



# News

Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs Newsletter  
Steve Allen, Editor

Here is all the latest news from the world of alternative education in the state of Minnesota. You can also check out our website at <http://www.maapmn.org/> for more information.

## MAAP 101 Report

By Greg Zimmerman



A great day of learning and sharing was experienced by those who attended this year's version of MAAP 101. The event is supported by the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs and was created over 10 years ago by Craig Wignes. The idea was to host a small conference specifically aimed at new educators working in alternative programs.

Working in alternative programs provides unique challenges. MAAP's mission is to Lead, Promote, and Support Innovative Learning Experiences for all Minnesota students. We believe the key to doing this within our schools and really any school for that matter, is to cultivate meaningful relationships with our learners and to provide them with relevant, meaningful, and exciting learning opportunities. The goal of MAAP 101 is to provide tools and resources for those in attendance to bring back to their programs. We want

them to have long, successful careers in education.

This year's MAAP 101 Conference covered a number of topics including fostering high expectations within our schools, avoiding burnout, project based learning, navigating special education, MAAP STARS, and more! Some even did some yoga! Over 40 people gathered to help make this event a success. These included attendees, presenters with a wide range of experience, students, and a parent speaker. We thank all that were present. It was a great day. We offer special thanks to the staff and students of Ivan Sand Community High School for their hospitality and incredible contributions.



MAAP 101 is a terrific opportunity for new staff in your schools, or anyone

who wants a chance to recharge their batteries and remind themselves why they got into education in the first place! Based on the turnout, MAAP will be in good hands and continue to push for innovative best practices in all schools throughout Minnesota. Keep MAAP 101 in mind for next fall! For more information on MAAP 101 and MAAP schools, visit our website at [www.maapmn.org](http://www.maapmn.org).

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## MAAP STARS Fall Conference Report

By Patti Haasch



The 24th Annual Fall Leadership Conference took place October 25 & 26 at a new location – Lake Beauty Camp in Long Prairie. We had 29 programs registered and over 200 in attendance from around the state. Michael Myers-Schleif and Konie Brudwick, teachers from McKinley St. Cloud ALC, worked closely with the Lake Beauty Camp staff planning our conference. The Camp offered some pre-conference activities which were well attended. Those included: horseback riding, rock wall climbing, zip line, and various team sports and games.



The schedule was slightly different from the past. There was more team planning time so programs could design how their MAAP STARS Chapter will look like this school year. There was a session on what MAAP STARS is that

offered resources on how to start and/or improve on a STARS Chapter. Derek Greenfield, who has been at the conference 22 of the 24 years, and Carl Olson were the main presenters doing team building and motivational activities with the students and advisors.



Students running for the State Leadership Team gave speeches and campaigned the first night. Schools turned in their ballots the next day, voting for who they felt would represent them and alternative education. Students and advisors stayed in dorms and cabins which also offered bonding time as a school team. Each school received their framed MAAP STARS membership certificate and were encouraged to download the STARS Chapter and Events Manuals that are on the MAAP website for resources to enhance their school's chapter.



Coming together for the conference enables students and advisors to network with other programs throughout Minnesota. Some schools have had a MAAP STARS Chapter for many, many years and others were first timers. Each

provides its own uniqueness and offers students opportunities to grow and learn in different ways.



Be sure to check out the STARS section on the MAAP website for various videos such as “What Is MAAP STARS”, “How To Start A MAAP STARS Chapter”, the Animoto of the Fall Conference, and watch the video which has various schools talking about how they do STARS at their schools. You can read previous student speeches, get details about the three state-wide events, and learn much more about STARS. Our hope is that all nine regions will encourage more schools to become involved in MAAP STARS and even offer regional events throughout this school year. MAAP STARS makes a difference!



