



MARE Focus

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEVIN SANDLIN, MARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Claim Care, Inc.

Forrest T. Jones & Co.

Hamlin Energy

IMS Technology

L.J. Hart & Company

MASA MTS

MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

MO. Consult. For Ed.

MOCAAT

M.U.S.I.C.

SOCS

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MARE PARTNERSHIPS

- LEGAL HOTLINE: ED COUNSEL, GUIN MUNDORF, MICKES O'TOOLE, TUETH KEENEY
- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- GIRLS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

Superintendent Search Program – MARE has been retained to conduct the following Superintendent Searches:

Superintendent Search – Craig R-III – Dr. Maggie Anderson is the Search Consultant. Maggie may be reached at (816) 898-0005 or at mg2.anderson@gmail.com. **Closing (2/23/24)!**

Closed Searches – South Holt Co. R-I, Marion Co. R-II, North Andrew R-VI, La Plata R-II, Sullivan, Spring Bluff R-XV, Scott City R-I, Shelby Co. R-IV, Central R-III, Ralls Co. R-II, Spokane R-VII, Ash Grove R-IV, Kennett 39, St. Clair R-XIII, Van Far R-I, Chadwick R-I, Kingston 42, Sherwood Cass R-VIII, Otterville R-VI & North Shelby!

All Vacancy Announcements & Applications – www.moare.com!

Calculate & Communicate – Districts are encouraged to calculate how much of the grant money for the state minimum salary (\$38,000.00) they are drawing down and to communicate with your legislators what might happen should that grant program be phased out accompanied by a mandatory minimum teacher salary of \$38,000.00 or higher. It is important for your elected officials to understand what impact this would have on your district including possible program cuts, staffing reductions, delaying of facility improvements, unrealistic local tax levy burdens, etc. Now is the time to begin to prepare this information and have these conversations so that your legislators are informed and hopefully will look for ways to continue to fund an improved minimum teacher salary in our state.

MARE Scholarship Information – MARE awarded a total of 52 scholarships last year including 22 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors, 29 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts and a \$2,500.00 scholarship in memory of Dr. Matt Bushey. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament are our primary source of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we will be awarding additional scholarships and increasing the HS Scholarship Awards to \$750.00 during 2024! **(\$211,500.00 awarded!)**

HS Senior Scholarship Deadline – Wednesday, March 13, 2024

College Scholarship Deadline – Friday, March 29, 2024

[2023 HS Senior Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

[2023 MARE College Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

Mental Health Survey Opportunity

In case you missed our brief 9-question survey before the holidays RE: mental health needs and resources for our students, the initial responses have been interesting. While we've had a good responses rate far, we always welcome more input, so wanted to extend the timeframe to complete just a little longer. We will share all results when complete.

I am sharing the information below from one of our Associates (SlateXP). They have crafted a short survey as they attempt to gather information on mental health needs and resources for our students. I would encourage you to take a few minutes to access the survey and complete it so that they can gather some informative data to help make decisions on possible programs or opportunities that might assist our students. If you have questions, please reach out directly to David MacLeod at dmacleod@slatexp.com. Thanks for considering this special request.

Mental Health Resource Capacity in K12 – Is It A Growing Concern?

There is an ongoing narrative across the country regarding the status of our student's mental health and the resources available to support their growing need. MARE has always been a champion for school districts and for students in need, so we want to make sure we are always aware of any developing issues that may be concerning to our members and if so, whether we need to develop a partnership that can provide assistance in some way. We have just (9) questions in our survey.

[Mental Health Survey Link](#)

Save the Date - The 14th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 15th at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We will accept the first 36 paid teams for this event. Last year's event raised over \$34,300.00 to be earmarked for scholarships for students interested in teaching in rural Missouri schools.

Education Plus Innovative 2024 Conference – February 29th!

We're excited about this year's conference. We have educators from across the state sharing their practices on how they are redefining the way students learn. Conference strands include culture, design, equity, leadership, technology and wellness; and the conference will also include a huge focus on AI. We'll also have an exhibitor expo, self-paced learning opportunities and a podcast row to round out the conference experience.

