



# MARE Focus

AUGUST 5, 2019

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

## ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Claim Care, Inc.

CTS Group

Forrest T. Jones & Co.

IMS

L.J. Hart & Company

MASA MTS

MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

M.U.S.I.C.

MO. Consultants for Ed.

Patron Insight

Pro Solutions, LLC

Show-me-State Virtual Ed., LLC

SOCS

## MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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

**MARE Superintendent Search Services** - One of the services that MARE provides is a professional, yet affordable Superintendent or Building Administrator Search Service Program. Our team of Search Consultants includes Dr. Mike Jinks, Dr. Paul Ricker and Dr. Craig Eaton. If you are retiring or moving to another location, we would welcome the opportunity to put together a search proposal for your school district. More information regarding this program can be found on our website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com).

## MARE Welcomes Learning Blade as New Associate Member

MARE is very pleased to welcome Learning Blade as our newest Associate Member. See below for more information on this company and the amazing product that they provide "free"!

[Lesson Outline](#)

## MO

### Introduce Students to STEM and Computer Science Careers through Learning Blade®

Start the school year right by exposing students to high-demand STEM and Computer Science careers. At no charge, use Learning Blade's 200+ hours of interactive STEM and Computer Science activities to show your students how these careers and technologies solve human-centered problems. Over 400 online interactive student-ready lessons plus teacher resources for hands-on projects, design thinking, 3D printing, coding, career videos and parent discussions are all offered through Learning Blade.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has [provided](#) Learning Blade® to offer middle school students more opportunities for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and Computer Science (CS) career awareness. [Link](#) to the DESE Memo about Learning Blade:

Receive your school's free account by registering at [www.LearningBlade.com/MO](http://www.LearningBlade.com/MO).

Contact [info@learningblade.com](mailto:info@learningblade.com) to request a webinar training or ask questions.

Start the school year right by exposing students to high-demand STEM and Computer Science careers. At no charge, use Learning Blade's 200+ hours of interactive STEM and Computer Science activities to show your students how these careers and technologies solve human-centered problems. Over 400 online interactive student-ready lessons plus teacher resources for hands-on projects, design thinking, 3D printing, coding, career videos and parent discussions are all offered through Learning Blade.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has [provided](#) Learning Blade® to offer middle school students more opportunities

for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and Computer Science (CS) career awareness. [Link](#) to the DESE Memo about Learning Blade:

Receive your school's free account by registering at [www.LearningBlade.com/MO](http://www.LearningBlade.com/MO).

Contact [info@learningblade.com](mailto:info@learningblade.com) to request a webinar training or ask questions.

## Interactive Career Awareness Toolbox



### **MARE Welcomes MSU Springfield and K12itc as New Associate Members**

MARE is happy to welcome MSU-Springfield Department of Counseling, Leadership and Special Education and K12itc as our newest Associate Members. More information will be provided on our website and in the next MARE Focus on these organizations!

**New or Returning Member School Districts** – MARE would like to welcome the following school districts as either new or returning MARE members: **St. Joseph, Spokane R-VII, Greenfield R-IV, Strafford R-VI, Calhoun R-VIII, Risco R-II and Harrisonville R-IX**. If you are not sure of your MARE member status or would like more information on becoming a MARE member school district, I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

**MARE Scholarship Information** – MARE awarded a total of 40 scholarships last year including 15 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors and 25 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament and support from our awesome organization sponsors are the primary sources of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous

support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we hope to award even more scholarships in 2020. Information will be sent out in December for both of these opportunities! **Please check out our website for an article on our 2019-2020 College Scholarship Recipients who were recently recognized at the Summer MARE Executive Board Meeting on Saturday, July 27th!**

### **2019 MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament**

The 2019 MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament was held on Tuesday, July 30th at the beautiful Osage National Golf Courses in Lake Ozark, Missouri. This year we had twenty-five (25) teams and 97 golfers participating in the event. The weather was amazing and the entire crew at Osage National was awesome. Proceeds from the event are dedicated to providing scholarship funds for students who plan to become teachers and return to rural Missouri schools to teach. This past year, through the generous support of our corporate sponsors, hole sponsors, players and other patrons MARE was able to award \$27,500.00 in scholarships. Our plan is to grow the financial support for the tournament so that we can offer even more scholarships next year. Click on the photo link (right) to see a scrolling list of team photos.

