

*Executive Director's Report to the SAM Board of Directors
1st Quarter 2018-19 Strategic Plan Update
October 18, 2018*



The [SAM Strategic Plan](#) outlines the benefits being a SAM member affords each education leader through their contributions to the greater good of the education community to inspire our students...

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

Noted Progress on our Strategic Plan Goals for 2014-18:

- This section of the report is intended to summarize what your staff (Patrick, Gary, Kim and I), the Board collectively & individually, and the association have accomplished from July through the present time!
- This information is in addition to the SAM Executive Director Updates sent electronically.
- This report is organized around the 3 Goals and Strategic Objective in the Strategic Plan.
- 1st Quarter updates are added using black text
- **Please note that this is the final report on the SAM Strategic Plan 2014-18 as the SAM Board is potentially taking action on updating the plan to the SAM Strategic Plan 2018-22.**

Goals and Strategic Objectives

- 1. Professionalism, Integrity, and Leadership:** SAM models and promotes the highest levels of professionalism, integrity and leadership of its affiliates to create a foundation vital to success.

Strategic Objectives:

- 1.1 SAM encourages integrity through being open and honest, fair, complying with the laws, promoting educational community interests, being open and adaptable, taking corrective action, and being consistent with supporting the organization's values.
 - SAM consistently requests that our members participate actively in all efforts (committees, task force, study groups, commissions, etc.) impacting the education of children in Montana.
 - SAM's participation with integrity with our education stakeholders in [MT-PEC](#), the Governor's office, State Superintendent's office, Montana University System, Montana Congressional Delegation, and other professional groups and advocacy groups, has provided SAM a seat at the table when discussing important educational issues.
 - SAM and affiliates have worked to build relationships with the new State Superintendent and the new team at OPI during the transition of the office following the November election.
 - School Safety became a major national issue following the February 14 school shooting at Stoneman Douglas HS in Florida. Practicing integrity, honesty and fairness, SAM coordinated efforts to develop research-based materials for school leaders and pointed our members to those materials. SAM participation on the Montana School Emergency Management and Planning (MTSEMP) Committee for the past 3 years is now the lead organization in School Safety planning.
 - Significant progress continuing in developing relationships with MUS through the MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force and the SAM LPLP, MT-PEC in collaborating to develop a Governance Training for district leadership teams, Governor's office in working on Broadband access for schools, and all advocacy priorities of SAM with Montana legislators and the Montana Congressional delegation.

1.2 SAM ensures that concern for the desired result does not subvert fairness, honesty, respect and courtesy for others with whom one comes into contact.

- SAM's contributions to the work of the legislative [Interim Education Committee](#), [RISE4MT](#), [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), the Zogby poll 2017 and 2018, and production of the *GREAT V* and *VI* publications are prime examples of creating useful partnerships and tools for our members, keeping fairness, honesty and respect for all involved.
- Focus attention on indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools as described in *GREAT V* and *VI*.
- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community as described in *GREAT V* and *VI*.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana's children!
- SAM members and staff work to ensure fairness, honesty, respect and courtesy in interactions with the many professional learning and advocacy efforts throughout this year.

1.3 SAM enlists and guides the talents and energies of its membership towards promoting the goals of the organization.

- In 2017-18 and continuing in 2018-19, SAM members have established a strong voice for the actions on: [Montana ESSA Plan](#), [Suicide Prevention](#), PK-12 School Funding Adequacy and Equity, K-12 Vision Group, [Interim Education Committee](#) Priorities, [Preschool](#), [Montana EPAS](#) (Educator Performance Appraisal System, [Broadband for Montana Schools Program](#), [META Website](#) [Accessibility Project](#), Study of Special Education Funding and Services ([HJ 1](#) 2017 legislative session), Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators ([RISE4MT](#), [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), and others), and [Montana Digital Academy](#) to name a few!
- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) and the SAM Legislative Network are functioning effectively in training and advocating for issues important to Montana's schools.
- SAM offers professional learning opportunities for our members through the [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program](#) (LPLP), regional affiliate meetings, conferences, a website pointing to resources available to members, social media through [#SAMedchat](#) bi-weekly Twitter chat, and SAM's Facebook page.
- Advocacy for the 66th Legislative Session is a current focus of SAM members through Delegate Assembly to identify advocacy priorities and the formation of the SAM Legislative Network 2019. Federal advocacy has been a focus during the 1st quarter.
- Through policy development, the SAM Investment/Finance Committee (SAM officers and Affiliate Presidents) has been meeting on a regular schedule to review the financial well-being of SAM and its affiliates. The Committee reports to the SAM Board of Directors quarterly.
- SAM members continue participating and contributing to all of the efforts established under the first bullet above. Additionally, SAM members have participated in representing many significant educational issues for the Legislative [Education Interim Committee](#).
- The [SAM Needs Assessment 2018 Executive Summary](#) and recently developed [SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2018](#) reveals the continuing priorities of SAM members for professional learning and advocacy.
- Continued participation on all committees and task force related to the key education issues in our state. SAM has participated on the Montana Schools Emergency Management Planning (MTSEMP) Advisory Council since its inception in 2015-16. This Council's work has become front and center around school safety assisting in coordinating access to research-based school safety materials.
- Continued active participation by SAM members on the many Committees, Task Force, and Councils insures that administrators' expertise and voice are part of the decision making process on most all of the education activities impacting the education of Montana students.

