Administrators Institute 2019
Helena, MT

“The Montana HOW”

HOPE for Education...Now & Into the Future
Providing OPPORTUNITY
Having the WILL to Succeed

Instructional Leadership Summit
July 29 - 31, 2019
### Instructional Leadership Summit
#### Tuesday, July 30, 2019

#### Program

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 - 8:00</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>Capitol/State</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:15</td>
<td>Welcome, Overview of Program &amp; Introductions</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 - 9:25</td>
<td>The Word that Shapes our World</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sean Covel, Film and Television Producer</td>
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<td>So here’s the thing; your mind is a computer, pure and simple. And a computer has only one function: to answer questions. The questions you ask your mind result in answers that shape the way you see the world and how you interact in it. When you consider what questions others are asking themselves, you unlock the key to creating deep connections, find opportunities to collaborate on building great things, and gain a powerful tool to re-direct the lives of students and community members who are all but defeated in many aspects of their lives.</td>
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<td>The most powerful questions you can ask yourself rely on one single word. It is a word that, more than any other, has shaped the entire modern world. And it is a word you already use each and every day.</td>
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<td>In a 1-hour presentation, Sean Covel combines humorous stories of growing up in small-town America, with fantastic tales of true-life adventures in the movie business. Through these stories he shares a theme that has connected them all, an idea that connects us all, and a concept that lets us shape our world for the better.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 9:50</td>
<td>Break &amp; Visit with Business Partners</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>Focus Zone Session 1</td>
<td>Legislative Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>HOPE</strong></td>
<td>Judicial Room</td>
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<td><strong>OPPORTUNITY</strong></td>
<td>Executive Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10 - 12:10</td>
<td>Focus Zone Session 2</td>
<td>Legislative Room</td>
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<td><strong>HOPE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OPPORTUNITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:30</td>
<td>Lunch with SAM Update &amp; Visit with Business Partners</td>
<td>Capitol/State</td>
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<tr>
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| 1:40 - 2:40 | Focus Zone Session 3  
  \begin{itemize}  
  \item HOPE  
  \item OPPORTUNITY  
  \item WILL  \end{itemize} | Legislative Room  
  Judicial Room  
  Executive Room |
| 2:45 - 3:00 | Message from MREA & MCS  
  Dennis Parman, MREA Executive Director & Dave Puyear, Director, MCS | Ballroom          |
| 3:00 - 3:15 | Message from SAM & Closing Comments  
  Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director | Ballroom          |
| 4:30 - 6:30 | Reception Sponsored by MREA - MCS | Natatorium         |

The Montana Rural Education Association and Montana Cooperative Services LLC is sponsoring the Reception held in the Natatorium of the Delta by Marriott Hotel. Please join MREA from 4:30 - 6:30 for light appetizers and drinks.
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<td>Peter Hamilton, SAM President</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 - 9:15</td>
<td>Finding the Rhythm</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<td>Garret Garrels, Writer, Speaker, Poet, and founder of Pink Gloves Boxing</td>
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*Life is a lot like music....and for Garret that music is from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. In this humorous presentation, Garret will share his hilarious failures in life: from his journey as an accident-prone athlete, a nearly bankrupt business owner, and an artistically-challenged artist. Through storytelling, boxing demonstrations, and what can only be called a “rap” you will learn some of the many lessons that music can teach us about life.*

| 9:15 - 9:40 | Break & Visit with Business Partners                                               | Capitol/State |
| 9:45 - 10:45 | Focus Zone Session 4                                                              | Legislative Room, Judicial Room, Executive Room |
|            | **HOPE**                                                                            |             |
|            | **OPPORTUNITY**                                                                     |             |
|            | **WILL**                                                                            |             |

| 10:45 - 11:00 | Break & Visit with Business Partners                                               | Capitol/State |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Focus Zone Session 5                                                               | Legislative Room, Judicial Room, Executive Room |
|            | **HOPE**                                                                            |             |
|            | **OPPORTUNITY**                                                                     |             |
|            | **WILL**                                                                            |             |

| 12:00 - 12:30 | The Power of Hope                                                                 | Ballroom    |
|              | Dan Kimzey, Hamilton, Montana                                                      |             |