**Corporate sponsors for this year included the following:**

**CTS Group - Founding Collaborator Sponsor - \$5,000.00**

**L.J. Hart & Company - Gold Flight Sponsor - \$3,000.00**

**American Fidelity Assurance Company - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**Forrest T. Jones & Company - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**Guin Mundorf, LLC - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**MEUHP - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**Mickes O'Toole, LLC - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**Missouri Education Health Group - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C. - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**Kemper Health - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

**Our Hole Sponsors (\$250.00 each) this year included: Inter-State Studio, EdCounsel, LLC, MRTA, MUSIC, EduOptimus, George K. Baum & Company, Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C., Central States Bus Sales, Reynolds Construction & Commercial Roofing Company, Pro Energy Solutions, NREA, The Garland Company, GRP Mechanical, [Gilmore & Bell, P.C.](#), [Wagner Portrait Group](#), [Mike Keith Insurance](#), [Apple Bus Company](#), [Thrive Nutrition Services](#) and [McKinstry](#).**

**Additional prize support was provided by FTJ (KC Royals Tickets), L.J. Hart & Company (St. Louis Cardinal Tickets) and Osage National Golf Course (2 Foursome with Cart Golf Packages).**

**A Flight Winner - Mike Nagel, Brian Sherrow & Troy Clawson**

**A Flight Runner Up - Jim Roe, Jerry Premer, Tim Judd & Jason Irwin**

**B Flight Winner - Brandon Harding, Marc Spunaugle, Scott Gemes & Matt Unger**

**B Flight Runner Up - Neil Branham, Matt Robinson, Shannon Nolte & Bryan Copple**

**C Flight Winner - Drew Beaugard, John French, John Mulford & Jeff Haug**

**C Flight Runner Up - Todd McCrackin, Danny Dewitt, Darin Carter & Chris Gold**

**Closest to the Hole Winners - #4 River Course - Jerry Premer, #7 River Course - Tom Gotsch, #2 Mountain Course - Eric Hoyt and #4 Mountain Course - Tom Hibbs**

**Long Drive Winner - #9 River Course - Eric White**

**Thank you to all of our golfers for supporting this Scholarship Golf Tournament!!!!**

**Please make plans to join us next year for our 10th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament. Date and location TBA soon!**

### **Missouri Department of Economic Development Energy Loan Program**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development is now accepting applications for low-interest energy improvement loans to public K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, local governments, public water and wastewater treatment facilities and not-for-profit hospitals. The Department is making over \$4 million dollars available for these entities to complete energy-efficiency and renewable energy projects throughout the State of Missouri.

Included below are a number of links to various documents that provide details on this amazing program. Many rural schools across Missouri have taken advantage of this program in the past. I would invite you to check out the various links and go to the Department of Economic Development's website at [www.ded.mo.gov](http://www.ded.mo.gov) to find out more information and watch some awesome video testimonials from organizations that have utilized this program.

### **Missouri's Opioid Crisis - Information to Know!**

Access link below and scroll down under this tab. You can then go to website from there.  
<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/missouri-healthy-schools/health-physical-education#mini-panel-health-physical-education4>

### **School Board Training Dates** - MARE will provide trainings as follows:

#### **Central Missouri - The Lodge of the Four Seasons - Lake Ozark, Missouri (573-365-3000)**

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019 (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 24, 2019 (8:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.)

To register, go online (<http://www.moare.com/>) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training or contact Kevin Sandlin at [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com).