1.4 SAM models these traits through advocacy at the local, state, and national levels.

- SAM is a leading advocate for Montana administrators through our work with MT-PEC, the Governor's office, OPI, legislators and our congressional delegation. We are also leaders in the national level discussions of AASA, NAESP and NASSP.
- SAM members are cooperating with partners in the development of initiatives, committees, and task force listed in Strategic Objective 1.3.
- SAM and META developed a Montana CoSN (Consortium of School Networking) State Chapter that allows all SAM members to use and participate in the resources developed by this national organization.
- SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee will serve as leadership in the advocacy process of Delegate Assembly in keeping with the SAM Constitution and Bylaws.
- Significant advocacy on [Federal Issues](#) occurred during 2017-18 and continues into 2018-19. Those advocacy topics are updated on the [Federal Issues](#) webpage using a process developed for approval by the SAM Federal Advocacy Team (members of the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee and SAM Affiliate Federal Relations Coordinators).
- [SAM Delegate Assembly Advocacy Package prepared for SAM Business Meeting on 10-19-18](#) is prepared for vote of the membership on October 19, 2018 at the annual SAM business meeting. Resolutions and priorities were prepared by the SAM Delegate Assembly on June 15, 2018. The Delegate Assembly Steering Committee has provided excellent leadership to ensure the process for developing SAM's advocacy priorities are completed with fidelity and representative of our membership.
- Preparations are made to launch the [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#) (SAMLN 19) to implement the SAM advocacy priorities during the 2019 Legislative session.

2. **Advocacy:** SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and prepared to use it to advocate for public education.

Strategic Objectives:

2.1 SAM will maintain a united front with MT-PEC by SAM participation in MT-PEC meetings and communication to members through weekly SAM Update E-mail.

- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center ([MT-PEC](#)) creating a strong voice on education policy issues and impacting advocacy at the state (legislature, administration and rule making) and federal level.
- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) and the SAM Legislative Network are functioning effectively in training and advocating for issues important to Montana's schools.
- Assisted in the Zobgy Poll 2017 revealing Montanan's support for their public schools. Helped create "*The Great Work of Montana's Public Schools, Volume 5 (GREAT V)*", released at MCEL 2017 and intended to help all administrators and the education community with talking points to be used to support public education in our state.
- The Zobgy Poll 2018 continues to show Montanan's support for their public schools. "*The Great Work of Montana's Public Schools, Volume 6 (GREAT VI)*", will be released at MCEL 2018.
- SAM has informed the membership of advocacy work throughout the year using the weekly digital SAM Update and the monthly SAM Bulletin.
- SAM members and Executive Director participated in the [K-12 Vision Group](#) work (August 20, 2018) developing the 2018-19 strategic plan.
- SAM office team are key contributors to [MT-PEC](#) strategies and [Issue Spotlights](#) written to assist administrators, trustees, business officials and teachers support of educational issues.
- MT-PEC is considering the potential advocacy priorities of each of the member organizations in anticipation of preparing for the 2019 legislative session.
- At the request of SAM, MT-PEC has developed Governance Team Training for school district teams (Board member, Superintendent, Clerk, Building Administrator, and Teacher leader) to create an

atmosphere of success for schools. This concept has been long debated, but with recent challenges of Boards and Administrators resulting in harmful decreased longevity of quality administrators, the work to put together this solution is underway. The MT-PEC Governance Summit - “Transformational Leadership for Montana Schools” happened on August 14-15, 2018 in Helena at the MTSBA Training Center. Ten school district teams participated with 82 individuals involved. Future training sessions are being developed.