*All school leaders will be eager to get back to their homes to enjoy the last bit of calm before the rapidly approaching school year, but we hope you’ll invest just thirty more minutes for the closing session. Dan Kimzey will give you a motivational sendoff with his talk, the Power of Hope. He uses his Montana wit and humor and experiences in both the school of hard knocks and the more formal setting to deliver a fun and informational talk that should have you chomping at the bit to be the best educator you can come August.*
### SAM Instructional Leadership Summit 2019

#### Schedule at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, July 30</th>
<th>7:00 - 8:00 AM</th>
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<td><strong>Opening Keynote -- &quot;The Word that Shapes our World&quot; -- Sean Covel, Film &amp; Television Producer</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>9:30 - 9:50 AM</strong></td>
<td>Transition &amp; Visit with SAM Business Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus Zones</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOPE</strong></td>
<td><strong>OPPORTUNITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Room Location</strong></td>
<td>Legislative Room</td>
<td>Judicial Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
<td>10:00 - 11:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>What Does It Really Mean to be Trauma Invested</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kristin Souers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
<td>11:10 - 12:10 PM</td>
<td><strong>Cultivating a Culture of Data-Savvy SAMRites</strong>&lt;br&gt;Todd Lark</td>
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<td>12:15 - 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch with SAM Update/Visit with SAM Business Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 3</strong></td>
<td>1:40 - 2:40 PM</td>
<td><strong>Transformational Learning CLN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Darlene Schottle, Sheryl Allen, Jake Walker, Kim Anderson &amp; Joe Steele</td>
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<td>2:45 - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Message from MREA - MCS</td>
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<td>3:00 - 3:15 PM</td>
<td>Closing &amp; Visit with SAM Business Partners</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:30 - 6:30 PM</td>
<td>MREA Reception</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, July 31</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 4</strong></td>
<td>9:45 - 10:45 AM</td>
<td><strong>Social Emotional Learning CLN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jeff Blessum</td>
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<td>10:45 - 11:00 AM</td>
<td>Break/Visit with SAM Business Partners</td>
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<td><strong>Session 5</strong></td>
<td>11:00 - 12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>International Silent Film Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lynne Peterson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00 - 12:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Closing Keynote -- &quot;The Power of Hope&quot; -- Dan Kimzey</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:45 - 4:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>SAM LPLP Summit</strong></td>
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Featured Speakers

Sean Covel

Sean Covel is a Film and Television Producer who grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He has produced several films, including the iconic independent film, Napoleon Dynamite. Covel's films have won multiple awards, generating over one-quarter-billion dollars in revenue, and gotten nerds prom dates around the globe.

Covel travels the world on various film shoots but maintains close ties to his small-town midwestern roots.

In 2015 he founded The 12 Days of Pizza charitable program, which supplies underprivileged families of elementary school-age children consistent meals across the Christmas break. In its first year, the program provided 144 meals to Black Hills area families. Just 3 years later, the program grew to provide over 12,000 meals across the midwest.

As a keynote speaker, Covel has helped hundreds of business professionals and educators reframe thinking to “build castles in the clouds, and put foundations under them.”

Sean enjoys keynote speaking, guest lecturing at the University of Southern California, and attending film festivals internationally, but he hangs his nunchucks in Deadwood, SD.

Garret Garrels

Garret Garrels is a writer, speaker, poet, and founder of an international women's empowerment movement called Pink Gloves Boxing, which operates in over thirty locations across the U.S., Sweden, Norway, and Saudi Arabia. Growing up on a ranch in Anaconda, MT, he immersed himself in sports and fitness at a young age, and actively competed in boxing and football into his mid-twenties. During his first three years of college, Garret transferred to four schools and changed his major five times (including Biology, Psychology and Exercise Science). Finally, he graduated from Carroll College, where he played on the 2007 National Championship football team, and that same year, he started a fitness-boxing program that ended up in Entrepreneur Magazine's Top 100 Innovative Businesses.

