



# MONTANA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING FOUNDATION

December 2010 Newsletter

Promoting Great Teaching in Montana

## In these economic times, we need great teachers more than ever

As Montana and the nation work through the Great Recession, we are reminded more than ever that quality public education is the key to better economic times.

A strong economy requires a highly educated work force, according to business leaders.

Across Montana, teachers are preparing tomorrow's work force and giving students the tools they need for success in the global economy.

At the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation, we are proud of the role we play in promoting great teaching and learning.

And we are doubly grateful for the support of people who help in our efforts. Thank you for your support, and have a happy holiday season.

Eric Feaver, Chair  
Montana Professional Teaching Foundation



MONTANA  
PROFESSIONAL  
TEACHING  
FOUNDATION  
1232 E 6th Ave  
Helena, MT 59601  
406.447.1479  
Eric Feaver, Chair

## MPTF celebrates 2011 Montana Teacher of the Year and finalists

If you ever need to recharge your batteries and rev up your hope, take part in the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation's annual Montana Teacher of the Year Celebration. This year's celebration, held in Helena October 21, was no exception.



2011 Montana Teacher of the Year Paul Andersen speaks at the Teacher of the Year Celebration.

Several hundred educators, state officials, and Foundation supporters attended the event, honoring 2011 Montana Teacher of the Year Paul Andersen and finalists Elaine Stedman and Mary Dockstader Sullivan.

Laughter, cheers, and tears greeted all three teachers as they spoke of the joys and challenges of their years in teaching.

2010 Montana Teacher of the Year Anne Keith, a math teacher at Sacajawea Middle School in Bozeman, also enthralled the audience with tales and slides of her adventures during the past year.

"What I didn't expect was the professional development and growth I received," said Keith. Along with the nation's other state teachers of the year, Keith attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, and

was honored at a special White House ceremony in Washington, D.C. "I have 50 new best friends," Keith said. "I now have more friends on Facebook than my 14-year-old."

Introducing 2011 Montana Teacher of the Year Paul Andersen, Keith quoted one of Andersen's colleagues who called him "undoubtedly the most talented and dynamic instructor I've ever met – as a teacher or as a student."

Referring to Andersen as a "techno-geek," Keith said, "People love his explosive laughter, his energy, and his dedication to students."

Andersen teaches Advanced Placement Biology and Physical Science at Bozeman High School. His students speak of him with "reverence," according to colleague Scott Taylor. Many of them say Andersen inspired them to pursue careers in science or medicine.

Andersen not only shares his fascination with the natural world with

*The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation is proud to sponsor the Montana Teacher of the Year program.*

(Continued on page 2)

## 'Innovation in a time of scarcity'

When the going gets tough, the tough get creative. The Foundation's 2010 Montana Educator Forum showcased some of the many innovative educational practices that Montana school districts are engaged in, even during these tough economic times.

The annual Montana Educator Forum provides an opportunity for educators to share their perspectives with colleagues, parents, elected officials, and policy leaders around the state. More than 100 educators and others participated in this year's forum, held Oct. 8 in Helena. Five panels from around the state shared their innovative projects, including:

1. Teacher mentoring and induction: Development and implementation with scarce resources. Bozeman Education Assoc. & Bozeman School District, Laurel Unified Education Assoc. & Laurel School District.

2. Embracing home school students into the public school environment: Explore School @ Exploration Works  
(Continued on page 5)

## Montana Professional Teaching Foundation Board of Directors

Chair: *Eric Feaver*  
President, MEA-MFT, Helena

*Denise Juneau*, Superintendent  
Montana Office of Public Instruction

*Paul Andersen*, 2011 Montana Teacher of the Year, Bozeman

*Catherine Caracciolo*  
Classroom Teacher, Belgrade

*Sandy Denesen*  
Retired Teacher, Livingston

*Darrell Rud*, Executive Director  
School Administrators of Montana

*Lance Melton*, Executive Director  
Montana School Boards Association

*David Gibson*, Qwest, Helena

## Teacher of the Year (from p. 1)

his students, he speaks their language in terms of technology, using Facebook, texting, and YouTube as teaching tools.

"We could throw up our hands and ban technology from our schools, or we could see this as a teachable moment," Andersen says. "Curriculum is not just a textbook anymore. It is videos, podcasts, wikis, blogs, primary documents, and much more."

Andersen posts science lessons to *YouTube*, allowing students to review the lessons any time. (You can see his videos at [youtube.com/bozemanbiology](http://youtube.com/bozemanbiology).) His leadership has led the entire school district to become more tech-savvy for the benefit of teaching and learning, according to Bozeman Superintendent Kirk Miller. "Paul is a visionary in the same class as Steve Jobs and Ted Sizer," Miller said.



Finalist *Elaine Stedman*



Finalist *Mary Dockstader Sullivan*

The Montana Teacher of the Year program annually recognizes a teacher who exemplifies the best in the teaching profession. The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation sponsors and administers the program. An interview committee composed of educators, a parent, a high school student, Montana Board of Public Education Chair Patty Myers, and business sponsor Tim Warner of Blue Cross Blue Shield chose Andersen as Teacher of the Year from among three finalists in September.