2.2 SAM will utilize the Steering Committee that includes one person from each SAM affiliate to identify current educational issues.

- The role of the DA Steering Committee is being implemented with fidelity as outlined in the SAM Bylaws and is beginning year 5 of full operation.
- The Steering Committee is called upon for consideration of advocacy issues both in the process used for advocacy and for immediate concerns.
- The Steering Committee is accomplishing a great deal in helping our entire membership understand and take action on SAM’s advocacy priorities.

2.3 SAM will provide quality resources that contain current educational facts and implications to all stakeholders.

- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) has developed a long-range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level. The [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#) is currently under development.
- SAM utilizes the SAM Legislative Network to provide effective communication on state and federal issues with legislators and our congressional representatives.
- [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#) webpage provides SAM members with up to date background on advocacy issues. The Advocacy Issues 2018-19 webpage is currently under development.
- [SAM Delegate Assembly Advocacy Package prepared for SAM Business Meeting on 10-19-18](#) is prepared for vote of the membership on October 19, 2018 at the annual SAM business meeting. Resolutions and priorities were prepared by the SAM Delegate Assembly on June 15, 2018. The Delegate Assembly Steering Committee has provided excellent leadership to ensure the process for developing SAM’s advocacy priorities are completed with fidelity and representative of our membership.
- SAM participated with [MT-PEC](#) creating [Issue Spotlights](#) on education Advocacy issues at the state and federal level.
- Focus on [SAM Advocacy Priorities](#):
 - Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding
 - Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators
 - Oppose Privatization with Public Funds
 - Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure
 - Support School Based Mental Health Services
- SAM members’ leadership and participation in the development of the [MT ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#) for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was submitted to USED on September 14, 2017. SAM has developed the [ESSA Implementation](#) webpage to assist our members with up to date information about ESSA. [ESSA Montana Plan 2017 School Administrators - Leadership and Support for your District](#) was developed to look specifically at supporting administrators’ implementation of ESSA in their school district.
- SAM is working closely with partners in the education community on challenges in the implementation of the SB 410 Tuition Tax Credit bill (2015 legislative session) in association with the MQEC.

2.3.1 Federal relations leaders of each affiliate will collaborate to develop the SAM federal advocacy package.

- [Federal Advocacy](#) for the implementation of [ESSA](#), support of the increased funding of IDEA, led the charge with Montana’s congressional delegation and national associations to request USED address the burden created in completing the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) biannual report and the Rural Schools REAP funding application. SAM continues

to advocate for E-Rate and Broadband access for schools, Medicaid and American Health Care Act actions, and the REST Act and NEST Act rural educator recruitment legislation.

- [SAM Federal Advocacy Priorities w Positions 2017-18](#) are SAM's statements of support for federal issues.
- SAM Advocacy [Federal Issues](#) web page is kept current with a number of federal issues impacting schools, including ESSA, Educator Recruitment and Retention, E-Rate and Broadband Access, CRDC, Federal Budget and Appropriations, and IDEA Reauthorization and Funding.
- SAM affiliate national associations – AASA, NASSP, NAESP and NREA (MACSS actively involved in NREA) – provide significant training on federal advocacy. All SAM affiliates have participants in advocacy efforts at the federal level. These national affiliates are also providing resources/training to assist state affiliates with advocacy issues and SAM affiliate members have participated in this work.
- Advocacy topics are updated on the [Federal Issues](#) webpage using a process developed for approval by the SAM Federal Advocacy Team (members of the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee and SAM Affiliate Federal Relations Coordinators). The SAM Federal Advocacy Team uses the Federal Advocacy Community Forum to communicate ideas and develop consensus on key federal issues.

2.4 SAM will provide quality opportunities to learn about the resources available and training that leads to active advocacy.

- Significant advocacy on [Federal Issues](#) occurred during 2017-18 and continues into 2018-19. Those advocacy topics are updated on the [Federal Issues](#) webpage using a process developed for approval by the SAM Federal Advocacy Team (members of the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee and SAM Affiliate Federal Relations Coordinators).
- [SAM Delegate Assembly Advocacy Package prepared for SAM Business Meeting on 10-19-18](#) is prepared for vote of the membership on October 19, 2018 at the annual SAM business meeting. Resolutions and priorities were prepared by the SAM Delegate Assembly on June 15, 2018. The Delegate Assembly Steering Committee has provided excellent leadership to ensure the process for developing SAM's advocacy priorities are completed with fidelity and representative of our membership.
- Preparations are made to launch the [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#) (SAMLN 19) to implement the SAM advocacy priorities during the 2019 Legislative session.
- SAM affiliate national associations – AASA, NASSP, NAESP and NREA (MACSS actively involved in NREA) – provide significant training on federal advocacy. All SAM affiliates have participants in advocacy efforts at the federal level. These national affiliates are also providing resources/training to assist state affiliates with advocacy issues and SAM affiliate members have participated in this work.