**Legal Articles** – Check out the various legal articles posted on our website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com). Special thanks to our partners at EdCounsel, Mickes O’Toole, Guin Mundorf, and Tueth Keeney for providing these articles

## **NEW Superintendent Boot Camp**

The date for the 2019 New Superintendent Boot Camp has been set.

This year's Boot Camp will be on September 10, 2019 at the Des Peres Lodge in St. Louis. Topics will include; Hiring Employees, Investigating Employee Misconduct, Staff Discipline and Dismissals, Competitive Bidding and Contracting Issues, Student Discipline and Special Education.

The Boot Camp is provided free of charge and lunch will be provided.

**Register today to secure your spot!**

**2019 MARE/MO K-8 Conference** - The 2019 conference is set for Wednesday, October 23rd through Friday, October 25th at The Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. I encourage you to make plans now to attend and bring someone with you.

**Conference Dates for 2020 - October 21-23, 2020**

**Conference Dates for 2021 - October 20-22, 2021**

**Call for Presentations** - The MARE/MO K-8 Conference Committee is accepting Presentation Proposals for the annual fall conference. The committee is seeking presentation proposals for the following topics: DESE presentations, Legal presentations, Finance presentations, Four day school week, Board/Superintendent relations, Practical advice for new Superintendents, Workforce Development (education focus), Missouri Sunshine Law and School Showcase (innovative or successful programs) presentations. **Proposed presentations may be submitted by mail, MARE 701 N College, Suite C, fax, (660) 747-8160 or electronically using the form found on the MARE website, [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com).**

## **News from NREA - The Rural Educator**

AASA E-Rate Call to Action! Your Help is Needed!

### **Call to Action: Help Protect E-Rate!**

**BACKGROUND:** Earlier this summer, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) related to the schools and libraries program, known as E-Rate. In the NPRM, the republican FCC Commissioners pose and consider setting an overall cap for the programs financed under the Universal Service Fund (USF). As a reminder, the USF is a system of telecommunications subsidies and fees designed to promote and expand universal access to telecommunications in the US. It is authorized by the Telecommunications Act and was created to support and serve four distinct programs: schools and libraries (E-Rate), rural health care, lifeline, and Connect America Fund. Full details [on the blog](#).

**NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION.** Our goal in mobilizing the AASA membership is to create a groundswell of feedback from the field, highlighting for the FCC not only the importance of E-Rate, but also how their proposed changes threaten E-Rate and what those changes will mean for your schools. We need all hands on deck, and we need as many comments filed as possible. Here's what you can do:

- Call to Action: While it is good that national organizations have weighed in individually and collectively, it is even more important that state associations, independent districts and other non-profits reiterate their concern for protecting E-Rate. Help us clarify that the E-Rate program is a successful program that has proven critical in the extensive expansion of connectivity for schools and libraries across the nation. Help us clarify that E-Rate is important in supporting school and library access to online resources and communication and collaboration. Help us highlight why the proposed funding caps to USF and its specific programs are short sighted policy that will undermine the ability of schools to continue to address growing connectivity needs. Comments are due by July 29, and reply comments are due by August 26. Instructions on how to file your comments are included below.
- Background and AASA Summary: Available [here](#).
- How to File Comments:  
You have two options, both in terms of how/where you file and when.
  - HOW AND WHERE: You can file directly with the FCC OR email your comments to AASA staff and have them submitted for you. Full directions are below.
  - WHEN: Comments are due by July 29 and reply comments are due August 26. Both options are valid; the priority is on getting as many school district comments filed as possible. Pick the date that works best for you.
- File Comments with the FCC: COMMENTS ARE DUE July 29 OR August 26.
  - Draft your response comments. You can refer to the AASA [summary/background document](#), create your own comments and/or work from [AASA's template](#). Format your response as a Word/PDF document (include district letter head!).
  - Go to <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>
  - For the Proceeding Number, enter the following proceeding numbers: 06-122; 19-46
  - Complete the rest of the information on the form.
  - Upload your comments at the bottom of the form.
- File Comments with AASA staff: If you are pressed for time or need help submitting the comments, AASA staff can submit them on your behalf.
  - For July 29 Comments: Please email Noelle Ellerson Ng (nellerson at aasa.org) your final comments no later than 12 noon ET on Monday July 29 with the subject line 'Please file E-Rate comments.'
  - For August 26 Comments: Please email Noelle Ellerson Ng (nellerson at aasa.org) your final comments no later than 5 pm ET on Wednesday August 21 with the subject line 'Please file E-Rate comments.'

