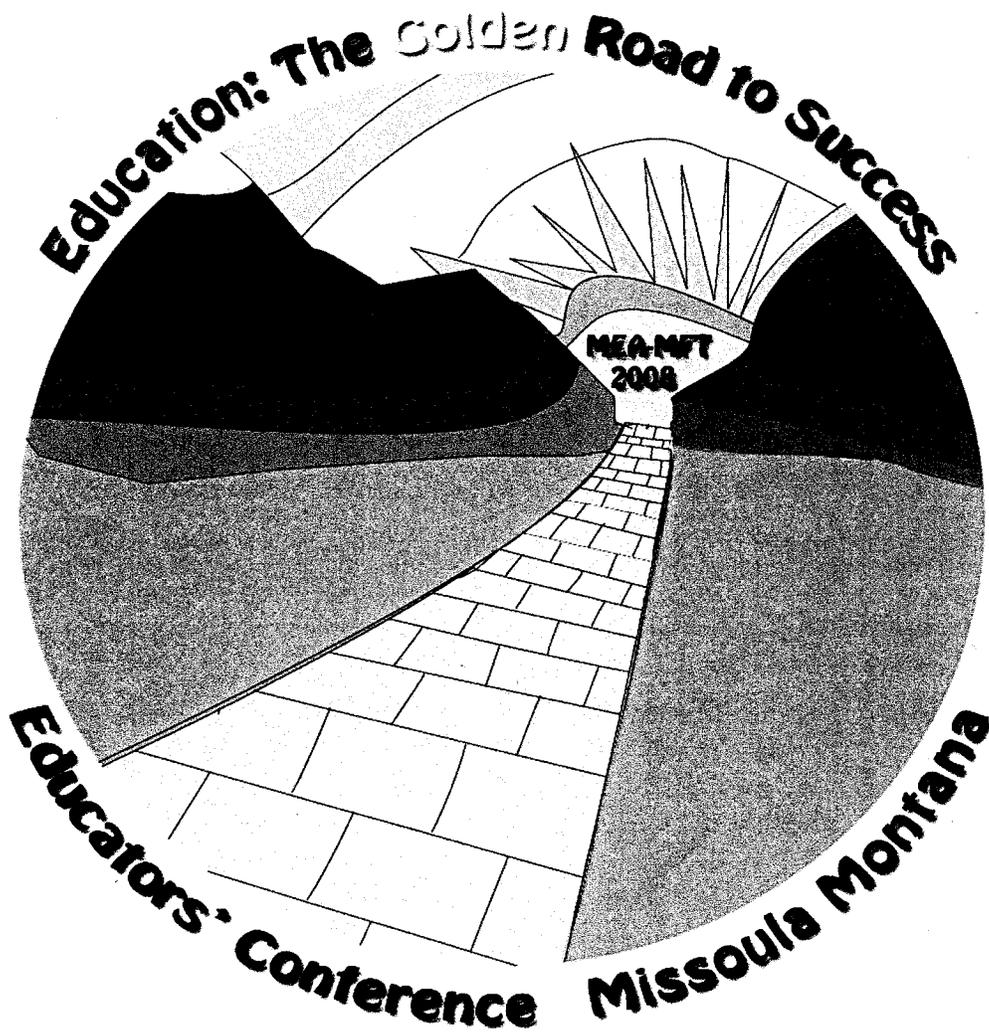


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be viewed there.**



October 16-17, 2008

Sentinel High School
901 South Avenue West

U of M College of Technology
909 South Avenue West

MEA-MFT
Educators' Conference

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MEA-MFT

Public Schools, Public Service



Working for Montana's Future.

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MEA-MFT Info Center —

Chronology of the MEA-MFT Merger

1990

MEA President Eric Feaver and MFT President Jim McGarvey hold the state lottery accountable for deceitful claims that lottery revenue improves teachers' retirement.

1991

In response to the Clyde Park/Wilsall school consolidation, MEA and MFT successfully lobby HB 470 through the legislature, guaranteeing hiring preference for teachers and classified employees in school annexations and consolidations.

1992

Joint MEA-MFT candidate forum leads to joint endorsement of pro-education, pro-public employee candidates for federal and statewide office.

1993

First MEA-MFT legislative reception in Helena provides an opportunity for members to lobby their local legislators on issues of concern to public schools and public employees.

MEA and MFT lobby the Pension Security Act and Constitutional Amendment 25 through the legislature and a vote of the people (1994) to protect public employee pensions.