2.5 SAM will research structure and staffing necessary to accomplish the advocacy goals.

- The SAM office structure is working well based on the evaluations of the SAM staff and great progress indicated on all areas of the SAM Strategic Plan. The abilities and contributions of Pat Audet, Gary Wagner and Kim Scofield are outstanding. This team all play a role in accomplishing our goals for Professional Learning, Advocacy, and Member Services.
- The restructure of the SAM office to include all team members full time has added value to the ability of our office to implement advocacy strategies to accomplish the goals outlined by our membership.
- SAM is now operating with new association management software, including a database (MemberClicks) leading to revision to the SAM website, membership drive, conference materials/registration and communications efforts. SAM's office team continues to implement the powerful tools available. The membership drive is digital for 2018-19 and conference registrations have been streamlined digitally to better meet the needs of our members. SAM's list serves have been modernized and development of Community forums (blog features) for affiliates and topics of importance to SAM members so they can communicate effectively on topics of interest.

- 3. Professional Learning and Services:** SAM will extend and expand the professional learning delivery system using the expertise of the SAM affiliates, as well as other service providers through professional development, mentorship, and other member services.

Strategic Objectives:

3.1 Professional Development

Provide professional development using social media

3.1.1 Montana Ed Chat on Twitter (#MTedchat) – Professional learning service and SAM Ed Chat ([#SAMedchat](#)) on Twitter – for administrators every other Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 followed by #MTedchat from 8:00-9:00

- Communicated the development of SAM Twitter presence and Facebook presence through the SAM Updates and SAM Bulletins during 1st Quarter.
- SAM office team participates in the #MTedchat on Tuesdays.
- Developed @MTEDLeadership SAM twitter presence for use at conferences and sharing information with SAM members and the greater education community.
- Continued use of @MTEDLeadership twitter presence is expanding.
- Used hashtag -- #samai18 -- during the SAM Administrators Institute 2018 in July to promote communication during the conference.
- [#SAMedchat](#) is developed, underway, and takes place every other Tuesday from 7:00 – 8:00 pm for all administrators and other educators who wish to join. Check out the webpage to see training on “How to #SAMedchat”, review the transcript of past #SAMedchats and the schedule of upcoming #SAMedchats! Weekly topics are facilitated by SAM members and communicated on the SAM website under ‘Headlines’ and ‘#SAMedchat’, in the SAM Bulletin, and weekly SAM Updates.
- Affiliate conferences are including the use of the SAM twitter presence to communicate during conferences and also to provide resources for administrators.

3.1.2 ED Camp – professional development provided to workshop attendees; defining SAM’s role.

- [ED Camp strategies](#) have proven successful at affiliate conferences in 2017-18. This form of professional learning is being embraced by SAM members and Montana educators.
- Continuing promotion of using ED Camp strategies with affiliates in order to increase communication on important issues for education in Montana.
- ED Camp strategies are being promoted during affiliate conferences and meetings, and with SAM’s partners in MCEL (MTSBA, MREA, and MASBO).
- ED Camp strategies are used by our affiliate associations when planning Conference clinic sessions and topics. The use of ED Camp strategies has become a regular part of conference planning.

3.1.3 Technology Professional Development – work with SAM members on social media and technology

- Continued promotion with affiliate leadership for using technology strands during professional learning opportunities at conferences and meetings.
- META has developed Tech Talks in regions to discuss educational technology topics and made this available for all administrators.
- The new SAM website and new association management software (MemberClicks) allows the formation of Community Forums (blogs) for topical discussion boards on any affiliate priority or state-wide education priority. The website allows easy member login access to the Community Forums any individual SAM member wishes to access.
- Full application of connecting the SAM webpage to Facebook and Twitter are part of the MemberClicks association management software, strategies SAM will implement ongoing.

