



APRIL 4, 2025

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

# MARE Focus

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**Superintendent Search Program** – MARE has facilitated sixteen (16) Superintendent Searches this year. Noted below are the various searches and the selected Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent for 2025-2026.

**Closed Searches – Maysville R-I (Christopher Hodge), Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V (Chaim Jenkins, Asst. Supt. for 25-26), Franklin Co. R-II (Erica Freitag), Osage Co. R-III (John Kitchens), Putnam Co. R-I (Jonnie Beavers), Lakeland R-III (Dr. Deanna Jurkowski), Green Ridge R-VIII (Jonathan Peterson), Sullivan (Matthew Peregoy), Orrick R-XI (Chris Russo), Jamestown C-1 (Amber Bouse), Bucklin R-II (Michael Kahn), Lonedell R-XIV (Dr. Monica Hiatt), Eminence R-I (Stephanie Barbagiovanni), Spring Bluff R-XV (Tina Wnuk), Fair Play R-II (Buck Shockley) & Iberia R-V (TBD).**

**Please join me in welcoming these new leaders to the leadership family!**

**HB 711** – HB 711 Open Enrollment will likely be taken up in the Senate Education Committee sometime next week. New talking points will be emailed out to MARE member schools on Monday. Please reach out to your senators now and ask them to vote “No” on this legislation. 249 school districts, representing 438,572 student lives have passed resolutions in opposition to Open Enrollment. Working together, we can defeat this legislation again!

**Save the Date** – The 2025 MARE/MO K-8 Conference will be held on October 22-24, 2025 at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Plans are underway to make this our biggest and best ever. Please block this on your calendar now and make plans to join us! I promise you will have a great time and learn a lot! More information will be posted on the website and appear in an upcoming MARE Focus. Our goal this year is 325 in attendance!

**MARE Scholarship Information** – MARE will award a total of 65 (up from 61 last year) scholarships this year including 22 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors & 43 - \$750.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts = **Total of \$54,250.00 (up from \$51,500 last year)**. Since 2017, MARE has awarded \$316,250.00 in scholarships to students interested in becoming teachers! **(Articles on website soon!)**

**Save the Date** – The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We will accept the first 36 paid teams for this growing event. Last year's event raised over \$35,900.00 for scholarships for students interested in teaching in rural Missouri schools.

**Plan now to join us!**

### **Grant Opportunity – iCEV can help!**

I don't know if you are aware of this grant opportunity for rural schools, but it is available for several schools in your MARE organization, specifically on the western side of MO. It is a fairly easy process to secure some additional funding around CTE and other educational programs that have high impact on rural communities. Here is the link: <https://pattersonfamilyfoundation.org/grants/>.

I have personally gone through the grant process when it was new and have worked with a district on securing funds for things like Ag program improvements, school van, purchasing iCEV, etc. The possibilities are endless!

**Dr. Calee McElwain**  
Territory Manager

Company | 800.922.9965  
Direct | 660.200.5041

### **Drug Awareness Virtual Conference Event**



**LAST CHANCE!**

**YOU'RE INVITED**

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TEACHING CANNABIS (AND OTHER DRUGS!\*) AWARENESS AND PREVENTION VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

\* TOBACCO/NICOTINE, FENTANYL/OPIOIDS, ALCOHOL, HALLUCINOGENS, AND OTHER SUBSTANCES!

**April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (PST)

**LOCK IN EARLY BIRD PRICING**

### **Elevate Conference Dates**

**Re: E**Levate your impact at the **E**Levate Conference - now at two locations!

Get ready to be inspired! EducationPlus is hosting the **ELevate Conference in both St. Louis and Kansas City this year!** **E**Levate St. Louis will be June 3 & 4 at Ft. Zumwalt

West High School and ELevate Kansas City will be held on Thursday, June 5 at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

Experience dynamic keynote speakers, innovative breakout sessions and networking opportunities that will ignite new ideas and elevate your impact in the classroom. Learn best practices and gain new strategies for creating inclusive and effective learning environments. Learn more about St. Louis on the [ELevate St. Louis conference website](#) and Kansas City on it's [conference website](#).

This conference is for leaders, EL educators and content teachers who have EL students within their classroom. All can gain valuable learning experiences and practical strategies that can be applied to the classroom and their school communities. Attached are flyers with additional information for both conferences.

Don't miss this chance to collaborate, learn and grow with fellow educators. Reserve your spot today for [ELevate St. Louis](#) or [ELevate Kansas City](#).