MEA and MFT lobby SB 15 into law, mandating a grievance procedure ending in final, binding arbitration in all public school employee collective bargaining agreements.

First MEA-MFT Classified Conference (professional development for classified members of both organizations)

1994

MEA and MFT form Montanans for Constitutional Principles to defeat anti-tax, anti-government constitutional initiatives CI-66 and CI-67.

First MEA-MFT Educators' Conference enlarges and enhances teacher-driven professional development.

Five MEA locals and an MFT local merge into one bargaining unit with one contract forming the Merged Missoula Classified Employees Organization, a working model for merger.

1995

MEA-MFT joint lobbying passes state employee pay increase. It also defeats efforts to: repeal steps and lanes; repeal binding arbitration of

grievances; repeal school accreditation standards; and create charter schools without accreditation, teacher certification, and right to organize.

MFT President Jim McGarvey addresses MEA Delegate Assembly.
MEA President Eric Feaver addresses MFT Officers' Convention.

American Federation of Teachers President Albert Shanker and National Education Association President Keith Geiger make unprecedented joint appearance at MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Missoula.

1996

MEA and MFT form the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation to sponsor Montana Teacher of the Year, Montana Teacher Forum, and National Board Certification scholarships.

MFT Executive Council resolves "The Montana Federation shall pursue full merger with the Montana Education Association."

MEA and MFT defeat ballot initiative to abolish constitutional power of Board of Regents.

1997

MEA-MFT merged legislative effort successfully sponsors legislation that guarantees an annual benefit adjustment for retirees in the Public Employee Retirement System. In addition, MEA and MFT lobbying increases state employee pay; defeats public employee right to work; defeats school tuition tax credits; and defeats charter schools without accreditation, teacher certification, and right to organize.

MEA Delegate Assembly declares it is "MEA's goal to pursue full merger with MFT."

AFT President Sandra Feldman is keynote speaker at MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Billings.

MEA-MFT Merger Task Force develops constitution and merger transition document for the new merged organization. Task Force members determine the name of the merged organization will be "MEA-MFT."

1998

MEA-MFT Today, a joint newsletter, is created and published.

Montana Labor Institute, fostered by MEA and MFT to develop educational programs for and about union leadership, holds its first class.

Delegates at MEA Delegate Assembly and MFT Officers' Convention vote to approve MEA-MFT constitution and merger transition document.

Delegates at AFT's annual meeting vote to approve merger with NEA. However, delegates at NEA's Representative Assembly vote against national merger following hot debate, but they also vote to allow state mergers – provided state affiliates follow NEA-developed guidelines.

NEA and AFT both begin developing guidelines for state affiliate mergers.

1999

MEA and MFT boards of directors begin meeting together.

MEA-PAC and MFT COPE, the political action committees of MEA and MFT, likewise begin meeting together.

MEA-MFT Transition Task Force is appointed to tackle the nitty-gritty details of merger, including governance districts, staff structure, and dues structure for the new merged organization. The task force presents recommendations to the MEA and MFT boards of directors for approval and further recommendation to the joint MEA-MFT Representative Assembly, meeting March 31-April 1, 2000.

MEA and MFT continue joint activities such as working to defeat CI-75, sponsoring the 1999 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, and lobbying for a joint MEA-MFT legislative package during the 1999 Legislature.

The MEA-MFT lobbying team enjoys a near clean sweep in the '99 session, succeeding in all four priority goals: 1) Increased funding for K-12 schools; 2) a pay increase for state employees; 3) Guaranteed Annual Benefit Adjustment (GABA) for retirees in the Teachers' Retirement System; and 4) stopping bills harmful to public services, public employees, and children and public schools.

MEA-MFT staff are merged, with a single executive director.

2000

February and March: In separate votes, NEA and AFT determine that the merged MEA-MFT will meet their national guidelines for state mergers.

March 31-April 1: First annual MEA-MFT Representative Assembly meets. 400 delegates of MEA and MFT vote to approve dues structure, governance districts, and budget for the new merged organization: MEA-MFT.

May: MEA-MFT members vote for state officers (president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, NEA director, board of directors).

June 15: MEA-MFT state officer terms begin.

Sept. 1, 2000: NEA and AFT officially recognize MEA-MFT merger.

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MEA-MFT

Public Schools, Public Service



Working for Montana's Future.