- META has formed an initiative on the Montana Information Security that includes data privacy issues, trusted learning environments, and also accessibility.
- Accessibility is being promoted nationally by CoSN through the Empowered Superintendents Initiative. SAM is participating in getting this information out to our members.
- ADA Website Compliance is a part of accessibility and META is working to create web resources for all SAM members that indicate the best practices and resources for ADA Website Compliance.
- META developed the [Website Accessibility Project](#) and made the resources available to all SAM members!
- Data security issues are being addressed by the META led Montana Information Security Project.
- SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program has developed a Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Collegial Learning Network (CLN) where 8 school district technology leaders are working together to accomplish CoSN's TLE seal for their district. Great progress is being accomplished by the SAM LPLP TLE CLN.
- Training for the use of SAM Community Forums for member communications made great progress this quarter. Community Forums are internal social media networks that allow members to share information, ideas, and materials with each other. Access to the training on use of the Communications tools is on the [Member Landing Page](#) -- Instructions on how to use SAM Community Forums - [Document](#) or [Video](#) and Instructions on how to use SAM E-Lists - [Document](#).
- Student Data Privacy (Montana Information Security Project – META) and Cyber Security are technology professional learning areas that were developed during 2017-18 and continue into 2018-19. The SAM Administrators Institute 2018 had clinic sessions on both of these topics as well as Website Accessibility as Information Security was identified as one of three Focus Zones themes for the Institute.
- A conference App that includes access to all conference information and social media was beta tested by the SAM Board. The new SAM Conference App was launched at the SAM AI 18. This App enhances conference attendees experience and makes seamless the use of social media during conferences for communicating.

3.2 Mentorship

3.2.1 Extend the SAM mentor program

- [SAM LPLP 2017-18](#) ended the year with successful participation of 69 Montana administrators. [SAM LPLP 2017-18 Executive Summary](#) describes the great progress made.
- The [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program \(LPLP\)](#) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators. Five years of developing this delivery system has led Montana administrators working in Collegial Learning Networks with coach/mentors to personalize a professional learning plan that will enhance their ability to serve their students, school and community!
- [SAM LPLP 2018-19](#) is operating effectively in the 1st Quarter serving 53 administrators. The addition of the AASA-SAM Aspiring Superintendents Collegial Learning Network (CLN), and Comprehensive Schools CLN are new offerings for our members in 2018-19.

3.2.2 Track the number of new members that participate in the SAM mentor program and other learning opportunities provided by SAM or affiliates

- The [SAM LPLP Historical Profit/Loss](#) statement has been updated to more accurately reflect the ongoing effort to build financial stability for the LPLP.
- The description of the LPLP program services providing Coach/Mentor, SAM LPLP Resource Center, and Collegial Learning Networks is fully developed being utilized by the members in the program.
- Analysis of the 2017-18 Members and Providers feedback surveys was completed by the 2017-18 grant partners in the HELPS Lab at MSU. This analysis is included in the [SAM LPLP](#)

[2017-18 Executive Summary](#). This analysis does track the Members and their progress as well as answering research questions posed about satisfaction and longevity in their position.

- All of what was learned in 2017-18 has been incorporated into the SAM LPLP 2018-19 and the data collection on new leaders will be accomplished through the formation of the New Leaders CLN, where full CLN services will be available to our new administrative leaders across the state.

3.2.3 Continue Needs Assessment Survey of membership to gain insight into satisfaction and needs

- The [SAM Needs Assessment 2018 Executive Summary](#) and recently developed [SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2018](#) reveal the continuing priorities of SAM members for professional learning and advocacy.
- The SAM Needs Assessment Survey 2019 will be created digitally for distribution in December with data collected and reviewed in January. Continued use of the SAM Needs Assessment Survey will assist the SAM Board and affiliates with establishing meaningful professional learning opportunities and member services.

3.3 Membership

3.3.1 Maintain stability with membership while administrative positions are cut

- The [SAM Membership Report](#) webpage has reports on [SAM Membership 2017-18 4th Quarter as of 6-10-18](#) which is finalized at 1058 members (a SAM record) and [SAM Membership 2018-19 1st Quarter](#) currently at 956 members.