As Montana Teacher of the Year, Paul Andersen will serve as a spokesperson and advocate for the teaching profession and represent Montana in the 2011 National Teacher of the Year event.

**Finalists:** Finalists in the 2011 Montana Teacher of the Year event are Elaine Stedman, a business, computer, and French teacher in Sidney; and Mary Dockstader Sullivan, an English teacher at Bigfork High School.

Congratulations to all three outstanding teachers!

## 2010 Karen Cox Memorial Grant Awards

Billings teacher Karen Cox, one of Montana's great teachers, 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 helps educators who reach into their own pockets to pay for classroom supplies and experiences.

Recipients of the 2010 Karen Cox awards include the following:

**Tammy Hetland, Becky Mundt, Karen Nave, Kim Watterson, and Darla Williams, extended studies, Billings Public Schools.**

(Continued on page 3)

## Karen Cox grants (from p. 2)

These five teachers work with gifted students in grades 3-6, at 22 elementary schools in Billings. Their grant will allow them to purchase materials so these students can explore real-world science.

Science is the subject that most intrigues young high-ability learners, yet it is taught less frequently than any other subject in elementary school. Plus, gifted students are significantly more likely to retain science content when they have the chance to learn at a fast pace and think in ways associated with inquiry: asking questions, planning and conducting investigations, and using appropriate techniques to gather data. This grant will allow them to do just that.



*The late Karen Cox*

**Tyra McDonald, grades 6-8, C.S. Porter Middle School, Missoula.** Tyra's grant will purchase seven "clickers" so teachers at C.S. Porter can do presentations on inter-write boards or projectors without going back to the computer every time they need to change slides. Often the computer is located in the back of the room, which hinders group discussion and classroom management. The clickers will allow teachers to move around the classroom and switch slides from any location. Sweet and simple.

**Kasey Dirnberger, grades 6-8, C.S. Porter Middle School, Missoula.** Kasey's grant will purchase an internet hub and router, allowing the school's exploratory teacher, who works with all grade levels, to use laptop computers with wireless internet access. This will free up the school's current Computer On Wheels (30 computers in one cabinet) for use in the rest of the school's classrooms. The goal: more computer access for all students and teachers.

**Vicki Wittman, grades 9-12, Bozeman High School.** Vicki aims to increase the reading skills of struggling readers by offering more high-interest, high-level books associated with the research-based Read 180 program. Currently, students in Read 180 classes for multiple semesters often run out of high-interest books. They tend to avoid libraries and have difficulty finding books they like within their reading level. The grant funds will purchase additional Read 180 books to keep those students reading and loving it.

**Katherine Bachrach, K-8 counseling and guidance, Helena Flats School, Kalispell.** Katherine will use her grant to purchase "Why Try" training and materials. The successful "Why Try" program reduces truancy and classroom distractions by engaging at-risk students. The program teaches students essential life skills such as effective communication and listening, understanding the consequences of their actions, making decisions, resisting peer pressure, overcoming challenges, and the importance of personal effort and motivation.

Interested in a Karen Cox Memorial Grant? Visit our web site to an application form: [www.mea-mft.org/our\\_foundation/programs/karen\\_cox\\_memorial\\_grants.aspx](http://www.mea-mft.org/our_foundation/programs/karen_cox_memorial_grants.aspx).

## 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 the following programs:

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

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

## You can help!

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

**1. 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 cut-out donation form on page 6.

# MONTANA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING FOUNDATION

## 2009-2010 REASONS FOR OUR SUCCESS

### NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Kate Cordes  
Sara Childers  
Charles McCurdy  
Larry McMullen  
Margaret Aukshun  
Rodney Gottula  
Peggy Kimmet

### MONTANA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Paul Andersen (2011)  
Anne Keith (2010)

### LEGACY CLUB

Ellen & Eric Feaver  
Great Falls Education Assoc.  
MEA-MFT  
Montana Unified School Trust (MUST)  
State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign

### SAINT (\$1,000 or more)

American Federation of Teachers  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana  
Ellen & Eric Feaver  
Fladmo Family Foundation  
MEA-MFT  
Montana Unified School Trust (MUST)

### PATRON (\$500-\$999)

Billings Education Assoc.  
California Casualty  
Dowling Family LLC  
Great Falls Education Assoc.  
Montana State AFL-CIO  
NEA Members Auto

& Home Insurance  
WTR Consulting Engineers

### SUPPORTER (\$100-499)

Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co.  
Bozeman Education Assoc.  
Joe & Meg Brookshier  
Elizabeth & Erik Burke  
Gary Carmichael  
Joe Cline  
Denny Menholt Chevrolet Hummer  
Kathy Dunn  
Diane Elliott  
Employee Benefit Resources  
Karl Englund  
Nancy & Ron Erickson  
Diane Fladmo  
Flattail Gutters  
Friends of Steve Bullock  
Gallatin County Rural Teachers Assoc.  
Nate Hagen  
Harlem Education Assoc.  
Harvest Cleaning Service  
Helena Education Assoc.  
Shaunda Hildebrand  
Jean Howard  
John Hughes  
Hughes, Kellner, Sullivan & Alke  
The January Corporation  
Edna & Jerry Jones  
Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens  
K&J Convention Services  
Anne Keith  
Peggy & Ron Kimmet  
Larson Law Office  
Lewistown Education Assoc.