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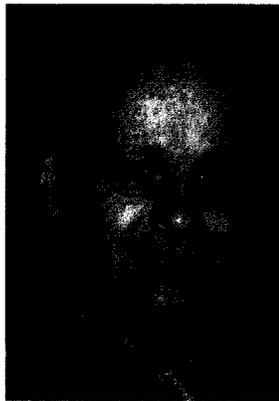
Join Us

Links

Welcome to MEA-MFT: 17,500 dedicated Montanans who proudly serve the people of the state. We are public school teachers and school support staff; state & local government employees; higher education faculty; health care workers; and Head Start teachers. [Contact us.](#)



Hot Topics



Breaking news

- State employees learn about pay plan

All Member News

- Employee Free Choice Act, and more

Legislative Action

- 2009 legislative session - daily updates

Education News

- K-12 Bargaining Conference: [preregister here](#)
- Highly Qualified Teacher news

Public Employee News

- Tentative Agreement reached

MEA-MFT exists for members like Joel Felix.

Activate your MEA-MFT membership card and use it for discounts! Click on the card below.



Other info

- [Montana Professional Teaching Foundation](#)
- [Amazing MEA-MFT members](#)
- [Member Benefits](#)
- [New Teacher ASSIST](#)
- [Teacher Salary Book 2007-08](#)



THE MONTANA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING FOUNDATION

December 2008 Newsletter

Promoting Great Teaching in Montana

Dear Friend:

As 2008 comes to a close, we are celebrating a big year at the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation.

We have a record number of Montana teachers working toward National Board Certification this year. We had the biggest turnout ever for our Montana Teacher of the Year celebration. Our Montana Educator Forum challenged participants as never before to think about and plan for the future of education in Montana.

Each year, with your help, the foundation makes a bigger difference to teachers and school children across Montana.

What was just a dream 12 years ago has grown into a thriving enterprise. It all adds up to better educational opportunities for Montana's children. We could not do it without your help.

Many thanks to all our supporters! And happy holidays.

*Eric Feaver, Chair
Montana Professional
Teaching Foundation*



MONTANA
PROFESSIONAL
TEACHING
FOUNDATION
1232 E 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59601
406.447.1479
Eric Feaver, Chair
Banner photos:
Nathan Ham/NEA

Preserving democracy, teaching citizenship

Sally Broughton named '09 Montana Teacher of the Year

A few years ago, Sally Broughton's sixth-grade students discovered something startling: Their community in southwest Montana stands in the path of an old earthen dam that could fail with no warning.



Montana Teacher of the Year Sally Broughton consults with a Project Citizen student on his display.

"The kids went door to door and found that nobody knew they lived below a dam," Broughton said. "People didn't know which way to drive to avoid the water" in case of a flood.

So the students developed an action plan for Hyalite Dam and took their case to the county commission.

In the end, the commission obtained a grant to implement exactly what the students asked for: a warning device at the dam, a brochure showing citizens the evacuation plan, a reverse 911 system to alert

families in the path of the water, and a warning siren at the firehouse.

"To think 11- and 12-year-olds can do that!" Broughton beamed. "All you have to do is show kids how to participate in democracy. That is my goal, my passion, my mission as a teacher."

Broughton teaches grades 6-8 social studies and language arts at Monforton School, a small rural school near Bozeman. This fall, she won the highest honor a Montana



Sally Broughton

(Continued on page 2)

National Board Certification

National Board Certification is the highest level of professional certification a U.S. teacher can earn. When Montana teachers undergo the certification process, they improve their own teaching while sharing their discoveries with other teachers around the state. Students all around Montana benefit as a result.

National Board Certification is a rigorous and costly process that takes up to nine months, presenting a major hurdle to many Montana teachers. The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation helps remove this hurdle by providing technical assistance and subsidy scholarships to Montana applicants.

Congratulations to the following teachers who have achieved National Board Certification for 2007-08:

- Erin Augustine, Billings: Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- Daniel Bartsch, Billings: Science/Adolescence & Young Adulthood
- Autumn Gottschlich, Kalispell: English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Gwen Hoppe, Missoula: Art/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Deborah Kelley, Billings: World Languages/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Kerrie More, Kalispell: Library Media/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- Lora Pederson, Billings: Literacy, Reading-Language Arts/Early & Middle Childhood
- Christy Peeples, Kalispell: World Languages/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Shannin Preshinger, Helena: English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Shelly Stanton, Billings: Career & Technical Education/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Cindy Welch, Billings: Generalist/Middle Childhood

Thank you, Qwest and State Farm!