3.3.2 Maintain current services while implementing new social media services

- [SAM Administrators Institute 2018](#) was a successful professional learning experience for our members as rated on evaluations from participants.
- Focus on [SAM LPLP 2018-19](#) by reviewing training for program Providers, marketing the program to members, launching the 2017-18 SAM LPLP, and seeking support for the program from the business community, university system, OPI and state administration.
- Conference evaluation tools are developed to receive input from attendees at every SAM and Affiliate Conference. Generally, the evaluations show that our members are satisfied with the professional learning they are receiving at conferences.
- [MCEL 2018](#) – Expect the release of the *GREAT VI* publication for all schools and communities to have common advocacy information about the great work (based on the recent Zogby poll of Montana citizens) being accomplished in our public schools. Plans are complete to renew and develop an outstanding [MCEL 2018](#) (October 18-20, 2018). The venue is moved to Missoula Hilton Garden Inn. Innovative technology and general session speakers will invigorate and motivate our Montana education leaders!
- SAM office continues to enhance the [SAM website](#) as a place for members to go to keep current on issues and seek professional learning around the great number of topics. SAM webpages are continually updated to provide members and interested parties with contemporary information about SAM and our efforts in leadership, professional learning and advocacy!
- SAM Associate Director has developed a Google sheet for each affiliate region showing current members and potential members. Affiliate leadership has used the Google sheet to make contacts to potential members moving us closer to the SAM membership goals.
- SAM is using the [Conference](#) webpage to keep our members informed about all of the resources and materials developed at each conference throughout the year.
- Each conference in 2018-19 will develop a twitter presence with ongoing dialogue being displayed at the conference registration table.
- [#SAMedchat](#) is developed, underway, and takes place every other Tuesday from 7:00 – 8:00 pm for all administrators and other educators who wish to join. Check out the webpage to see

training on “How to #SAMedchat”, review the transcript of past #SAMedchats and the schedule of upcoming #SAMedchats!

- Follow SAM on Twitter - @MTEDLeadership.
- The MemberClicks software allows review of emails opened and clicks on links for those opening emails. Facebook and Twitter allow usage reports. In all cases, we are seeing increased use of the tools developed and social media by our members. The analysis of this data will provide insight for enhancing the use of social media tools to benefit our members in the coming year.
- MemberClicks software has enhanced our www.sammt.org website by providing security and password protected webpages that allow members access to the information they need by logging in to their member profile.
- Contemporary Issues discussed with membership during 2018-19 1st Quarter include:
 - [SAM Delegate Assembly Advocacy Package prepared for SAM Business Meeting on 10-19-18](#)
 - [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#)
 - [SAM and Affiliate Awards – GV Erickson, Erdie Scholarship, MASS School Board of Year](#)
 - [SAM Membership 2018-19 as of 9-30-18](#) currently at 956 members
 - [MT-PEC Project Safe Schools](#)
 - Student Mental Health Issues, [Emergency Planning](#), and [Suicide Prevention](#)
 - Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update](#)
 - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
 - RELNW Survey
 - [Montana ESSA Plan](#)
 - [Federal Advocacy](#)
 - [Broadband for Montana Schools Program](#) announces funding opportunities for school districts fiber/broadband connections and internal networks and WI-FI -- Broadband Back-to-School [LETTER](#) from partners (Governor, State Superintendent, Dept. of Commerce and SAM) describes the opportunity for school districts.
 - [SAM LPLP 2018-19](#)
 - [MASS/MCASE Fall Conference 2018](#) – September 17-18, 2018 in Bozeman
 - [MACSS Fall Conference 2018](#) – September 20-21, 2018 in Dillon
 - [SAM Youth Endowment](#) – Online nomination form will be available soon.
 - [SAM Needs Assessment 2018 Executive Summary](#) and recently developed [SAM Needs Assessment Data Disaggregated by Affiliate 2018](#) reveal the continuing priorities of SAM members for professional learning and advocacy – Please watch for FY19 SAM Needs Assessment coming in December!
 - Make sure to follow SAM on Twitter @MTEDLeadership and on Facebook at *Sam Montana*
- Enhanced web-based communication tools have been created for the use of our Members. E-Lists have been used as a notification tool in which responses are emailed to an entire affiliate. Click [HERE](#) to see the instructions on how to use the E-list tool. SAM Community Forums are discussion tools allowing members to create topics of importance and post messages, documents, and links, and subscribe to the topics they are interested in. Click [DOCUMENT](#) or [VIDEO](#) to learn how to use SAM Community Forums.

The SAM Strategic Plan 2018-22 has been developed by the SAM Board, and will potentially be adopted during the SAM Board meeting on October 18, 2018. Goals and Strategic Objectives have been revised in the new plan, so this report is the final report on the SAM Strategic Plan 2014-18. Thank you to SAM members for your contributions!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirk J. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kirk J. Miller
Executive Director