Christine McDonald, o: 314.692.1233 | c: 314.443.6990

## **Wastewater Testing Initiative in Missouri High Schools – Opportunity to Engage!**

**Subject:** Wastewater Testing Initiative in Missouri High Schools

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is launching a statewide initiative involving wastewater testing for opioids including fentanyl in Missouri high schools. Your school is invited to participate in this important program aimed at assessing the feasibility of a statewide initiative for opioid testing. Please refer to the attached fact sheet for additional details.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please reach out directly to Blake Clark at Mighty Good Solutions (MGS) via email: [blake@mightygoodsolutions.com](mailto:blake@mightygoodsolutions.com).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to student health and community well-being.

For more information on this initiative, please access the link below.

[..\Opioid Testing Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

## **MARE Board Training Calendar for 2025**

### **MARE Board Training Dates – 2025**

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

- Friday, May 30, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, May 31, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 13, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 14, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 20, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 21, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 27, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 28, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, July 11, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 12, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Wednesday, October 22, 2025 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 23, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons**

- Friday, December 5, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, December 6, 2025 (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](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com), or go online ([www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.

**Quote of the Week**

**“Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen.” Michael Jordan**

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Ready to chat? Respond to this email and let me know.

Thanks, and take care,  
Kelvin Doerr  
Remote Sales  
[kelvin@foxblocks.com](mailto:kelvin@foxblocks.com)

## **MOCAAT – What Can You Do for Me?**



**The MOCAAT® Advantage:**  
**Missouri's Trusted Financial Management Resource for School Districts.**

Our experienced team, with broad expertise in Missouri school budgeting, finance, and investments, thoroughly manages over \$3 billion in assets for over 240 Missouri Participants, including school districts (as of September 30, 2024).

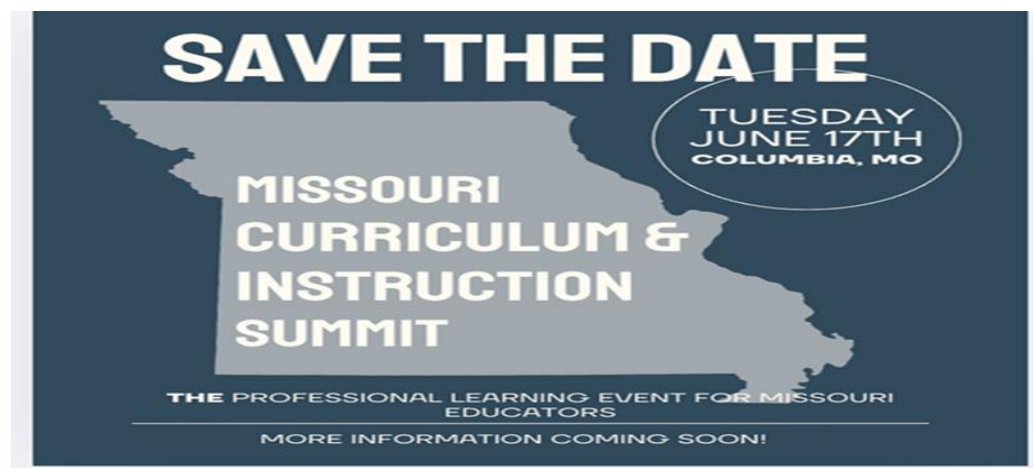
Since inception in 2020, MOCAAT has provided a new level of service and performance to Missouri communities.  
**Our philosophy – Partnership.**

Maximize the potential of your reserve funds, tax revenues, state revenues, and bond proceeds with our professional guidance.

For financial support tailored to your district's unique needs, contact us:

		
<b>John Jungmann</b> Vice-President Investment Services	<b>Jason Hoffman</b> Vice-President Investment Services	<b>Paul Ziegler</b> Coordinator, Sales & Relationship Manager
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## **STEPUp Missouri Curriculum & Instruction Summit**



I wanted to reach out because we believe members of MARE would greatly benefit from attending the [Missouri Curriculum & Instruction Summit](#), happening on June 17, 2025 in Columbia, MO.

This event is designed to support Missouri's instructional leaders with innovative learning opportunities. Right now, **Early Bird registration is open**, and we'd love your help in spreading the word to rural educators who could take advantage of this opportunity.

You can find more information and register

here: <https://sites.google.com/stepupconsultingservices.com/mocis/home>

Valorie Montgomery, Senior Director of Marketing & Operation

**Boys State & Girls State 2025** — MARE will be sponsoring two young men and two young women to attend their respective State gatherings this year. We are proud to be a part of these amazing programs and opportunities for our students. More to follow in an upcoming MARE Focus!

## **Robotics Free Event Opportunity**

Here's a free event about Robotics coming up!

[Excite CTE - Virtual Events](#)

**Dr. Calee McElwain**  
Territory Manager

Company | 800.922.9965

Direct | 660.200.5041

[Schedule a Meeting »](#)

## **MARE Organization Staff**

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