Qwest Foundation recently gave a generous grant of \$10,000 to support the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation math and science recognition programs. This funding will help the MPTF promote excellence in math and science teaching.

State Farm Insurance Companies donated \$3,000 to the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation's National Board Certification program, to help MPTF's growing efforts to provide direct candidate support for Montana's National Board Certification candidates. State Farm's support will help thousands of Montana children by improving teaching in Montana.

Many thanks to Qwest and State Farm.

These contributions are in addition to significant ongoing donations from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Montana Universal School Trust (MUST), and MEA-MFT.

SUPPORT EXCELLENCE!

Please help the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation enhance the quality of teaching and learning in Montana.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$1,000 or more Saint
- \$500-\$999 Patron
- \$100-\$499 Supporter
- \$50-\$99 Friend
- \$25-\$49 Fan
- Other \$ _____

Please send additional information about the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

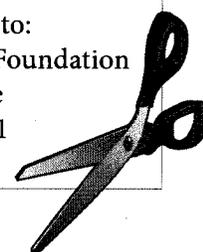
State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

You may choose to contribute to MPTF through payroll deduction. If the organization you work for participates in a charitable giving campaign (usually in conjunction with your local annual United Way campaign), simply designate MPTF as your charitable organization of choice.

Please send this form
with your check, payable to:
Montana Professional Teaching Foundation
1232 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601
THANK YOU!



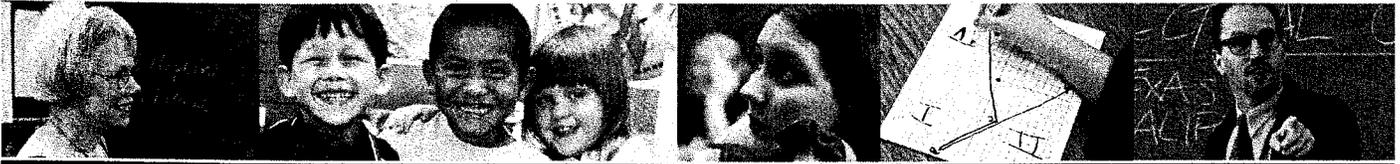
Planned giving

As you think about special gifts for family and friends, please remember the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation. It's easy to donate a planned gift to the MPTF permanent endowment.

Montana taxpayers who make a qualifying gift to the MPTF endowment may be able to take a 40 percent credit against their Montana income tax liability.

Businesses can make an outright gift (as opposed to a planned gift) and may be eligible for a 20 percent credit on their Montana taxes.

For more information on planned gifts, call Cathy Warner at the MPTF office (406.447.1479).



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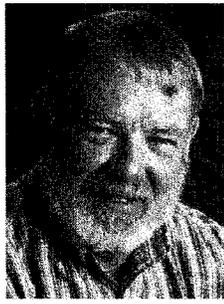
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Teacher of the Year Finalists

In addition to Sally Broughton, finalists in the 2009 Montana Teacher of the Year event include Karen Spencer, a high school chemistry teacher in Great Falls, and Frank LaLiberty, a science and agriculture mechanics teacher in Cascade. All three finalists were honored at a gala celebration October 16 in Missoula. Congratulations to all of these outstanding Montana teachers!



Karen Spencer



Frank LaLiberty

Silent Auction nets \$3,000

The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation held its annual silent auction following the Montana Teacher of the Year Celebration, October 16, 2008 in Missoula.

The auction benefits both MPTF's Karen Cox Memorial Grant Program and The Montana Learning Center. Mark your calendar for next year's auction: October 15, 2009 in Billings. The auction takes place in conjunction with the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference.

Montana Professional Teaching Foundation Board of Directors

Chair: Eric Feaver (*President, MEA-MFT*)

Vice Chair: Larry Nielsen (*Vice President, MEA-MFT*)

Denise Juneau (*Superintendent of Public Instruction*)

Sally Broughton (*2009 Montana Teacher of the Year*)

Barb Fettig (*Classroom Teacher, Billings*)

Sandy Denesen (*Retired Teacher, Livingston*)

Darrell Rud (*Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana*)

Lance Melton (*Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association*)

Dave Gibson (*Qwest, Helena*)

Teacher of the Year (continued)

teacher can receive when she was named 2009 Montana Teacher of the Year. "It really hasn't sunk in yet," Broughton said. "My feet haven't touched the ground."

