the police. In these cases, families must consent to the release of private educational data for this purpose, or ideally, provide it directly themselves.

Because of all of the places where protected data can intersect with law enforcement, it is important for educators to know what information can and cannot be released to the police.

♦ Debra Corhouse
Corhouse is a staff attorney for Education Minnesota.

MEMBERS WANT TO KNOW

Plan to Attend an ESI Workshop at Education Minnesota’s MEA Conference

Make plans to attend an ESI educational workshop!

ESI conducts workshops across Minnesota and at local, regional and state-wide events.

On average, 150 workshops are attended by as many as 5,000 members and their guests at no charge. Members frequently feel more comfortable making important decisions that affect their financial future following an ESI workshop. Commonly, members close to retirement encourage their younger colleagues to start planning as early as possible.

Take time to attend one of our workshops at the Minnesota Educator Academy on October 19, 2017. For further information, refer to the conference program in this issue.

Attend an ESI workshop at the MEA conference on Thursday, October 19, at the St. Paul RiverCentre

Financial Planning Essentials
8:30–9:30 a.m., Room 1

Financial Planning for Beginners
9:50–10:50 a.m., Room 1

Financial Concerns for Women
1–2 p.m., Room 1

Understanding Your Pension in Retirement
2:50–3:50 p.m., Room 1

There is no need to sign up in advance.

**VISIT THE EXHIBIT
HALL ON OCT. 19
7:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M.**

Play CLICK using the MEA app

- Log in and create your profile
- Choose CLICK and play the photo scavenger hunt game
- The more challenges you complete, the more prizes you are eligible to win
- Now easier to play, less challenges to reach the top



Visit the app or the ESI Booth for game rules.



EDUCATION MINNESOTA OPPORTUNITIES

NEW TRAINING PROVIDES INTRODUCTIONS TO RESTORATIVE, TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

Education Minnesota is now offering two new professional development trainings, based on last year’s Educator Policy Innovation Center report on trauma-sensitive, restorative practices.

“Introduction to Restorative Practices” and “Introduction to Trauma-Informed Practices” are now both part of the Education Minnesota Professional Training for Educators offerings.

“There is an alarming trend of the uses of exclusion practices, which leads to students’ aggression both verbal and physical, students experiencing trauma and students mastering the art of breaking relationships and lacking the skills to repair them,” said Gwen Johnson, an occupational therapist in the Northeast Metro 916

School District, who served on the team that created the EPIC report and helped develop this training.

“However, I have seen the positive impact when a child is taught in a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment, when educators take the time to discover the function of students’ behavior, and when children develop skills to repair relationships.”

The restorative practices training will teach participants about the history and seven guiding principles of restorative practices. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a circle process and reflect on the benefits of restorative practices in learning communities. Participants will also be given time to reflect on their own classroom, site and district’s

capacity to adopt restorative practices.

The trauma-informed practices training will look at the Minnesota Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) study and how toxic stress alters students’ brains and its impact on learning.

“People will learn how we got here, what is toxic stress, how trauma and toxic stress change brain development and students’ education performance, and how using trauma sensitive-restorative justice practices shifts exclusion to inclusion,” said Johnson.

The 60-minute trainings can be done separately, or together as a two-hour block. If you are interested in the trainings, please contact your local field staff.

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

Minnesota English learner education conference

The Minnesota English Learner Education Conference is a partnership between MinneTESOL and the Minnesota Department of Education. It will be held Oct. 26-28 at the DoubleTree by Hilton–Bloomington. Keynote speakers are Tatyana Kleyn, an associate professor and director of the Bilingual Education and TESOL programs at the City College of New York, and Jaylani Hussein, the executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN). Registration is \$184 for MinneTESOL members and \$224 for nonmembers. Discounts are available for students, educational assistants, paraprofessionals and retired teachers.

For more information or to register, go to <http://minnetesol.org/fall-conference>.

School mental health conference

The state Department of Human Services will host its second annual Minnesota School Mental Health Conference Nov. 8-10 at Cragun’s Resort in Brainerd. This year’s conference theme is “Everyday Tools to Build Resiliency.” Attendees will learn to understand how culture and trauma affect students’ ability to learn, how mental health and school evidence-based practices can provide integrated supports to students, and explore different funding opportunities for school mental health services.

For more information about the conference and for registration and lodging information, go to <https://mn.gov/dhs/slmh>.

Teacher Tuesdays at metro Apple stores

Educators can head to metro area Apple stores for free learning sessions on Tuesdays. Apple store employees will explore ways educators can engage students, manage their classrooms and create learning experiences using iPads. Session topics include “Collaborating with Keynote,” where educators will create an interactive project using Keynote and an iPad; “Encouraging Creativity with GarageBand,” which looks at how to record, edit and mix on the software; and “Storytelling with iMovie,” where educators can learn how to integrate the program and use the basic skills of adding media and editing in their classroom.

