



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](#) for more information.

President's Message

By Peter Lundin



Greetings,

It's been another busy year for MAAP and our members. It's been a pleasure working with the MAAP Board and with many of you, our members. The beauty of our organization is that it is a very diverse community. The wide variety of schools and programs and the diverse membership makes this an extremely well-rounded organization. When you attend a MAAP function, just look around and start talking to the person next to you. You won't know if they're an instructional assistant, a support staff, a teacher or an administrator. You also won't know if they're from a small program or a large school, an adult program or a recovery school or a Charter school, alternative program or Area Learning Center. But, the focus is usually always the same . . . "How can we better serve our students?"

Over the years, you have seen various

services being provided. It may be special education, vocational education, service learning, on-line learning, project based learning or possibly the providing of mental health or trauma based services. The emphasis is always the same, "How can we better serve our students?"

This said, I remind you that "continuous improvement is always continuous"! Please, never lose your focused and progressive attitude. MAAP's mission is: To lead, promote and support innovative learning experiences." You're doing this every day! It's only fitting that this year's conference theme is: "MAAP 2020: Finding Clarity". We may never totally find "clarity", but we'll certainly continue to get better trying!

Thanks for all that you do,

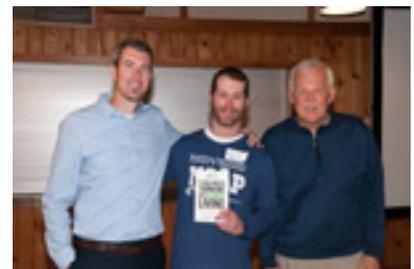
Peter

MAAP 101

By Greg Zimmerman

MAAP 101 is a one day conference designed to support new and relatively new teachers to alternative education. The goal is to provide tools that can be quickly add to their toolbox in order to support their growth as alternative educators. This year's MAAP 101 Conference was held on October 4 at the Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences

Academy.



Between attendees, presenters, and student volunteers, we had over 65

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contributors at MAAP 101 and every person there added value to a great day of learning together. We had an exceptional slate of presenters once again this year. Sally Reynolds provided a welcome and discussed MDE resources. We were thrilled to have Tom Cody and Kevin Brennan on hand this year. They kicked our conference off with a passionate, exciting, and fun discussion. They reminded us of the importance of “living above the line” in building relationships with students. They also gave us very specific tools to use in doing so. Their contributions were much appreciated. We were also fortunate enough to have Wayne Jennings on hand to share his vast wisdom and sign a few of his books, *Transforming Schools*. Other sessions covered chemical dependency issues, mental health issues, curriculum sharing, special education, mission driven education, and community building. Jane Goodall and Pillager Area Charter School students held a discussion panel to give attendees a chance to ask questions about other schools and student perspectives. Students also contributed their perspectives in other sessions like *Building Relationships Through Art*, and *What the Heck is MAAP STARS?* All student contributors received high praise from conference-goers. Their efforts were much appreciated.

Attendees also had time built into the day to simply network. Connecting with others who share similar roles in their schools is often the most valuable thing we can do during conferences such as MAAP 101.

Based on evaluation feedback, the 2019 version of MAAP 101 was a huge success. Special thanks goes out to all those who attended or presented. I would also like to thank Craig Wignes and his staff and students of JGESA for their assistance and accommodations that made this day possible. Please spread the word and encourage new

staff from your programs to attend MAAP 101 next fall.

37th Annual State Conference

By Kristyn Martin



This year’s conference theme is MAAP 2020: Finding Clarity. The 2020 Conference is only a few short months away. Registration is now open you need to register for the conference by Friday December 6th to take advantage of the early bird pricing!

What’s new at the conference this year? First off a PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP hosted by Institute for Personalized Learning will take place on Wednesday, February 5th, 2020 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This workshop will include a working lunch as well as 3 additional CEU’s for the low cost of \$20! It’s the best deal of the Conference! Attendees will dive deep into the three components of personalized learning and leave with goals and/or a mini action plan to implement in their programs.

Wednesday Afternoon will continue with breakout sessions that will focus on administrative issues including but not limited to Managing, Supervising and Motivating your Staff, Strategic Planning, Finance and much more. Breakout sessions that focus on teacher development, classroom/project ideas and much more will also be scheduled. On Wednesday evening, our first

Keynote Speaker, Bruce Miles from Big River Group, will take the podium and speak to our audience about team dynamics.

Thursday, February 6, 2020 will be full of large group presentations, MDE breakout sessions and sharing tables as well as multiple breakouts provided by our fellow alternative educators that showcase what works in our alternative programs throughout the state of Minnesota. The Networking Extravaganza will make its 7th appearance at the conference this year! This is great opportunity to network with alternative educators across the state while enjoying an entertaining atmosphere and winning prizes. Stay tuned, this year’s grand prize will be announced soon!