## MAAP STARS State Leadership Team

By Patti Haasch

Ten students campaigned to be a MAAP STARS Officer at the 24th Annual MAAP STARS Fall Leadership Conference. The candidates had to give a speech in front of the whole group explaining why they wanted to be an officer. Five were elected. They are:

- Laura Mercure
  - » Ivan Sand Community High School
  - » NW Metro
- Donavayn Robinson
  - » Paladin Career & Technical High School
  - » NE Metro
- Jonathon DiGiovanni
  - » Austin Area Learning Center
  - » Southeast
- Priscilla Lopez
  - » River Bend Area Learning Center
  - » Southwest
- R'Elle Robinson
  - » Jennings Community School
  - » Central Metro

Liza Kelly (Austin ALC) and Patti Haasch (MAAP STARS Chair) provided the officer training November 16 & 17 at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville. Two guests came by: Kip Sackett, co-founder of MAAP STARS, and Wayne Jennings, to talk to the officers. Part of the training involves buying matching outfits to wear when they are presenting about STARS. At the end of the training, they all went to the MN Department of Education in their new outfits to talk to some of the people that work there sharing about what MAAP STARS is and the impact it has had on their lives so far. These MAAP STARS Officers will be

on hand to lead Legislative Day At The State Capitol (February 28), conduct our STARS Spring Events Conference (April 10 & 11), and guide next Fall's Leadership Conference in October. They also will present at other conferences such as MSBA Convention in January at the Minneapolis Convention Center. They are available to come to your school to talk about MAAP STARS with your students and staff.



## MAAP STARS Alchemist

By Patti Haasch

The Alchemist is a literary publication that is put together each year by MAAP. The Alchemist contains student artwork and writings. We encourage students and staff to submit student work throughout the school year. You can find the previous Alchemist publications on the MAAP website. Our new editor is Deb Nelson and you can send things to: [alchemisteditor@gmail.com](mailto:alchemisteditor@gmail.com). The deadline for the 2018 edition is March 15, 2018 and will be available for distribution at the 2018 Spring MAAP STARS Events Conference.

## MAAP Administrative Workshop

By Steve Allen

Based upon the workshop evaluations, participants seemed to really appreciate the MAAP Administrative Workshop again this year. Each year, we are so appreciative of the individuals who are willing to share their expertise. We also were very appreciative to Mary Barrie,

Sally Reynolds and all the MDE staff for providing us with our new venue. At the workshop, Mary introduced us to the New MDE Alternative Specialist, Sally Reynolds. Mary is not leaving the Department, but she is moving into a Supervisory role. Sally has quickly jumped "on board" and the transition appears to be going very smoothly. If you weren't at the MAAP Administrative Workshop or haven't met Sally, please introduce yourself to her. Her email address is: [sally.reynolds@state.mn.us](mailto:sally.reynolds@state.mn.us).



## State Conference Update

By Chris Bodick

Preparations for the 2018 MAAP State Conference are in full swing! This year's theme is Lifelong Learning: We Inspire the Desire!

At this time we are accepting presenter RFP's (<http://tinyurl.com/yc69qrcj>) and registrations (<http://www.maapmn.org/events/>). So far we have the makings of a truly incredible conference!





Our Keynote speakers, Wayne Jennings, Nikhil Goyal, and Michael Veeck will inform, educate, and inspire you with their knowledge and enthusiasm!



New at this year's conference will be:

- The ability to earn the specific CEU's for teacher licensure.
- More hands-on experiential sessions to engage attendees into the learning process.
- Two ESSA sessions. One for administrators and coordinators and one for practitioners, where your thoughts and ideas about relevant and meaningful assessment indicators can be communicated directly to MDE decision makers. You can read more about this in Sally Reynolds article below.
- Large group sessions with focused presentations.
- This year, we will reduce the amount of paper that we distribute at the conference. Instead of printing all of the conference materials, some of the materials will be posted on the MAAP website and conference attendees will be provided a direct link to these

materials.

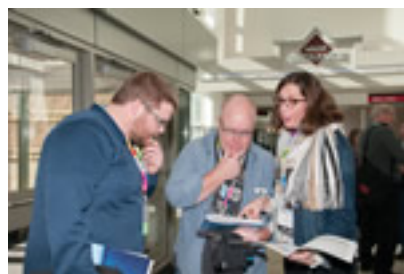
- Finally, we're still in the process of attempting to create an opportunity for college students to attend and meet perspective Alternative and Charter School administrators. Watch for more information in the weeks to come.



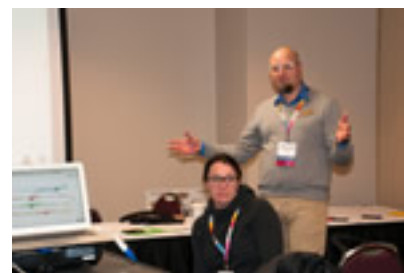
We continue to improve our conference based on your input! Last year's evaluation comments led to this year's focus and recruitment of presenters and topics! You make the MAAP Conference Great! If you haven't ever thought of presenting - WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



If you haven't yet registered, it's not too late to get both the Early Bird discount and presenters discount!