The different sessions take place at different

Apple locations each week. For more information or to see the upcoming sessions and locations, go to www.apple.com/today/program/teacher-tuesdays-sessions.

Art educators fall conference

The Art Educators of Minnesota is holding its fall conference Nov. 3-4 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in St. Cloud. The conference will feature Deborah B. Reeve, the executive director of the National Art Education Association, and Patricia Olson, an American graphic designer, painter, feminist artist and educator. The registration fee is \$195 for AEM members and \$210 for nonmembers, with additional discounts for students and retired members.

For more information or to register, go to <http://aem-mn.org/professional-development>.

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Mill City Museum field trip scholarships available

The Mill City Museum offers a wide range of educational opportunities for Minnesota’s K-12 students. Thanks to the support of the McKnight Foundation, Mill City Museum is able to offer free museum admission and partially subsidized busing for students from qualified public schools. To qualify, schools must be from the Twin Cities metro area, have 50 percent or more of students enrolled in the federal free or reduced lunch program and visit the museum in January, February or March.

For more information visit <http://millcitymuseum.org/mill-city-mcknight-foundation-scholarship>. Call 651-259-3097 or email mcmschedulingoffice@mnhs.org for details or to register.

Free agriculture curriculum, subscriptions for AgMag, AgMag Jr.

Minnesota educators are eligible for a free subscription to the AgMag and AgMag Jr series from Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom. The magazines cover Minnesota K-6 academic standards based content for geography, history, science and nonfiction literature. The first of three issues will be mailed to classrooms in mid-October. The AgMag website also features free educator guides and worksheets, as well as lesson and activity ideas.

Go to www.mnagmag.org to subscribe or for more information.

The AgMags are part of the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom program. The MAITC website also features searchable, free curriculum for K-12 educators. Also available on the site are workshop offerings, grants, children’s literature book bundles and a school garden guide.

To see all of the educator resources available, go to <https://minnesota.agclassroom.org>.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Earth Science Week photo contest

The American Geosciences Institute is sponsoring a contest during Earth Science Week. To participate, students of all ages can submit a photo that relates to this year’s theme: “Earth and Human Activity Here,” showing ways that humans interact with Earth systems. One grand prize winner receives a \$300 award and prize pack. The submission deadline is Oct. 13.

For more information, go to www.earthsciweek.org/contests/photography.

Free Historical Society passes for sixth graders

Educators and parents can now request 2017-18 Sixth Grade Minnesota History Passes. The pass provides free admittance for the sixth grader to all Minnesota Historical Society sites and museums through Aug. 31, 2018. Parents, siblings and others in their party pay regular admission. The pass is not valid for field trips, paid programs or specially priced exhibits.

For more information or to request passes for your students, go to <http://education.mnhs.org/6th-grade-minnesota-history-pass>.

Global challenges student video contest

The World of 7 Billion student video contest focuses on current global challenges to make a compelling class project. Open to all students grades 6-12, winners receive cash prizes and there are resources available for teachers too. The contest challenges students to create a short video connecting world population growth and one of three global challenges: Advancing Women and Girls, Feeding 10 Billion, or Preventing Pollution. Students can win up to \$1,000 and participating teachers will receive free curriculum resources. Sample lesson plans to introduce the contest are available. The contest deadline is Feb. 22, 2018.

For more information, go to www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

National History Day in Minnesota online resources

The Minnesota Historical Society offers educators multiple online resources for implementing the National History Day program into their classroom. Materials include student guides, teacher frameworks, workshops, webinars, videos, example letters to parents about the process and information on how the program fulfills standards. Also available are classroom materials to purchase.

For more information or to see all of the offerings, go to <http://education.mnhs.org/historyday/curriculum>.

Digital citizenship curriculum from Google

Google recently released Be Internet Awesome, a digital citizenship learning framework designed for kids. The program features a curriculum, learning resources and games that help younger students learn how to be safe online. Also available on the website is Interland, a game that allows students to complete missions related to web safety. Lesson plans for educators teaching online safety in the classroom are available for download.

Go to <https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com> to see the digital offerings.

Library of Congress online classroom materials, professional development opportunities

The Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov/teachers, offers classroom materials and professional development opportunities for educators. The site focuses on helping educators use primary sources from the library’s vast digital collections in their teaching. The classroom materials section can be sorted by state content standards or organizations. The professional development offerings include self-paced online modules, webinars and summer institutes. Also available are free ebooks for use in the classroom. The teacher-created materials include lesson plans, document analysis tools, online and offline activities, timelines and presentations.