Friday, February 7th will start off with a Keynote Presentation from Jim Sporleder, who is best known for his role in the documentary *Paper Tigers*. Jim Sporleder retired in 2014 as Principal of Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, Washington. Under Jim’s leadership, Lincoln High School became a “Trauma Informed” school, gaining national attention due to a dramatic drop in out of school suspensions, increased graduation rates and the number of students going on to post-secondary education. These dramatic changes at Lincoln caught the attention of Jamie Redford, who spent a year filming the documentary, *Paper Tigers*, which tells the Lincoln story. The documentary was released at the May 2015 Seattle International Film Festival and received positive reviews. Jim’s Keynote, titled “Catching Kids Before They Fall”, will begin at 8:40 AM on Friday morning. Immediately following his Keynote, Jim’s breakout session, “Five Critical Steps to Becoming a Trauma Informed Program or School”, will take place along with a variety of other breakout sessions to choose from.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. REGISTER HERE:

<http://www.maapmn.org/events/>

Interested in Discounts for the 2020 MAAP Conference? Be a presenter! Click here to complete the Presenter RFP: <http://bit.ly/2Nogzo5>

Don't forget to book your hotel! You can get special MAAP Conference rates via the Holiday Inn, Duluth. Call and make your reservations today! Call 218-722-1202 and make sure to mention MAAP to get your discounts.

Look forward to seeing everyone again in Duluth, February 5-7, 2020!

State Conference Vendors and Exhibitors

By Deanna Chiodo



Greetings!

We are in the thick of it with our MAAP State Conference planning. We continue to monitor and adjust our exhibitor and vendor offerings based upon the feedback that our members give us. We will again be having the vendor area be available on the first two days of the conference (February 5th and 6th). We also will again be encouraging our members to play Ex-

hibitor/Vendor Bingo and participate in our MAAP Scavenger Hunt as a means to help attract people to the display areas. Additionally, in an attempt to increase traffic to our exhibitors and vendors we will provide some food in the area, as well.



As you all know, technology has changed the way we advertise and attract vendors to our conference. It is very different than it once was. If you have a personal connection with a vendor that works with your school please reach out to them and share the MAAP website information as well as my contact information. One last caveat, just sending a general company name/email to me does not usually get responses. The more vendors we have, the more resources available to our members. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention that the more vendors we have the more it defrays the overall cost of the conference! Thanks for all of your help! See you in Duluth!

Respectfully,

Deanna Chiodo

MAAP STARS

By Patti Haasch

MAAP STARS Fall Leadership Conference

The 26th Annual Fall Leadership Conference took place October 9 & 10 at

Lake Beauty Camp in Long Prairie. We had 21 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. Many schools took advantage of this year's pre-conference activities and came early to enjoy the camp.



We were very fortunate to have four MAAP STARS Officers at the conference to lead us: Brianna Kissel (Ivan Sand), Fardowso Abdi (Paladin Career & Tech), Katelyn Dorry (Northern Lights), and Robert Johnson (Voyageurs Expeditionary). They also helped with a session on what MAAP STARS is about by sharing their experiences and offered resources on how to start and/or improve on a STARS Chapter. Giving team planning time during the conference helps programs design how their MAAP STARS Chapter will look like this school year. Al Johnson and Carl Olson were the other main presenters doing team building and motivational activities with the students and advisors.



Students running for the State Officer 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, plus 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 STARS state-wide events, and learn much more about STARS on the MAAP website plus be sure to "like" the MAAP Facebook page to get frequent updates.

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 for students and staff!

MAAP STARS State Leadership Team 2019 – 2020



Seven students campaigned to be a MAAP STARS Officer at the 26th 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:

Vanessa Boyum	Owatonna Area Learning Center	South-east
Destiny Rollie	Paladin Career & Technical High School	NE Metro
Brianna Warner	White Bear Lake Area Learning Center	NE Metro
Destiny Stillday	Voyageurs Expeditionary School	North-west

Ansaia Phillips	Jennings Community School	Central Metro
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Liza Kelly (Austin ALC) and Patti Haasch (MAAP STARS Chair) will provide the officer training November 14 & 15 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Roseville. Two guest speakers will join them: Kip Sackett, co-founder of MAAP STARS, and Wayne Jennings, to talk to the officers about leadership and the legislative process. Part of the training involves buying matching outfits to wear when they are presenting about STARS. At the end of the training, we all will go to the MN Department of Education in their new outfits to talk to Alternative Programs Specialist, Sally Reynolds; sharing about what MAAP STARS is and the impact it has had on their lives so far, plus tour the MDE building. These MAAP STARS Officers will be on hand to lead Legislative Day At The State Capitol (February 19), conduct our STARS Spring Events Conference (May 7 & 8, 2020), and guide next Fall's 2020 Leadership Conference in October. They may present at other conferences such as MSBA Convention in January at the Minneapolis Convention Center and the MAAP State Conference in Duluth. They are available to come to your school to talk about MAAP STARS with your students and staff. Feel free to reach out to them.