We're bringing in four national speakers:

- **Matt Miller**, author of *Ditch That Textbook: Free Your Teaching and Revolutionize Your Classroom*, who will be sharing his expertise on AI and how it will impact teaching and learning.
- **Leena Bakshi McLean**, founder of STEM4Real, who will provide strategies on how to design for every student to have opportunity, access and create an environment of belonging.
- **Laura Boccanfuso**, founder of Van Robotics, who will share strategies on how technology and AI can further enhance classroom instruction to help students

with diverse learning needs.

- **Sheldon Eakins**, founder of The Leading Equity Center, who will share practical strategies for creating a powerful sense of belonging to ensure all students thrive and succeed.

I've attached a flyer and the session grid. They can learn more about the conference at our [website](#) and register via this [link](#).

Christine Stanek McDonald

EducationPlus

1460 Craig Road

St. Louis, MO 63146

o: 314.692.1233 | c: 314.443.6990

MOCAAT – What Can You Do For Me?

MOCAAT is a full financial management resource for Missouri school districts. Established in 2020, MOCAAT® prides itself on bringing a new level of service and support of investment planning and deployment for Missouri schools. The MOCAAT team uses their decades of experience in Missouri school budget, finance and investments to manage more than \$3.0 billion in assets for over 205 districts across the state. For support with investments of your reserve funds, tax revenues, state revenues, and bond proceeds please reach out to John Jungmann, jjungmann@pmanetwork.com (417) 228-4148 or Jason Hoffman, jhoffman@pmanetwork.com (573) 212-6258.

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [February 2, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [February 9, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [February 16, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#)

Quote of the Week

“The strength of the team is each member. The strength of each member is the team.”

Phil Jackson

2024 MARE/MO K-8 Conference - October 16th-18th at the Lodge of Four Seasons

Make plans now to join us for our annual fall conference on **October 16th-18th** at the beautiful Lodge of the Four Seasons. This event has grown tremendously over the past few years thanks to your support and your willingness to encourage others to attend. We hope to make our 2024 (Education is the Key!) the biggest and best yet!

District leaders and vendors are encouraged to put this on your calendars now! We want the MARE/MO K-8 Conference to be your choice event for team building, leadership development and professional growth. We look forward to seeing all of you at the lake!

More information will be added to this article in the near future!

MARE Board Training Opportunities - MARE will provide Board Training in 2024 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule:

Southeast Missouri - Poplar Bluff, MO – Holiday Inn – (573) 712-9021

- Friday, May 31, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 1, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO – Quality Inn - (660) 747-3000

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Kirksville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 956-4682

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Southwest Missouri - Bolivar, MO - Comfort Inn - (417) 326-6169

- Friday, June 21, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 22, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949

- Friday, July 12, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 13, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO – The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Conference)

- Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 17, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- Friday, December 6, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, December 7, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

***** Please share this information with any new Board member who has not completed the 18.5 hours of required training! MARE is an approved Board Training provider!**

To register, please complete the form found on our website and fax to (660) 747-8160, scan and email to ksandlin@moare.com, or go online (www.moare.com) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.

National Center for Rural School Mental Health Opportunity

Exciting opportunity! Your school or co-op is invited to participate in a study focused on improving the capacity of rural schools to support student emotional and behavioral well-being. Participating schools will be randomly assigned to either receive data reports and consultation versus receiving reports in Spring and consultation the following year.

Project Description

Schools will be **randomly** assigned to two groups: intervention schools and control schools.

2024-2025 (Year 1)	
Intervention schools (Get Now)	Control schools (Get Later)
\$1500 participation stipend School climate survey and reports Early Intervention System (EIS), a universal social emotional screen-	\$1000 participation stipend School climate survey and Early Intervention System sal social emotional scree

er and reports EIS intervention hub and professional development Monthly consultation	Spring)
Intervention schools	Control Schools
school climate survey and reports EIS screener and reports EIS intervention hub and professional development	\$500 participation stipend School climate survey and re Early Intervention System (E versal social emotional scree reports EIS intervention hub and pro development Monthly consultation

All participating schools will have free access to all materials and tools following participation in year 1.