The Montana Teacher of the Year program, sponsored and administered by the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation, annually honors a teacher who exemplifies the best in the teaching profession.

Project Citizen: Broughton teaches civics through a program called Project Citizen. At the start of every school year, her students choose a community problem that needs solving. Throughout the year, they gather information, examine solutions, develop an action plan, and present their plan to the appropriate decision-makers.

Their accomplishments are impressive: a bike helmet policy, a safe path to school, a community playground, public restrooms in downtown Bozeman, a competitive track program, and the warning system for Hyalite Dam, to name just a handful. "Each of these ideas was selected, researched, and presented by the students," Broughton said.

"They learn how to take action on an issue that is bothering them, to participate, not just sit and complain. If people don't participate, we won't have a democracy."

Awards and honors: Among many other honors, Broughton received the American Civic Education Teacher Award this year. Her language arts students have had essays and poems published in national and regional publications. In April, the National Learn and Serve Corporation selected her class to receive the Spirit of Service Award in April 2008 for "Operation Save The Playground," a project aimed at bringing fitness and recreation to the community.

"She shows us all that being an active citizen is more than merely being vocal," said Monforton Superintendent Lynne Scalia. "It means understanding all sides of an issue, working for change at the policy level, creating solutions, and then garnering support for that change. This is real and powerful work."

As Montana Teacher of the Year, Sally Broughton will serve as a spokesperson for the teaching profession and represent the state in the 2009 National Teacher of the Year event.

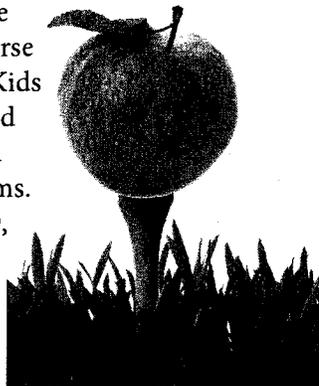


From left: Teacher of the Year finalists Frank LaLiberty and Karen Spencer, MPTF Chair Eric Feaver, 2009 Teacher of the Year Sally Broughton, and 2008 Teacher of the Year Steve Gardiner at MPTF's Teacher of the Year Celebration October 16 in Missoula.

'Scrambling' for schools

The fifth annual MPTF golf scramble took place August 2, 2008, at the scenic Bill Roberts Golf Course in Helena (known as "Billy Bob" to locals). "Fore Kids & Education" hosted nearly 70 golfers from around the state, raising a record \$11,000 for the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation and its programs.

Next year's scramble will take place July 30, 2009, in Helena. Mark your calendar, and start recruiting your team! If you would like to be on the mailing list for the golf tournament, please contact Cathy Warner at the MPTF office (406.447.1479).



2008 Educator Forum

Nobody knows more about what goes on in Montana's classrooms than Montana teachers. Yet too often, policy decisions are made by people who haven't been in the classroom since they were students themselves. That's why, each year, the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation sponsors the Montana Educator Forum. This one-day event brings classroom teachers together with parents, policy makers, higher education faculty, and others to talk about hot-button topics in education and develop solutions to problems facing our schools.

Over 130 Montana educators attended the 12th annual Montana Educator Forum in Helena September 28. With the theme "Educating Montana for a Profoundly Different Future," the forum featured keynote speaker Gary Marx, president of the Center for Public Outreach and author of two books on preparing schools for the future.

Marx engaged his audience in a thought-provoking discussion of current trends such as the aging of society, diversity changes, economic challenges, and generational shifts, and their impact on students and their learning environment.

He then helped participants identify current issues affecting Montana's educational system and discussed how to prioritize these issues to create a plan for the future. "You are a brain trust," Marx said of the forum participants.

Nominate for math & science awards

Do you know a great Montana science or math teacher, teaching in grades 7-12, with five or more years of professional teaching experience? Do you think this teacher should get some special recognition? How about a \$10,000 award and all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC?

If so, take a few minutes to nominate that person for the 2009 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation administers this program in Montana.

To learn more, visit www.mea-mft.org/paemst.htm. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2009.

Remember, whether a teacher pursues the award or not, it is always a nice recognition to be nominated!