But, Garret believes his work is more than a business, it’s a community. For that reason, he authored the book, and art project, called Random Gifts of Art. A simple idea about generosity and kindness that started by giving away free drawings to strangers, and quickly grew into: an international social-art movement, a European theater tour, and a TED Talk.

Twice, Garret has finished in the semi-finals of the World Championship of Public Speaking, and in 2011, out of 35,000 contestants from 118 different countries, he finished in the top 18.
HOPE
Session Title: What Does It Really Mean to be Trauma Invested
Finding ways to promote the awesome in our youth and to build on their potential is essential for educators. In this engaging, relevant, and practical session, learn from childhood trauma expert Kristin Souers about the importance of incorporating trauma-invested practices in the school setting. Incorporating research, building a common vocabulary, and reminding ourselves to believe in every student will be the foundation for this breakout session. This session is designed to engage education professionals, community support and parents around the importance of how they can empower their youth to be at their best. We will learn together about how to help us all manage stress, find a common language and to start to address behavior via a needs lens. This keynote will engage others in the opportunity to connect and learn together!
Presenters: Kristin Van Marter Souers
Room: Legislative Room

OPPORTUNITY
Session Title: Five Things EVERY Administrator Needs to Know About Personal Technology
We are at an unparalleled time in education with the abundance of technology devices and instant information available for students, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, and community members. In this fast-paced section, Jason and Mike will explore the implications of this access to the entire school community and offer thought-provoking examples for administrators to leverage the good while avoiding the bad.
Presenter: Jason Neiffer, Assistant Director/Curriculum Director & Mike Agostinelli, Instructional Program Director, MT Digital Academy
Room: Judicial Room

WILL
Session Title: OPI Update
Join staff members from the Montana Office of Public Instruction as they share some important information on Assessment-Fidelity/Security, School Nutrition Direct Certification & Content Standards
Presenters: Ashley McGrath, State Assessment Director; Camille Biazzo, School Nutrition Assistant Director & Colet Bartow, Content Standards and Instruction Director, MT Office of Public Instruction
Room: Executive Room
HOPE
Session Title: Cultivating a Culture of Data-Savvy SAMRites
As technology and data loom big in our world, not every district is fully embracing the promise of technology nor leveraging the power of data to tell their stories, celebrate their victories, or mapping where next to focus to enhance outcomes for their students. There are lots of hardware and software vendors that would have you believe that their product will solve all your problems. The fact of the matter is unless we are capturing good data, making that data available (both physically and mentally), and using well thought and purposeful digital techniques in our pedagogy and classrooms, all we get from our investments of time and money is beautiful “bad” data and technology that is simply a “tool” replacement, or worse, relegated to the bowels of a classroom closet (which is something like the 4th circle in Dante’s Inferno for those poor devices).
Join me for a journey through some successes and challenges of Montana districts as we share stories and swap tales of digital and data movements big and small. We will examine how districts have successfully used the SAMR framework to set individual teacher and district-wide goals, capture live formative and summative data to better hone and differentiate instruction and develop a culture of tech-savvy teachers and administrators that are capacious and well versed in all aspects of their students’ well-being. You will leave inspired!
Presenter: Todd Lark, Larkworks
Room: Legislative Room

OPPORTUNITY
Session Title: ..But What if I Get Hit by a Bus?
As a leader and an educator, you are a problem solver. And while you have the ability to address a problem each time it arises, what if you get hit by a bus? Who will solve the problems then? When you meet someone who is dealing with a problem, then two people probably face the same issue. And if 2 people face it, then 200 are likely dealing with that problem as well. And if 200, then 2000. In this workshop, Sean Covel explores how thinking of a solution in terms of a system instead of a one-off fix makes it possible for hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of people across the world to benefit from the work you’ve done to help just one.
Presenters: Sean Covel, Film & Television Producer
Room: Judicial Room

WILL
Session Title: Why the First Five Matters!
Culture eats strategy for lunch today as Travis and Jon will explode with ideas to make your first five as powerful as possible! We will delve into the importance of your first five words, five actions, five minutes, five activities, five days, and more! In addition, you will get time to get ideas from other participants. Come eat strategy for lunch!
Presenters: Jon Konen, Great Falls Public Schools & Travis Niemeyer, Billings Public Schools
Room: Executive Room
HOPE

