Master of Educational Leadership Newsletter

Message from the Director

Have a happy holiday season! Enjoy your family and friends over the holiday break! As we reflect on our blessings this holiday season, we give thanks for each of you and the growing professional relationship we share. We have been so very lucky to share this journey with you! Drop us a line and let us know how you are doing. You can reach us at the program at leadership@rocky.edu.

Must Read

The 5 Levels of Leadership: Proven Steps to Maximize Your Potential.

True leadership isn't a matter of having a certain job or title. In fact, being chosen for a position is only the first of the five levels every effective leader achieves. To become more than “the boss” people follow only because they are required to, you have to master the ability to invest in people and inspire them. To grow further in your role, you must achieve results and build a team that produces. You need to help people to develop their skills to become leaders in their own right. And if you have the skill and dedication, you can reach the pinnacle of leadership – where experience will allow you to extend your influence beyond your immediate reach and time for the benefit of others.
U.S. Department of Education RMC Turnaround Leadership Grant Update!
Approximately 23 Montana leaders have joined the Rocky Mountain College turnaround leader grant initiative. Leaders represent school districts from the western side of the state to the eastern outreaches of Montana. These districts include: Heart Butte, Box Elder, Hayes Lodge-Pole, Frazer, Poplar, Lame Deer, Pryor, and Lodge Grass Public Schools. The goal of the turnaround grant is to provide current and aspiring leaders with additional training and resources to effectively lead a turnaround initiative. Leaders will be provided access to the Indistar Tool (Montana’s Rising Stars!), which assists school leadership teams with school improvement processes. Montana’s Rising Stars training will begin this month through January. If you have interested in this project, contact the RMC M.Ed. office at 406.238.7366.

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_4
Montana 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 doing? We want to hear from you. Email us at
unquerac@rocky.edu
schmitzs@rocky.edu
swainj@rocky.edu

Interested in learning about the Finnish education system? Rocky Mountain College is spearheading a study abroad experience with a 12-day experience exploring Finland and Sweden. This opportunity is open to anyone who would like to learn more about how Finland has yielded phenomenal student outcomes over the past years. The departure is **May 17, 2015**, leaving from Billings with a return slated for **May 29th**. Pass along the information to anyone who is interested. Contact Jo Swain for additional information at swainj@rocky.edu.