Our mission

The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation (MPTF) was created by MEA-MFT in 1996 to promote excellence in teaching and learning in Montana. We do this through our **five programs**:

1. Montana Teacher of the Year
2. National Board Certification scholarships and assistance
3. Montana Educator Forum
4. Karen Cox Memorial Grant Program (providing classroom supply grants for teachers)
5. Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching

We are continually expanding our programs to improve teaching and learning in the Big Sky state. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization; donations are tax deductible.

How you can help? Let us count the ways

There are many ways to support the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation's mission.

1. Use your Albertson's card. The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation participates in the Albertson's grocery stores Community Partners program.

When you sign up your Albertson's card, MPTF earns up to 4 percent of your Preferred Savings Card eligible purchases.

You can e-mail your card number to Cathy Warner (cwarner@mea-mft.org) or register online at www.albertsons.com (click on "In the Community" and then the "Community Partners" logo).

2. Recycle your cell phone. You can help the environment and the Foundation by donating your inactive cell phones to the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation. Send them to Cathy Warner or drop them off at foundation headquarters, 1232 E 6th Ave, Helena, MT 59601.

3. Make a donation. You'll find a tear-off donation form on page 6.

MONTANA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING FOUNDATION

2007-2008 REASONS FOR OUR SUCCESS

LEGACY CLUB

Ellen & Eric Feaver
MEA-MFT

SAINT (\$1,000 or more)

American Fed. of Teachers
Blue Cross Blue Shield of
Montana
Ellen & Eric Feaver
MEA-MFT
Montana State AFL-CIO
Montana Unified School Trust
(MUST)
State Farm Insurance Cos.

PATRON (\$500-\$999)

Albertson's Community
Partners
Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co.
PC
Phil Cox
Chrowley Haughey Hanson
Toole & Dietrich PLLP
Diane Elliott
Marilyn & Pat Ryan
WTR Consulting Engineers,
LLC

SUPPORTER (\$100-499)

Billings Education Assoc.
Tom Bilodeau
Bozeman Education Assoc.
Tom Burgess
Elizabeth & Erik Burke
California Casualty
Gary Carmichael
Maggie Copeland
Garth Cox
Kurt Cunningham
Employee Benefit Resources,
LLP
Karl Englund
Ron Erickson
Great Falls Education Assoc.
Harlem Education Assoc.
Harlen, Chronister, Parish &
Larson PC
Harvest Cleaning Service
Helena Education Assoc.
Shaunda Hildebrand
John Hughes
Edna & Jerry Jones
Mary Ann & Richard Jones
Junkermier, Clark,
Campanella, Stevens PC
Peggy & Ron Kimmet
Laurel Unified Education
Assoc.
Kristine Lindquist

Kathleen & Paul Maloy
Steve Meloy
Kristy & David Michael
Dallas Miller
The Mitchell Group
Montana Federation of Health
Care Employees
Montana Staff Organization
Patty Myers
NEA Member Benefits
NEA Members Auto & Home
Insurance
PC Connection
Jane Ryan
Clark Schlegel
Jennifer Sonnichsen
Karin & Wayne Stanford
State Employees Charitable
Giving Campaign
Nicholas Wanzenried
Cathy & Matt Warner
Wells Fargo Bank NA
Debra Wenger
Judie Woodhouse

FRIEND (\$50-99)

Kim Anderson
Sam Beeson
Tom Burgess
Maurice Burke
Tracy Cook
Mary Engstrom
Sarah Eyer
Julie & Marco Ferro
Linda Horst
Kalispell Education Assoc.
Vince Long
Sean Mabey
Lauren McMullen
Miles City Education Assoc.
Debra & John Miller
Mountain West Bank
Karen Richem
Tony Riehl
Jon Runnalls
Dick Seitz
Dave Severson
Leonard Smith
Staggering Ox
Bob Stansberry
Dorothea Susag
Carrie & Mike Thiel
United Way of Lewis & Clark
County
Frank Vretos
Whitefish Education Assoc.
Richard Wojtowicz

FAN (\$25-49)