Session Title: Transformational Learning (TL) Collegial Learning Network (CLN)
Join the TL CLN as we discuss strategies for implementation and how to apply for state funds to support your district plan.
Presenter: Darlene Schottle, Lead Provider; Sharyl Allen, OPI; Jule Walker, OPI; Kim Anderson, Evergreen Schools & Joe Steele, St. Regis, SAM Transformational Learning Collegial Learning Network
Room: Legislative Room

OPPORTUNITY

Session Title: Data does not speak to the heart. Inspiring opportunities for engagement.
As an educational leader, we often hear that we should use data to drive decisions. However, it is difficult to implement those decisions if there is no motivation and no buy-in from our constituents. While it is critical for our stakeholders to consider our data, we can’t disseminate the data if our audience is not listening. They won’t listen if they are not engaged in the potential for our success. Presented correctly, data can be engaging, it can inspire, it can tell a story and it can create a call to action. This presentation will provide some specific examples of strategies that anyone can use to create opportunities for engagement for our school communities and various stakeholders.
Presenters: Rob Watson, Superintendent, Missoula County Public Schools
Room: Judicial Room

WILL

Session Title: OPI Update
Join staff members from the Montana Office of Public Instruction as they share an overview of “need-to-know” information on Indian Education for All, Finance, IT Login and Access & Student Support Services.
Presenters: Zack Hawkins, Director of American Indian Education for All; Kara Flath, Division Administrator; Michael Sweeney, ITADMD Chief Data Officer; Frank Podobnik, Division Administrator for Student Support Services & Dick Trerise, Assistant Division Administrator for Student Support Services, MT Office of Public Instruction
Room: Executive Room
**HOPE**

**Session Title: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Collegial Learning Network (CNL)**

Join the SAM SEL Collegial Learning Network (CLN) in a roundtable discussion about social and emotional learning in our schools. In this session, you will learn about successful models and resources to help you plan intentionally to support both the adult learning community and students in developing social, emotional, and academic skills. Hear from administrators from around the state (and share your experiences) about what's working, how some of the challenges of intentional SEL implementation have been overcome, as well as what resources are out there to support you in your school-wide SEL journey!

*Presenters: Jeff Blessum, Superintendent, Manhattan Public Schools, LPLP Provider; Jon Konen, Principal, GFPS & Melissa Tovaas, Director of Education Services, School Services of Montana*

*Room: Legislative Room*

**OPPORTUNITY**

**Session Title: The Center of Infinity**

Through humorous stories, audience participation, and comedy improv, Garret will share experiences of meeting strangers from all over the world and explain traveling as a metaphor for life. Often traveling is about getting from point A to point B, as fast as possible, but we often miss the infinite amount of possibilities that exist along the way. In this workshop about kindness and generosity, you will learn old ways to find new perspectives.

*Presenter: Garret Garrels, Writer, Speaker, Poet, and founder Pink Gloves Boxing*

*Room: Judicial Room*

**WILL**

**Session Title: SAM Advocacy Update**

Please join the SAM Office as we discuss the advocacy efforts that took place in the 2019 session as well as the Delegate Assembly and the path that SAM members and public education will be taking.

*Presenters: Kirk Miller, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana & Rick Duncan, SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee Chair and Superintendent, Powell County High School*

*Room: Executive Room*
HOPE
Session Title: Silent Film for students, teachers, and administrators - “Let your students be heard around the world without saying a word!”
We will demonstrate how educators, with or without film making training or background, can use the art of silent film-making and how it can impact student learning, hot to use technology for global storytelling, and provide evidence for teacher evaluations. In collaboration with the International Youth Silent Film Festival, a non-profit organization, and the Yellowstone Writing Project, this session will highlight the following:
1. Explore student made films from Montana and worldwide from the classroom to demonstrate program results.
2. How non filmmaking teachers can implement filming curriculum, a timeline and other online resources to guide their students through the silent film process.
3. How Administrators can use the end product as evidence when using the Charlotte Danielson Evaluation Framework or Montana EPAS when evaluating teachers.