Each building will have a liaison assigned who is compensated for work with the National Center.

School Data Collection Requirements

All participating schools:

Complete a school climate survey in the fall and spring.

Complete universal social emotional and behavioral screening in fall and spring (teacher and students)

Interested? For more information or questions contact:

Lou Ann Tanner-Jones, PhD, NCSP

Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept. of Educational, School & Counseling Psychology

Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition (BSCMHC)

National Center for Rural School Mental Health (NCRSMH)

University of Missouri

Columbia, MO 65211

tannerjonesl@umsystem.edu

MARE Board Elections for 2024 – MARE will be electing Regional Executive Board Members in Regions B, D, F, H and J this year. In addition, one member from a MARE member school district’s BOE and a MO K-8 Representative will be appointed by the current MARE Board. More information on this will be shared soon!

Due to retirements, we are looking for a Region B and Region H MARE Board Representative. If interested, please let Dr. Cochran or myself know.

Representative Regions by Counties

Region B: Counties of – Gasconade, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francis, Ste. Genevieve, Jefferson, Perry and St. Louis. **(Dr. Kruse retiring!)**

Region D: Counties of – Laclede, Camden, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Dent. **(Dr. Price wants to continue to serve!)**

Region F: Counties of – Jackson, Cass, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry, Saline, Pettis, Cooper, Moniteau and Morgan. **(Dr. Marnholtz wants to continue to serve!)**

Region H: Counties of – Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Clark, Lewis, Marion, Ralls, Pike, Montgomery, Lincoln, Warren and St. Charles.

(Mr. Troy Clawson is retiring!)

Region J: Counties of – Atchinson, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Worth, DeKalb, Clinton, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, Gentry and Harrison.

(Dr. Brian Robinson wants to continue to serve!)

Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers – FREE Training

Current information about concussions is available through the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers Seminars.

In-person Seminars will be held in St. Louis (February 26), Kansas City (February 27) and Columbia (February 29). A Live Stream Seminar will be held on March 1. Recordings of the sessions will also be available for On-Demand reviewing until May 30, 2024.

These Seminars will provide information about best practice care for concussion management and supporting students in returning to the classroom following a concussion. Current research, including mental health in relation to concussions, will be discussed.

Each Seminar is scheduled from 7:30 am – 1:30 pm and includes the sessions of:

- Concussions Facts and Fallacies
- Return to Learn
- Get Schooled on Concussions for Missouri – Interactive Tutorial
- Concussion Consensus Statement – updates, tools and implications
- Mental Health and Concussions
- Concussion Research Update

For more details, download a [Seminar Schedule](#).

This exceptional training is FREE, but registration is required. Registration options include:

Online Form - [BIA-MO Concussion Seminar Registration](#)

Website – biamo.org

Email – Concussions@biamo.org

Phone – 314-426-4024

For more information, contact the Brain Injury Association of Missouri at 314-426-4024 or Concussions@biamo.org.

MARE Welcomes PCC Sports as New Associate Member

MARE is pleased to welcome PCC Sports as our newest Associate Member. For more information on this company, please read on.

Precision Construction and Contracting, LLC

Dbas: PCC Sports

Precision Construction and Contracting, LLC dba PCC Sports, specializes in doing Post Tension Concrete as well as all outdoor sports complexes and equipment.

At **PCC Sports**, we understand that building an athletic space is not only about the playing surface itself. We take a **comprehensive approach**, examining every aspect of your site to deliver a **solution that fits your unique requirements**. Our cutting-edge laser-guided equipment ensures **superior playing conditions**, superior drainage, and unrivaled **durability for years** to come.

Company Website: <https://pcc-sports.com/>

Ryan McMahan
479-221-5499
r.mcmahan@pcc.build

MARE Welcomes Ameresco as Associate Member

Ameresco provides construction, renovations, operations, maintenance, and energy saving services to K12. We are all things facilities for schools and specialize in constructing and renovating education facilities.

Contact

Dana Dunn

Ameresco, Inc.

(314) 325-6048

ddunn@ameresco.com

Rural Education Matters, Everyday!

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