We hope to see you in Mankato, February 7th, 8th, and 9th!

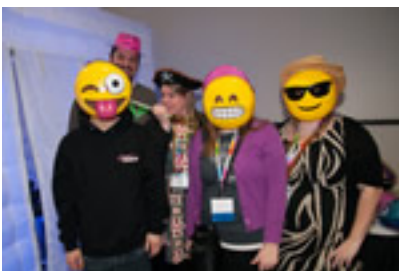
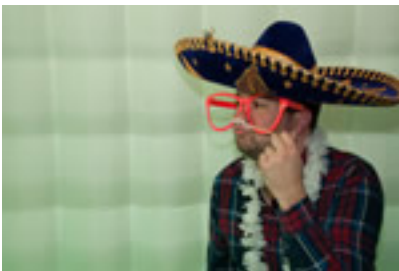


## State Conference - Changes to the 2018 Networking Extravaganza

*By Kristyn Martin*

This year the 5th Annual Networking Extravaganza will be moving to the larger banquet room at the Verizon Wireless Center in order to hold all of

the prizes we will be giving away. Last year we gave away a GOPRO, Groupon and Amazon gift certificates and a variety of vendor prizes. **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!** We will once again have a Photo Booth, snacks, beverages, games and a fabulous opportunity to connect with alternative education supporters from across the state of Minnesota. The time for the Networking Extravaganza has also changed, so make sure to check your conference materials. See you in Mankato!



## State Conference – ESSA! By Sally Reynolds

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) soon to be replaced by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – will need your Voice!

As most are aware, ESSA will identify schools for support starting in the 2018-19 school year. MAAP and MDE are partnering to gather the input into the supports and measures of progress that will be used in our Alternative School Programs – those schools working with our off-track and at-risk students.

To gather this information, there will be two (2) sessions at this year's MAAP Conference:

- ESSA for Administrators – This session will be held on Thursday, February 8th. Michael Diedrich, MDE's ESSA Policy Specialist, will lead this review and discussion. District and school leadership is invited to attend to learn more about the specific impacts of ESSA on schools. Administrative CEUs will be provided.
- ESSA Work Session – This two (2) hour session will happen on Friday, February 9th. It will focus on gathering feedback from MAAP members on how best to measure progress and plan supports in alternative school settings. This is an active session where participants will work in teams to analyze, discuss, and share the unique perspectives of the MAAP school experience. This work will go into developing a tool to support MDE in planning with ESSA identified schools. CEUs for Licensure will be provided.

## State Conference – Get Involved with your Region By Steve Allen

I would like to encourage you to attend your regional meetings at this year's conference. This is a good way to "get involved" and learn what is going on in your region. At your regional meetings, you may even want to consider running for the Regional Director's position. Regional Directors attend MAAP Board meetings and are voting members of the Board, they help keep their regional members informed and they assist with any special regional initiatives that their region will be hosting. Regional initiatives vary from region to region. Some of these activities may include: Regional meetings; Regional conferences or workshops and/or Regional MAAP STARS competitions.

We have again asked Regional Directors to set up Regional Display tables at this year's conference. Regional Display tables are an attempt for regional members to share and distribute information about schools and programs in their regions. Regional Directors should contact Deanna Chiodo (deanna.chiodo@isd728.org), our Conference Vendor Coordinator to make arrangements for their tables.

## Proposed By-Law Changes By Steve Allen

The MAAP Board has been working on a possible change in the MAAP membership process. This change would occur in Article 4 – MAAP Membership and in the MAAP Standing Rules Guidelines, Section 4. These changes would eliminate the current membership fee for our organization.

The Board is also proposing an additional change in the MAAP Standing Rules Guidelines, Section 1. Below are

the proposed revisions of the MAAP Bylaws that would be necessary:

#### ARTICLE 4 – MAAP MEMBERSHIP [13]

Section 1. Any person involved or interested in alternative education shall become a voting member upon payment of dues-completion of the MAAP member registration form that is available on MAAP website (www.maapmn.org) of MAAP. MAAP members are eligible to vote, hold office and attend meetings.