Presenters: Lynne Peterson, Laurel Public Schools & Tracy Babcock
Room: Legislative Room

OPPORTUNITY
Session Title: Your Montana CTE & All Things Montana University
Many people espouse the theory of mindset, it seems simple and straightforward on first glance. Creating a growth minded culture begins with YOU. Come learn about your mindset and how it can impact the way you lead those in your school.

Presenter: Angela McLean, Director of American Indian / Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships & Jacque Treaster, OCHE
Room: Judicial Room

WILL
Session Title: Flexibility & Efficiency
This is the FIRST of many conversations that will take place between now and MCEL 2019. The Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC) members have recently collaborated in developing a unified plan for the professional development of our members on key topics related to funding, flexibility, efficiency, safety and security, community ownership and local control. Our goal is to ensure a broad and common understanding of the full extent of the obligations and authority granted to Montana’s public schools in these areas and to contribute to a body of knowledge that we believe will enhance our members’ abilities to develop the full potential of each child in every public school in Montana.

Presenters: Kirk Miller, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana
Room: Executive Room
Mike Agostinelli is currently the Instructional Program Director for the Montana Digital Academy. Teaching elementary and middle school, technology directing, grant writing, presenting, and now directing instruction at Montana's state virtual school has given Mike a wide range of experiences in the educational field. Being able to teach and lead technology integration has brought a great pedagogic balance to Mike's facilitation/instruction. With degrees from Carroll College (Elementary Education), Boise State University (Educational Technology), and the University of Montana (Educational Leadership), Mike is well versed in the leadership of educational content and technology integration. Mike has been honored by receiving recognition as an Outstanding Teacher by the Helena Education Foundation, ISTE "Making IT Happen" award, Blackboard Catalyst for Teaching and Learning, and the recent recipient of the NCCE Eric Jensen Leadership award.

Kim Anderson started her education career in Kalispell, Montana in 1995. She has spent her entire career in the Flathead Valley. She has been a paraprofessional, reading specialist, classroom teacher and, a principal. She received his teaching degree and her master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an endorsement in school administration from the University of Montana. The last fourteen years she has had the privilege of being the principal at Evergreen Junior High School in Kalispell, Montana. During this time, she has helped to foster the implementation of standards based instruction and grading, extensive co-teach teaching, one-to-one technology integration, RTI and MBI. Her passion for reaching all students can be seen in all these implementations, with the 2019-2020 school year really focusing on transforming learning for students through the implementation of intentional scheduling of core connection classes to meet the needs of not only the struggling students who are at benchmark of above.

Tracy Babcock is the fifth-grade teacher at Morning Star Elementary School, Bozeman Public School District, Bozeman, MT. She been in this role for the past 8 years. Prior to this, she was an adjunct assistant professor in the College of Letters and Science and the College of Nursing at Montana State University for more than 20 years. Tracy has a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. She has been a Teacher Consultant for the Yellowstone Writing Project (YWP) since 2014, providing continuing education for teachers across the state in the area of writing and writing education. She has participated as a member of the YWP Leadership team for the past four years and has been the Director for the Yellowstone Regional IYSFF for the past year. She has also served as a district lead teacher and a teacher trainer in the Project Lead the Way curriculum for K-5, mentoring colleagues in the teaching of STEM content at the elementary level.

Colet Bartow currently serves as the Content Standards and Instruction Director at the OPI. From 2007 to 2016, she served as the OPI School Library Specialist. She spent 13 years as a teacher-librarian at Manhattan Public Schools before joining the OPI in 2007. Ms. Bartow completed her M. Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction at Montana State University, and B.A. in English with endorsements in secondary English, School Library Media, and English as a Second Language at the University of Montana. Her first computer was a Radio Shack TRS-80. Her first job in a library was as a third grade student.

Camille (McGoven) Biazzo is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Assistant Director of School Nutrition Programs at the Office of Public Instruction in Helena, MT. Originally from the Midwest, she moved to Montana in 2012 to serve in FoodCorps, a national service program. As Assistant Director of School Nutrition Programs, she is dedicated to helping schools create healthy environments where children are well-nourished and ready to learn.