Daniel Adcock

Terry Beaver
Margaret Belisle
Lisa Bickell
Mona Bilden
Gary Branae
John Cannon
Elaine Caton
Frederick Clausen
Ryan Conrad
Michael Courville
Sandy Denesen
Josh DeWeese
John Dust
Anne Easton
Kelly Elder
David Erickson
Patrick Evans
Michele Farmer
Barb Fettig
Cathy Fischer
Diane Fladmo
Bill Freese
Gary Frey
Jamie Garvey
Alicia Gignoux
Susan Gilbertz
Keith Graham
Robert Hart
Kelly & Dennis Haverlandt
Douglas Heyer
Jack Johnson
Anne Keith
Lynn Kelting-Gibson
Tom Kostrba
Cathy Kuntz
Laura Law
Margaret Lekse
Peggy Leverton
Deborah McGrath
Sherry & Coy McMorris
Angela McLean
Denielle Miller
John Miller
Robert Moler
Patty Muir
Mary Murphy
Karma Nelson
Ke Norman
PaceButler Corporation
Mary Traeger Pascale
Trudy Patton
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(Continued on page 5)

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IN MEMORY OF

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Thanks to all our donors!

Including those who wish to remain anonymous.

To our donors: You deserve to be properly recognized, and we strive for 100 percent accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact the foundation at 406.447.1479 with corrections.

IN KIND GIFTS

AARP Montana
Access Development

2008 Karen Cox Memorial Grant Awards



The late Karen Cox

Billings teacher Karen Cox, one of Montana's great educators, lost her life doing what she loved: working to improve public education. The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation created the Karen Cox Memorial Grant Awards in her honor.

The grant program is not intended to replace school funding.

Rather, it is meant to assist educators who selflessly reach into their own pockets to pay for classroom supplies. Recipients of the 2008 Karen Cox awards are listed below:

Shelley Brown, 1st and 2nd grade teacher, Moore Public School, Moore, MT. Brown's grant will support a project she designed to give students a hands-on experience combining math, social studies, English, and science skills.

Brown's students run a small greenhouse business called Little Greenthumbs' Greenhouse. Through this

venture, her students learn to count money and give change. They learn the scientific process of how plants grow and the human relations process of relating to community members as consumers and themselves as producers. "It teaches them to be good citizens," says Brown, "and it brings in community members from surrounding areas to be a part of our school." With the money they earn, Brown's students have purchased an American flag for the local city park, donated to libraries, and bought supplies for a poverty-level overseas school.

With her \$500 grant, Brown plans to add some finishing touches to the greenhouse built by her husband and students' parents, including a solar-powered fan for the roof.

Jamie Garvey, 1st grade teacher, West Elementary School, Laurel, MT. Garvey will use her \$500 grant to buy a document camera for her classroom. These cameras open up "a whole new world for their children," she says. "They can show graphic or thought organizers on the screen ready for students to fill out. Hands-on counters for math can be shown and manipulated for students to see. In science, bones, bugs, rocks, etc. can be classified, sorted, described, regrouped, and compared. The possibilities are endless."

National Board Certification

National Board Certification is the highest level of professional certification a U.S. teacher can earn. When Montana teachers undergo the certification process, they improve their own teaching while sharing their discoveries with other teachers around the state. Students all around Montana benefit as a result.

National Board Certification is a rigorous and costly process that takes up to nine months, presenting a major hurdle to many Montana teachers. The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation helps remove this hurdle by providing technical assistance and subsidy scholarships to Montana applicants.

Congratulations to the following teachers who have achieved National Board Certification for 2007-08:

- Erin Augustine, Billings: Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- Daniel Bartsch, Billings: Science/Adolescence & Young Adulthood
- Autumn Gottschlich, Kalispell: English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Gwen Hoppe, Missoula: Art/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Deborah Kelley, Billings: World Languages/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Kerrie More, Kalispell: Library Media/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- Lora Pederson, Billings: Literacy, Reading-Language Arts/Early & Middle Childhood
- Christy Peeples, Kalispell: World Languages/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Shannin Preshinger, Helena: English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Shelly Stanton, Billings: Career & Technical Education/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Cindy Welch, Billings: Generalist/Middle Childhood

Thank you, Qwest and State Farm!

Qwest Foundation recently gave a generous grant of \$10,000 to support the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation math and science recognition programs. This funding will help the MPTF promote excellence in math and science teaching.

State Farm Insurance Companies donated \$3,000 to the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation's National Board Certification program, to help MPTF's growing efforts to provide direct candidate support for Montana's National Board Certification candidates. State Farm's support will help thousands of Montana children by improving teaching in Montana.

Many thanks to Qwest and State Farm.

These contributions are in addition to significant ongoing donations from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Montana Universal School Trust (MUST), and MEA-MFT.

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SUPPORT EXCELLENCE!

