Message from the Director

Happy New Year from the Master of Educational Leadership Program at Rocky Mountain College! We hope that your recent holiday was full of fun and fellowship with family and friends. January finds us into our recruiting cycle. Look for mailings at your school soon! Please refer colleagues to us at Rocky; you are our best ambassadors of the program and your recommendations are meaningful to us. Our next class will be participating in our certification for turnaround leaders as part of our Department of Education Turnaround Leaders Grant. The use of laptops and some scholarship funds will also be available to the next cohort because of the grant. Stay tuned for more information!

Stevie Schmitz

Must Read

Turn the Ship Around! A True Story about Turning Followers into Leaders.
“Leadership should mean giving control rather than taking control and creating leaders rather than forging followers.” L. David Marquette and Stephen R. Covey, 2013.

Save the date! Rocky Mountain College Turnaround Leader Institute, June 24th-26th, Billings, Mont.
RMC Turnaround Leader Institute,
Billings, Montana, June 24th-26th.
Leaders from across the state of Montana and
the surrounding area are invited to the first annual RMC Turnaround Leader Institute
slated for Wednesday, June 24th, through
Friday, June 26th. National and regional experts will be instrumental in bringing leader
focus to turnaround leadership and school reform to the forefront. The Department of Education Rising Stars in Montana grant is assisting with the overall funding of this event. A block of rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn in west Billings for your convenience. The institute begins at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday with a working lunch, followed by round-table discussions as well as numerous opportunities to engage in “planning and preparation” for individual schools and districts. This institute is all about “doing!” Leaders will walk away with tools and resources to assist in leading a school through the change process with increased student outcomes.

Montana EPAS
Where are you as a leader in your teacher evaluation process? Are you adopting, adapting, or aligning your current teacher evaluation instrument to the new Montana EPAS model? Are your teachers and specialists using the Danielson Smart Card to assist with instructional planning and preparation? Do you have an intended use for the 2013 Danielson Framework document complete with all of the Domain Rubrics? These valuable tools can be found at http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/Accred/index.php#gpm1_4Montana Office of Public Instruction Accreditation link to the Montana EPAS documents.

Staff Development
64th Annual Montana Association of
Elementary and Middle School Principals
Winter Conference, January 28th–30th, Hilton
Garden Inn, Missoula, Montana

January 28, 2015 – Pre-Conference Workshop
with Marcia Tate
Marcia L. Tate, Ed.D, is the former Executive Director of Professional Development for the DeKalb County School System, Decatur, Georgia. Wednesday’s session, “Worksheets Don’t Grow Dendrites” will touch on 20 Instructional Strategies that Engage the Brain. This workshop has been called both professionally and personally life-changing and lots of fun!

January 29–30, 2015 – Winter Conference
with Marcia Tate & Betty Edwards
Thursday’s session with Marcia L. Tate is “The Power of Positive Thinking.” Whether you believe you can or you believe you can’t, you’re right! You will leave with tools to believe you can. Betty Edwards, Chair of Project UNIFY’s National Education Leaders Network, has worked consistently to make
connections that lead to stronger educational opportunities for all students. This session will also feature engaged content and resources that will support your school’s work in promoting inclusion.

Also join us for the business meeting, awards, beach party, banquet, live music, candidate speeches, and final drawings.

RMC M. Ed. Alumni?
Tell us where you are and what you are doing – we want to hear from you. Email us at unquerac@rocky.edu
schmitzs@rocky.edu
swainj@rocky.edu

Travel to Finland—Study Abroad for Educators

Educators from the state of Montana and across the U.S. will be embarking on a study abroad experience to Finland and Sweden. The trip focuses on the Finnish and Swedish education systems and how key differences have resulted in maintaining top PISA scores for several years. The 10-day excursion departs from Billings on May 17, 2015, returning on May 24, 2015. Four days in Finland exploring schools, governance structures, and tourist attractions are followed by a night ferry to Sweden with three days exploring Stockholm. The trip costs include airfare, transfers, accommodations, some meals, and a tour-guide. Please pass this information along to educational colleagues, retired or current, who might be interested in this travel experience. Contact Dr. Jo Swain at swainj@rocky.edu for more information. The trip itinerary is also included in this newsletter.

Day 1: Fly to Finland INCLUDED ON TOUR: Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Helsinki.

Day 2: Helsinki
Arrive in Helsinki: Welcome to the capital of Finland. Helsinki is known as the major political, educational, financial, and cultural and research center of Finland, the country that ranks No. 1 in the world for tertiary education. Walking tour of Helsinki: Explore Helsinki on foot this afternoon, and see why the city was voted the World Design Capital of 2012. From the Sibelius Monumentto Senate Square, notice how Nordic modernism has influenced American architecture. This evening, get to know your tour group over a delicious dinner of Finnish specialties.

