Message from the Director:

We are getting ready to leave sunny Billings for the storm front on the east coast! We will be in Washington, D. C. for a meeting for the Turnaround School Leaders Program grant. We are excited to learn more about this process with the other eleven participants who were awarded a total of eighteen million dollars to work to recruit, train and support leaders to work in low performing schools. We will share ideas, problems and hopefully solutions to our shared problems. It will be an exciting adventure that we will continue to share with you via this newsletter and in class.

Then our travelling duo (the Stevie and Jo show) will leave Washington, DC area to Nashville, TN. No, we won’t be performing a country duet, but rather we will be filling our toolkit for leadership by attending the Principal Academy. We plan to learn more about instructional leadership to share that information with all of you. There are two strands for this conference—Principles for Principals and Digital Leadership. Speakers include Dr. William Daggett, Sue Szachowic, Eric Sheninger and others. Sue Szachowic will be one of our keynote speakers at the Leadership Institute in June. Her amazing experience with school improvement at Brockton High is a model for change. Her no-excuses attitude will inspire all who hear and listen to her. We look forward to welcoming her to Montana to the Rising Stars Institute.

Stevie Schmitz

Must Read:

Good Leaders Ask Great Questions, by John C. Maxwell

In GOOD LEADERS ASK GREAT QUESTIONS, John C. Maxwell delves into the process of becoming a successful leader by examining how questions can be used to advantage. What are the questions leaders should ask themselves? What questions should they ask members of their team? He then responds to the toughest problems leaders have presented to him. Using social media, Maxwell offered the floor to followers with unanswered questions about what it takes to achieve their professional best, and selected seventy questions on the most popular topics, including, “How can I discover my unique purpose as a leader? What is the most effective daily habit that any leader should develop?

SAVE the Date! Rocky Mountain College Turnaround Leader Institute, June 24th-26th, Billings, MT.
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, west Billings. The institute begins at 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.

Please see the institute registration form located in this newsletter. Keynote presenters will be finalized in January. We hope to see you there!

Recruitment Mailings! Please Be on the Lookout!
The second recruitment mailing to identify potential aspiring leader candidates will be in your schools within the next few weeks. Please share the packet of information with candidates you believe would serve as an effective leader. There is an insert in the latest packet outlining information about how to participate as a member of Cohort VIII as well as the RMC Turnaround Grant.

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 tools can be found at http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/Accred/index.php#gpm1_4 Montana Office of Public Instruction Accreditation link to the Montana EPAS documents.

Staff Development Opportunities—

MT-PEC Day of Advocacy and MASS Spring Conference
March 16-17, 2015
Great Northern Hotel
Helena, MT

2015 MASSP Spring Conference
April 15-17, 2015
GranTree Inn - Bozeman

Montana EPAS Leader Training
February 12, 2015 at MSU-Billings.
Presenters: Dr. Jo Swain and Dr. Stephanie Schmitz. Contact for Registration 406-657-1743
Photo: Principal Jeri Heard, reading to her students at Highland Elementary School, Billings, Montana.
Rocky Mountain College Master of Educational Summer Leadership Institute Registration

Holiday Inn, Billings, Montana

Name: ______________________________    District: ______________________________
Email: _______________________________   Phone: ______________________________
Position Held: ________________________________________________________________

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

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

Conference Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, June 24th
7:30-8:00 Registration
8:00-9:45 Keynote: Dr. Susan Szachowicz
10:00-11:00 Leader Planning Opportunity with Dr. Susan Szachowicz
12:00-1:15 Keynote: “High Expectations, High Standards – No Excuses” Dr. Susan Szachowicz
1:30-2:30 Leader Planning Opportunity with Dr. Susan Szachowicz
2:30-3:45 School Improvement Roundtable Topics

Thursday, June 25th
8:00-10:00 School Improvement Case Study and Simulation
12:00-1:15 Keynote: Dr. Sam Redding, Academic Development Institute
1:30-2:30 School Improvement Roundtable Topics
2:45-3:45 Leader Planning Opportunity with Dr. Sam Redding
3:45-4:45 Experts in the Field, Pryor Schools Superintendent, Dan McGee &Pryor Principal, Sam Bruner

Friday, June 26th
8:00-9:00 Trustee topics; Rising Stars Presentation
9:15-10:45 Digital Tool Resource Sharing
10:45-12:45 Keynote: Dr. Sam Redding, Academic Development Institute

Possible Vendors: Solution Tree, Indistar, WestEd., MCREL, National Institute for School Leaders (NISL), OPI Statewide Systems of Support and Graduation Matters, and Student Assistance Foundation.

Payment Enclosed: ________________   Amount ____________________ Date: ________________

Bill my School District: ________________ Contact: ________________ Phone ________________
Address ____________________________ City ______________________ Zip ________________
PO # ______________________________ Amount ____________________ Date: ________________