MAAP STARS Legislative Day

The STARS Come Out At The Capitol!

The date for Legislative Day this year is WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2020. Through the years, MAAP has been pro-active and successful in promoting legislation favorable to a variety of learning alternatives. The goal is for

the students to visit with their legislators and “tell their stories”. By students meeting with their legislators, they will not only have the opportunity to promote their schools/programs, but also get a better understanding of the legislative process. We hope many schools will join us at the State Capitol. Information about Legislative Day is on the MAAP website.



The Alchemist

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 to our Alchemist Editor: Deb Nelson. You can send things to this email address: alchemisteditor@gmail.com. The deadline for the 2020 edition is April 15, 2020 and will be available for distribution at the 2020 Spring MAAP STARS Events Conference, May 7 & 8, 2020 at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington. You can find the previous Alchemist publications on the MAAP website. PLEASE submit student work throughout the year!

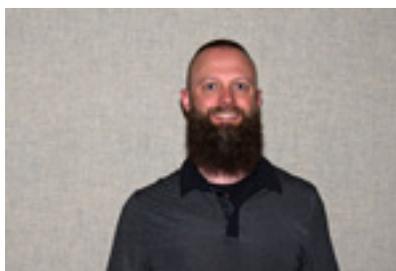
MAAP STARS Gives Awards

On behalf of MAAP, two yearly awards: MAAP Student of the Year and MAAP STARS Advisor of the Year are presented at the MAAP STARS Spring Events Conference, May 7 & 8, 2020 at

the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Alternative Education staff nominate a deserving student while students can nominate a STARS Advisor. Nominations for these two awards are due April 8, 2020 to Patti Haasch in an email: pjhaasch@yahoo.com. Forms and the criteria for nominating for both awards can be found on the MAAP website under MAAP STARS.

What's the MAAP Board Been Up To?

By Steve Allen and Brandon Wait



In case you're curious what the MAAP organization has been up to lately, this section is for you! One of our priorities has been trying to find multiple measurements, alternative assessments, and news ways to support accountability while showcasing all the great work we know our schools are doing. This has been an on-going process for the past couple of years. Last summer, President Peter Lundin and Executive Coordinator, Steve Allen met with former Commissioner, Bob Wedl and discussed the effects that alternative education has on

graduation rates. This discussion led to further talks about how our members should be collecting demographic data and anecdotal information that could be used to help validate the undoubtedly positive effect that our schools and programs have on the students that we serve.

During the Summer MAAP Board Retreat, Peter had the Board work in groups identifying possible meaningful assessments that could be implemented by MAAP schools and programs. The Board worked on a couple of short term and long term data collection opportunities. The Board also reviewed some current practices that were happening around the United States. Brandon Wait shared with the Board a Student Survey that he has been piloted at Paladin Career & Technical High School. After some tweaking and revising, the Board felt that this instrument had some potential to be a state-wide MAAP initiative. Brandon and his team (aka the Wizard) also shared with the Board a one-year graduation rate calculation that we feel will better document the positive impact our schools and programs provide. Brandon, Peter, and Steve met with Michael Diedrich, the MDE ESSA Specialist and later with team along with Krissy Wright, MAAP President-Elect, met with Mary Barrie, MDE Supervisor and Sally Reynolds, MDE Alternative Specialist and shared both of these instruments. The MDE staff members have been very supportive and are currently reviewing both initiatives. Along the way, we have also been working with a couple of Advocates from the Regional Centers of Excellence sharing the work that we have been doing and gaining their feedback and support.

At this time, we don't know what the outcome of this work will be, but we are very hopeful and optimistic that it may lead to our schools and programs

having the ability to generate meaningful information about our students, our schools, and our programs. We will keep you informed as we move forward and we will continue to work hard to support the great work our members do each and every day!

MAAP Legislative Committee

By Steve Allen

The MAAP Legislative Committee has started meeting. We have had two meetings and we have begun drafting this year's MAAP Legislative Platform. Two key items that continue to be a concern for our members are:

- The General Education Revenue for Extended Time Services has been frozen for many years. In order to keep class sizes small and to provide remediation and intervention services, this rate should be the same as the regular education General Education Revenue rate.
- A request is being made to provide financial support for the MAAP STARS student organization.
- We hope to also list a couple other issues and/or concerns that need legislative attention.

We're hopeful that the 2020 MAAP Legislative Platform will be available by January 1st, 2020. Watch for more information on our website. We will again be asking for your help in reaching out to your Representatives and Senators.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 20th at 3:00 PM at the Jennings Community School. There is still time to get involved. Let Steve Allen know if you would like to become involved. Google Hangouts are available upon

request.

We do ask our members to continue to communicate with their legislators. Please get involved in the legislative process! Let your Regional Director or Steve know if you have in any way communicated with your legislators. Also, let us know if you get a legislator to visit your school or program.