Jeff Blessum is a retired school administrator who works part-time for School Services of Montana and as a provider for the SAM’s Leaders Professional Learning Program. He will serve as the interim superintendent at Manhattan Public Schools for the 2019-20 School year. He has taught elementary school, has been an elementary principal, K-8 principal and a school superintendent.

Kara Flath is about to finish her third year at the OPI. Kara has worked for the state of Montana since 2001. She worked for the Department of Corrections for 14 years as primarily the Budget Bureau Chief and then at the Department of Public Health and Human Services as the Operations Bureau Chief for a year before starting at the Office of Public Instruction in 2016. Kara has a Associates of Applied Science degree in Computer Technology from the University of Montana, then obtained a Bachelor of Science from the Montana State University in Billings, and then finished her Masters of Business Administration in 2015 from the Western Governors University.
President Information

**Zach Hawkins** has been Director of Indian Education for All at the Montana Office of Public Instruction since December of 2018. Prior to joining the OPI, he worked in Federal college access programs for 12 years, most notably as the director of the Montana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program for 5 years. At the beginning of his career, he taught middle and high school social studies in Hays Lodgepole and Heart Butte. His professional accomplishments include receiving the Helena Education Foundation’s Distinguished Educator Award in 2008 and co-leading the National Council for Community Educational Partnerships’ College and Career Readiness Evaluation Project in 2017-2018. Zach and his wife have two boys ages 7 and 10. In his free time, he coaches and attends baseball games, skis, and explores Montana with his family.

**Dan Kimzey** is the Hamilton School District’s Alternative Learning Center teacher. His areas of professional interest include school climate and culture, safety, and student engagement. He is a Safariland Emergency Response to an Armed Intruder trainer and has worked with numerous school districts within the state to implement their emergency response plans. Dan retired from the US Army Reserve in 2013 as a Sergeant Major with twenty-three years of combined active and reserve service, including combat deployments and numerous exercises in the US and overseas. He is a past-president of MASSP and enjoys all things outdoors when he has the chance to get away from the school.

**Jon Konen** is a father, husband, K-6 elementary principal, and freelance writer in Great Falls, Montana. He is the K-6 principal at Lincoln Elementary. He has taught most all grade levels K-6, and has been a K-12 principal of a rural school. As a 5th grade teacher in 2010, he won the Presidential Award for Elementary Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST). As a principal, his school won the 2012 Blue Ribbon Award. In 2018, he won the National Distinguished Principal Award (NDP). He is the author of two guides, *An Educator’s Guide to Combat Bullying & Bully Prevention and Teacher Evaluation: A Transition Guide to Exemplary Performance*. He has authored a children's picture book that was released in October, 2018 titled, *Principal Reads and Benjamin’s Visit to the Office, Again!*

**Todd Lark** is the Director of Technology Services and Implementation for Southwest Montana School Services. Todd has worked in educational technology for over 12 years helping over 85 Montana districts implement everything technological, from backbones to deeply engaging digital class-scapes and meaningful data sets. Todd is a firm believer in building a sustainable digital culture in public education and constantly revels in the potential enhancements that well-thought digital integration can bring to all stakeholders in student achievement and growth.

**Ashley McGrath** is a former high school science educator with a passion for education and assessment. She has been at the Office of Public Instruction since 2012. She has worked in large-scale assessment since this time, including six years as Montana’s NAEP State Coordinator. In July 2018, Ms. McGrath stepped into the OPI Assessment Director role. As an educator by trade, she strives to provide high-quality technical assistance and training to support the field with the varied uses and need for assessment.

**Angela McLean** is a veteran Montana educator who has twenty years in the classroom. Angela is the only classroom teacher to serve on both the Montana Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents and has a unique perspective and understanding of P-20 efforts and policy. As a classroom teacher and policy maker, Angela helped to craft many of the policies around Montana dual enrollment, educator licensure and educator preparatory standards. As Montana’s 31st Lieutenant Governor, Angela developed the SMART Schools initiative, Montana Women Mentors In STEM and worked successfully to grow education and economic opportunities in Indian Country. Angela is working towards an Ed. D. at the University of Montana and works at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education in Helena as the Director of American Indian and Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships for the Montana University System.