#### MAAP STANDING RULES

##### 6. Guidelines

Section 1. Attendance at National Conferences: MAAP may send two representatives to the a National Alternative Education Conference upon Board approval. [15]

Section 4. Financial Support - The MAAP Board of Directors shall determine how money collected through MAAP membership dues shall be distributed to Regional Organizations, to MAAP STARS, MAAP expenses, professional development, and any additional expenditures. Otherwise, each region may determine the more specific use of money. Moneys will be distributed equally to regions regardless of how much money each region previously spent. However if it is determined that the Region has not implemented a plan for using the funds †The MAAP Board of Directors may recall the unspent funds to make available for uses it determines beneficial to the mission of the MAAP Organization. [15]

Approved By the Board of Directors and membership on February 16, 2012.

## Legislative Update – Let’s Pass Legislation That Helps Us

By Wayne Jennings

Let’s get some legislation that helps MAAPP. Here’s a variety of steps we can take:

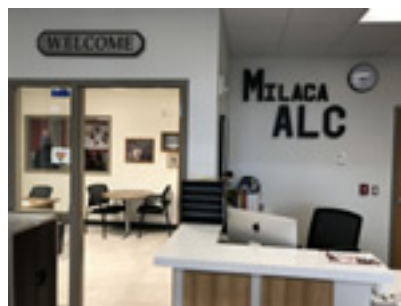
- Reach out to legislators and candidates this fall. Talk to them about their position for at-risk youth.
- Invite legislators and candidates to see your program.
- Ignore party differences. We need both to pass legislation. We learned that last year.
- Participate in our Legislative Committee. It’s open to all.

The Legislative Committee meets about 3-4 times per year. The Committee prepares our platform in priority order for the Executive Board to approve. Contact Steve Allen (sallen958@gmail.com) with your email address. He will notify you of the time and place for the next meeting. We have lively meetings.

Let’s get action! Hope to see you at the next meeting.

## Milaca Area Learning Center

By Steve Allen



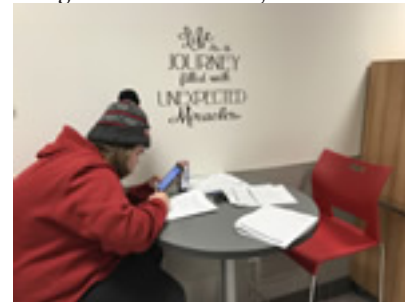
I had the opportunity to visit the new Milaca Area Learning Center last week. What a nice new site! Director Steve Hammero, the staff and students of the

Milaca ALC should be extremely proud of their new site. A couple of things stood out to me when I walked into their school and talked to students and staff.

- There was a definite comfortable and welcoming feeling tone when I entered the school.
- There was a sense of acceptance and support by the Milaca High School staff and their administration.



I wasn’t visiting the Milaca site to formally evaluate their school. I didn’t even look at one text book or one academic assignment, but, to me a healthy school environment with strong support are two very strong indicators of a good school. Nice job Milaca!





### Footnote by Milaca ALC Director, Steve Hammero:



The Milaca ALC serves the Milaca Public schools and the surrounding communities. In addition to students from Milaca those students meeting the criteria for Graduation Incentives attend from the following school systems of Ogilvie, Princeton, Foley, Onamia, and Isle. Currently there are 49 students that attend full-time and 48 students in our credit make-up program. In addition we have 6 students that are combination students who attend Milaca HS and the ALC. We were primarily a independent study program and have expanded programming to meet the needs of more students that include: seat-time, lateral learning, web-based, and under sixteen services.

After a two year process of planning meetings, public support and construction over the summer months we moved into our new facility. Each classroom was designed to have flexible seating options and we utilize the commons area for quiet study options. We are excited about the new space and are still going through the growing pains of being attached to the high school. It has made for improved access to classes, support staff, and bus transportation. We are still working on student parking space problems, breakfast and lunch service, custodial services and student growth. The space was designed for 45 full-time students and I am already starting to lobby for additional space.

We continue to try to provide a welcoming secure atmosphere with high expectations for educational growth.

As part of this year's transition we have taken on a more active role in the alternative programming for middle school students and have a new classroom for students to access and still be part of their regular courses.