Questions? Email Noelle Ellerson Ng ([nellerson@aasa.org](mailto:nellerson@aasa.org)).

## COMMENTARY: THE COST OF RURAL SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

[By Christopher Chavis](#) August 2, 2019

<https://www.dailyonder.com/commentary-cost-rural-school-consolidation/2019/08/02/32886/?fbclid=IwAR2BaJEwhrW0ajigVXJvPpzVA5kT5wIEUsKWKYafnCg8lyPZQrNm5TfRVWE>

**The summer issue of The Rural Educator is out!**

<https://journals.library.msstate.edu/ruraled>

### 4 Day School Week

Redefining Rural is a [Colorado State University - Global Campus](#) sponsored series. This series is focused on bringing awareness to the rural communities of Colorado in the education sector. The heart of this episode is the four day week with special guests Nikki Johnson, Superintendent of [Campo School District](#), and Frank Reeves, Superintendent of [East Grand School District](#). Join Michelle Murphy of [Colorado Rural Alliance](#), Kirk Banghart of [Colorado Rural Education Collaborative](#), and Denille LePlatt of Rural Services at the [Colorado Department of Education](#) as we talk about the four day week.

## CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION; A TOP PRIORITY FOR IDAHO



Debbie Critchfield 07/23/2019

<https://www.idahoednews.org/voices/career-technical-education-a-top-priority-for-idaho/>

Can the Prairie Generation save rural America? By [Laurent Belsie](#) Staff writer

[@lbelsie](#) <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2019/0729/Can-the-Prairie-Generation-save-rural-America>

**DEBATE: RURAL ISSUES FIZZLE AFTER FIRST NIGHT**

- [By Tim Marema](#)

<https://www.dailyonder.com/33142-2/2019/08/01/33142/?fbclid=IwAR1SnnNDosOJFUUpWVVCwND9Hvkqe7rpHRftiqLumftvgk2vkE1zflIIIIBY>

**Study finds that adverse childhood experiences increase risk of opioid addiction, relapse after treatment**

<http://irjci.blogspot.com/2019/07/study-childhood-trauma-increases-risk.html>

**Outstanding Rural Education Awards** - MARE is accepting nominations for the following awards to be presented as part of the MARE/MO K-8 Conference on Thursday, October 24th:

Outstanding Rural Support Staff Member Award

Outstanding Rural Teacher Award

Outstanding Rural Administrator Award

Outstanding Rural School District Award

For more information on these awards, please access the [Nomination Form](#) or go to the MARE website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com). **The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, October 4th by 3:00 p.m!**

### **Quote of the Week**

*"Neither comprehension nor learning can take place in an atmosphere of anxiety."*  
– Rose Kennedy

### **MARE Organization Staff**

Kevin F. Sandlin -- Cell Phone: (660) 351-0596 -- Email: [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com)  
Executive Director

Jerry L Cochran, EdD. -- Cell Phone: (660) 596-3184 -- Email: [jcochran@moare.com](mailto:jcochran@moare.com)  
Assistant Executive Director

Ray V. Patrick, EdD. – Cell Phone: (660) 909 – 5118 – Email: [rpatrick@moare.com](mailto:rpatrick@moare.com)  
Associate Director

Missouri Association of Rural Education  
710 N College, Suite C  
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093  
(660) 747-8050  
Fax: (660) 747-8160  
Website: [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)

**If you are the intended recipient but do not wish to receive communication through this medium, please notify the sender immediately.**