Please help the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation enhance the quality of teaching and learning in Montana.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$1,000 or more Saint
- \$500-\$999 Patron
- \$100-\$499 Supporter
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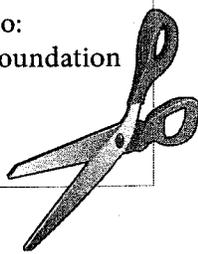
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You may choose to contribute to MPTF through payroll deduction. If the organization you work for participates in a charitable giving campaign (usually in conjunction with your local annual United Way campaign), simply designate MPTF as your charitable organization of choice.

Please send this form
with your check, payable to:
Montana Professional Teaching Foundation
1232 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601
THANK YOU!



Planned giving

As you think about special gifts for family and friends, please remember the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation. It's easy to donate a planned gift to the MPTF permanent endowment.

Montana taxpayers who make a qualifying gift to the MPTF endowment may be able to take a 40 percent credit against their Montana income tax liability.

Businesses can make an outright gift (as opposed to a planned gift) and may be eligible for a 20 percent credit on their Montana taxes.

For more information on planned gifts, call Cathy Warner at the MPTF office (406.447.1479).

MONTANA
PROFESSIONAL
TEACHING
FOUNDATION



PROMOTING
EXCELLENCE
IN TEACHING
& LEARNING

THE MONTANA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING FOUNDATION was created in 1996 to enhance the teaching profession and promote quality education in Montana.

The Foundation's activities currently concentrate on the five programs described in this brochure. There is tremendous potential for growth in projects that fit the Foundation's mission.

The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization. The Foundation's nonprofit status allows tax-exempt contributions to support educational activities throughout the state. Corporate and individual contributions, large and small, are welcome.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions made specifically to the Foundation's permanent endowment (established with the Montana Community Foundation) will provide a funding base for Foundation programs well into the future. The endowment will enable the Foundation to become financially self supporting. When the interest earned on the account is sufficient to support Foundation programs, the endowment will then provide a permanent source of income for the Foundation.

Donors may wish to make a planned gift to the permanent fund to take advantage of Montana's charitable tax credit. Please contact the Foundation for more information.

MONTANA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING FOUNDATION



**PROMOTING
EXCELLENCE
IN TEACHING
& LEARNING**

**MONTANA PROFESSIONAL
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1232 E 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59601
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PROGRAMS OF THE MONTANA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING FOUNDATION

MONTANA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

There is no higher award for a Montana teacher than to be named Teacher of the Year. The Foundation administers this program, which honors the contributions of Montana classroom teachers.

The Montana Teacher of the Year serves as a spokesperson and ambassador for the teaching profession and represents Montana in the National Teacher of the Year event.

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

The Foundation provides National Board Certification Scholarships and candidate support to encourage Montana teachers to seek advanced credentials from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

In the past, cost has been a major obstacle to teachers wishing to seek National Board Certification. Teachers must pay \$2,300 to take the exam. The Foundation's scholarships help teachers defray the cost.

Teachers have characterized National Board Certification as the most valuable professional development experience they have ever had. Their students and other teachers benefit significantly from the process.

MONTANA EDUCATOR FORUM

The Foundation's Montana Educator Forum recognizes the professional expertise of Montana classroom teachers and uses their experience to guide education policy decisions.

Each year, the forum brings professional educators and Montana policy leaders together to discuss today's issues in teaching and learning, with the goal of promoting quality education and professional development.

Forums have explored issues such as the changing role of teachers, professional development, school restructuring, raising academic standards, helping new teachers succeed, managing time in public schools, school success stories, and more.

Thoughtful and informed dialogue from these forums has resulted in innovative recommendations for quality teaching and learning in Montana's public schools.

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

KAREN COX MEMORIAL GRANTS

Karen Cox, one of Montana's great educators, lost her life doing what she loved: working to improve public education and support her fellow teachers. The Karen Cox Memorial Grant Program is aptly named after her.

Each year, Montana teachers selflessly reach into their own pockets to pay for classroom supplies and events.

The Foundation's Karen Cox Memorial Grant Program assists those teachers. It is not intended to replace school funding but rather to help teachers make resources available to their students that they would not otherwise have.

EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

The Foundation administers the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) for Montana.

This program is geared to teachers of mathematics and science, teaching in grades 7-12, with five or more years of professional teaching experience. The goal is to recognize excellent teachers and improve mathematics and science teaching.