Day 3: Helsinki
Sightseeing tour of Helsinki: A local guide will introduce you to Helsinki today where you’ll see some of the city’s most famous landmarks, from Helsinki Market Square to the Uppenski Orthodox cathedral. Temppeliaukio Church: Also known as the Church of the Rock, this iconic landmark was built directly out of one and boasts natural sunlight through its glazed dome. In addition to its natural beauty, the church also serves as a frequent concert venue due to its excellent acoustics. Attend a lecture on education: Visit the Finnish National Board of Education. The FNBE is responsible for education at all levels – from primary through post-secondary, including adult education and vocational training. Today’s visit will highlight Finnish education from a policy point of view.

Day 4: Helsinki
Visit a school: Examine the methods that lead to high results on PISA and other forms of student assessment. Free time in Helsinki: Enjoy free time to explore Helsinki on your own. Grab some friends and visit the Maritime Museum of Finland to learn about the long history of seafaring or satiate your hunger for politics at Eduskunta, the Parliament of Finland. Indulge your inner scientist with hands-on exhibits at the Finnish Science Centre. Looking to relax? Bring your euros
and enjoy a little shopping at the Stockmann’s department store – Finland’s Harrods.

Day 5: Helsinki | Night ferry
Visit a library: Check out one of the best reference centers and reserves of national collections in Helsinki. Free time in Helsinki: Enjoy time to explore the Finnish capital at your leisure, before your ferry to Stockholm. Then, enjoy overnight accommodations on board a ferry, departing this evening and bound for Stockholm.

Day 6: Stockholm
Arrive in Stockholm: Welcome to Stockholm, the Swedish capital. Sightseeing tour of Stockholm: After your arrival, your local guide will introduce you to Stockholm’s impressive architecture and rich history. See the Royal Opera House, the Parliament, the Royal Palace, and the oldest church in Stockholm, dating from 1306. Vasa Ship: Journey to the island of Djurgården to visit Vasa, a well-restored 17th-century war ship. King Gustavus Adolphus demanded that this ornate eight-level ship be created with two gun decks (as opposed to the standard one). However, when the ship went out for its maiden voyage, a gust of wind sank Vasa before it could even leave the city’s harbor. The ship’s wreckage was discovered in 1961. Later, enjoy a traditional Swedish dinner with group at a local restaurant.

Day 7: Stockholm
Walking tour of Stockholm: Today, your tour director will lead you through Stockholm’s Gamla Stan (Old Town). Järntorget, its famous square, was home to the city’s copper and iron trade in the 16th and 17th centuries. Meet with teachers: Compare education in Finland and Sweden while you meet with local teachers this afternoon at your hotel.

Day 9: Depart for home
Transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

Trip Includes:
- Round-trip flights on major carriers
- Full-time tour director
- Land and water transportation
- Hotels and night ferry accommodations
- Light breakfast daily; 2 local dinners
- Sightseeing tours
- Helsinki; Stockholm
- Entrances Temppeliaukio Church; Finnish National Board of Education; Library visit
- Experiential learning – 1 lecture; 1 school visit; 1 library visit; 1 teacher visit

The cost of this study abroad experience is approximately $3,843 if registration is completed soon! See the following link to register for this exciting travel opportunity.

Link for the Montana trip to Finland and Sweden – check it out! This link provides you with the itinerary, trip costs, and trip registration.

http://www.efcollegestudytours.com/professor-s-trip/1544430WA
Rocky Mountain College Master of Educational Leadership Institute Registration
Holiday Inn, Billings, Montana

Name: ___________________________________________ District: ___________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________ Phone: ___________________________________________

Registration Fee: $150 for Keynotes, Lunch, and Sessions
Intended Audience: School Trustees, Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Directors

Wednesday, June 24th, 2015 to Friday, June 26th

Conference Schedule at a Glance (tentative)

Wednesday, June 24th
11:30-12:00 Registration
12:00-1:15 Keynote
1:30-2:30 Keynote led Leader Planning Opportunity
2:30-3:45 Roundtable Topics

Thursday, June 25th
8:00-10:00 SIG Case Study and Simulation
12:00-1:15 Keynote
1:30-2:30 Roundtable Topics
2:45-3:45 Keynote led Leader Planning Opportunity
3:45-4:45 Experts in the Field, Pryor Superintendent Dan McGee and Pryor Principal Sam Bruner

Friday, June 26th
8:00-9:00 Trustee topics; Rising Star Presentation
9:15-10:45 Digital Tool Resource Sharing
10:45-12:45 Keynote

Tentative Vendors: Solution Tree, Indistar, WestEd., MCREL, National Institute for School Leaders (NISL), and OPI
(Statewide Systems of Support) and (Graduation Matters), ACT Council, Gear Up,

Payment Enclosed: ___________________________ Date: ________________ Check Number: ____________________
Bill my School District: _______________________ Contact: _______________________ Address: _______________________
City: __________________________________________ Zip Code: _______________________ Phone: _______________________
PO # __________________________ Date: ________________ Amount: __________________________

Please mail form to Master of Educational Leadership, Rocky Mountain College, 1511 Poly Dr, Billings, MT 59102