**Dr. Kirk Miller** has served Montana as a teacher, high school principal, adjunct professor, superintendent and education association executive director during his more than 35 years as an educator. He has had the opportunity to serve Montana students in every size community from class C to AA across the geography of the state. Kirk has practiced life-long learning by completing his formal education in the Montana university system over almost two decades earning his Doctorate in School Administration and Educational Leadership from MSU Bozeman. Dr. Miller was appointed by the Governor to the Montana Board of Public Education in 1995, served as Chairman of the Board from 1999 to 2006, completing his service in 2009. Dr. Miller currently serves as the Executive Director of School Administrators of Montana (SAM), representing over 1000 school administrators on all efforts related to educational leadership in Montana and at the federal level.
Dr. Jason Neiffer is the first Assistant Director/Curriculum Director of the Montana Digital Academy, Montana’s public state virtual school. Since MTDA’s start in 2010, he has led a team of over 150 teachers building a supplemental online education program delivering over 120 course titles to tens of thousands of students across the State of Montana. Before working with MTDA, Jason was a veteran classroom teacher with experience in two high schools building thriving programs in social studies, debate, speech, newspaper production, and computer science. Jason is a leader in educational technology integration and popular speaker and trainer with experience working with thousands of teachers from all levels to improve their tech-savvy teaching. Jason has been honored as a Distinguished Educator, Most Inspirational Teacher, Outstanding Teacher, and winner the ISTE “Making IT Happen,” Blackboard Catalyst for Teaching and Learning, and NCCE Eric Jensen Leadership awards.

Travis Niemeyer was a teacher of 1st, 5th and 6th grades for 11 years. HE was the Principal at Newman Elementary for 5 years and is currently the Principal at Beartooth Elementary in Billings, MT. In 2006, Travis won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Lynne Peterson is an elementary principal at Graff Elementary in Laurel Montana. She is looking forward to her second year in this positions. Lynne graduated from Montana State University with a BS in Elementary Education with an K-12 Reading endorsement. She also has an ELL endorsement from the University of Utah. She was a classroom teacher for 28 years before pursuing her Masters in Educational Leadership with a superintendent endorsement from MSU-Bozeman. Lynne was the superintendent in Savage, MT for 5 years where she worked with the Yellowstone Writing Project to train a teacher leadership team to create a K-12 multi-genre project that celebrated the history of Savage. Lynne has also worked with bringing practicum students to Eastern Montana to investigate teaching in rural areas and regularly participated in the rural colloquiums that met with graduating teachers from MSU. She also teaches summer courses at MSU.

Frank Podobnik is the Division Administrator for the Student Support Services division at the OPI. Frank leads the OPI efforts to provide supports to families and schools in the areas of Special Education, Gifted and Talented education, and Early Learning. Frank has been with the OPI since 2002 in various roles in Special Education, and has been the division administrator since 2012.

Dr. Darlene Schottle has been involved in education for more than forty years in British Columbia, Nevada, Utah and Montana. Darlene has taught at various grade levels including college teacher prep programs, enjoyed several years as a principal and served in differing roles as a Central Office administrative, including eleven years as the Superintendent of Schools in Kalispell. For the past several years Darlene has enjoyed being a provider for the School Administrators of Montana LPLP program where she was able to work with administrators throughout the state on a variety of projects. She also had an opportunity to work for a year as the interim Vice-President at Flathead Valley Community College and continues to support their programs with more short term projects in varying roles. She is currently the chairperson of the Board of Public Education for Montana and is serving in year five of a seven year term. In her spare time she loves to take advantage of all that is available around her home in Bigfork. She loves the outdoors and takes advantage of the beautiful places for hiking, kayaking, and boating. In general she likes to spend time with her family, friends and golden retriever doing all that life in Montana offers.

Kristin Van Marter Souers, MA LMHC, has dedicated herself to the improvement of people's lives for over two decades. As a licensed mental health counselor with a history of working in the fields of early learning, law enforcement, education, and mental health, she has been able to develop an extensive knowledge base. As an independent consultant, Kristin now provides critical professional development, consultation, education, and training services to schools, school districts, and organizations throughout the country. She has presented to hundreds of audiences, facilitated group learning, supervised internships, directed programs, been an adjunct professor at Gonzaga University in their Masters in Counseling Program, and supported the learning and growth of countless educators, caregiving professionals, and other individuals.
Michael Sweeney has served as the Chief Data Officer for the OPI since January 2019 and has been with the OPI since 2014. He has served in a variety of data and technology leadership roles here at the OPI, and with the State of Montana Department of Administration and the Municipality of Anchorage in Alaska. Michael has over 25 years of experience leading technical teams and providing data and technology solutions for a variety of governmental, non-profit and business organizations. Michael received his BA in English from Montana State University – Billings in 1998 and earned his IT Business Manager Certification from the Information Technology Manager Institute in Anchorage, Alaska in 2006.

Melissa Tovaas is the Director of Education Services for School Services of Montana (formerly Southwest Montana School Services), a non-profit education organization serving school districts across Montana. Melissa began her 20 years in education as an elementary teacher and has continued her work with schools by providing professional learning for educators in best practices in literacy instruction, SEL, STEM, and curriculum planning and development. Melissa facilitates the work of the Montana Education Curriculum Consortium (MECC) and currently serves as the president-elect on the board of directors for the Montana ASCD.

Jacque Treaster has been working with the Montana University System, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for 3 years on Montana's Perkins grant, dual enrollment, and career and technical education programs. Previously, Jacque has worked in financial aid, academic advising and special programs for first generation students at both private and public, 4- and 2-year postsecondary institutions.

Dick Trerise started teaching in Lewistown from 1975-77. He was a researcher for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education in 1978. He was elected Lewis and Clark County Superintendent of Schools in 1978 and re-elected in 1982. Dick was a Legislative Education Lobbyist in 1981, 83, 85 and then became the Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools in 1985-91. Dick was selected as the Laurel Middle School Principal in 1991-2003 and then went on to work for the Montana Office of Public Instruction from 2003-present. He has served as the Grant Manager, Compliance Unit Manager, Part B Manager, and currently Part B Manager and Assistant State Director of Special Education.

Tom Unwin is the CEO and President of JKT based in Vancouver, BC and had been a director of SAM LPLP for the last 4 years. Tom is a former district school administrator who has extensive contacts with state and district administrators across North America. He is an expert in professional development, a former teacher, elementary principal, middle school principal and high school principal. Tom has also worked at the school level in curriculum development and implementation, teaching personnel, leadership development, career education, adult education, international education, funding and financial planning, as well as implementing a wide range of district wide innovations. He worked in the Ministry of Education in British Columbia as a regional coordinator - working with school districts to implement policy and programs. Currently he is the principal of JK Thomas Associates - consulting with U.S. state educational leaders and Canadian educational to design their professional development initiatives for K12 environments - both in a web based format and traditional face to face venues.

Dr. Rob Watson was selected in April as the incoming Superintendent of Missoula County Public Schools. For the past 7 years he has served as the Superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools. Previously, Rob worked as the Principal of Bozeman High School (2009-2012) and as a middle and high school principal in Missoula County Public Schools (2001-2009). Rob has also worked as a school administrator in Great Falls and began his career as a math and science teacher in Anchorage, Alaska. Rob has a Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education from Montana State University, a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Montana in 2009. Currently, Rob is a member of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council for the Montana Board of Public Education. Rob also has experience as a board member for several local organizations: the Bozeman Public Library Foundation, Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, and Greater Gallatin United Way. In 2015, Rob was in the inaugural group, joining 27 fellow superintendents from around the country, to achieve National Superintendent Certification. In 2016, Rob was honored by the School Administrators of Montana with the GV Erickson Award - the highest recognition given to a school administrator for notable service and dedication. In 2019, Rob was named Montana’s Superintendent of the Year.
Thank you to our business partners who participated in this year’s SAM Administrators Institute!
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