Vince Long  
Luxan & Murfitt  
Paul Maloy  
Linda McCulloch  
McDonald Law Firm  
Lauren McMullen  
Dallas Miller  
Terry Minow  
Montana Staff Org.  
Mountain West Insurance  
Patty Myers  
Paul's Office Products  
Qwest  
SAS Institute Inc.  
Servicemaster Commercial Services  
Dave Severson  
Karin & Wayne Stanford  
Bob Stansberry  
State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign  
Student Assistance Foundation  
SuperValu  
United Way of Lewis & Clark County  
Teresa Veltkamp  
Cathy & Matt Warner

### FRIEND (\$50-99)

Paul Andersen  
Bernadette & Patrick Bannister  
Terry Beaver  
Mona Bilden  
Charla Bunker  
Porter Coggins  
Kurt Cunningham  
Diana Dowling  
David Erickson  
Lydia & John Fleming  
Kimberley Girard  
Florence Gold  
Gail Kouame  
Mike Kujawa  
Anthony Leavitt  
Christy & David Levings  
Darryl Marchand  
Kathleen McGuigan

Angela McLean  
John Miller  
Claudette Morton  
Fran Reichert  
Tony Riehl  
Leonard Smith  
Whitefish Education Assoc.

### FAN (\$25-49)

Bill Ancell  
Margaret Belisle  
Billings Classified Employees Assn.  
Margaret Bowles  
Samsara Chapman  
Cory Chenoweth  
Jan Clinard  
Maggie Copeland  
Cindy Duffy  
Virginia Egli  
Jamie Garvey  
Tom Glover  
Carol Gordon  
John Graves  
Jared Hauskins  
Galen Hollenbaugh  
Rob Holter  
Linda Horst  
Garth Johnson  
Kalispell Education Assoc.  
Dan Kelly  
Chris Kenney  
Mary Leonard  
Peggy Leverton  
Jan Lombardi  
Aubrie Lyons  
Wayne Mangold  
Judy McMaster  
Linda Piccolo  
Meredith Rainey  
Catherine Redhead  
Jerry Reisig  
Patrick Rennie  
Jeff Ross  
Anthony Rubino  
Darlene Ruble  
Richard Schipporeit  
Lisa Scott  
Cheri Seed  
Dick Seitz  
Gayle Shirley

Jack Sturgis  
Becky Thomas  
Debbie Willis

### OTHERS (\$1-\$24)

Sue Bach  
Patricia Bauerle  
Vicki Bisbee  
Janice Bishop  
Mary Boschert-Branin  
Broadview Education Assoc.  
Noreen Burris  
Irene Chrest  
Trudi Downer  
Maureen Driscoll  
Heidi Eggert  
W. Lianne Ewals  
Douglas Ferkin  
Kathy Firman  
LouAnne Foley  
Shirley Greene  
Richard Hannula & Joyce Jarosz  
Darryl Helmer  
Tammy Hurley  
Mary Jackson  
Trish Loken  
Brenda Martin  
Teresa Mountains  
Erin O'Reilly  
PaceButler Corp.  
Mary Peterson  
Terri Porisch  
Sheila Rutherford  
Kristy Savaria  
Sally Behr Schendel  
Nancy Scott  
Carolyn Thayer  
Deborah Todd  
Tom Waldorf  
Clarice & Don Walters  
Steve White  
Sharon Wind  
Kristin Youngmeyer

### IN KIND GIFTS

Glenn Allinger  
American Federation of Teachers

*(Continued on page 5)*

## REASONS FOR OUR SUCCESS (from p. 4)

Assoc. of Gifted & Talented Education  
Bernadette & Patrick Bannister  
Best Western Great Northern Hotel  
Big Sky Board Sports  
Mona Bilden  
Rick Billstein  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana  
Cotts Crafts  
Cecil B. Crawford  
Kathie Daviau  
Empire Office Machines  
Ellen & Eric Feaver  
Lydia & John Fleming  
Kimberley Girard  
Shirley Greene

Sandra Greenfield  
Irene Grimberg  
Jean Howard  
Peggy & Ron Kimmet  
Mary Larsen  
Leslie's Hallmark  
Peggy Leverton  
Macy's  
Janice Mineer  
Montana Alliance for Arts Education (VSA Montana)  
Mont. Assoc. of Bilingual Education  
Montana Learning Center  
Montana Marketing  
Mountain Press Publishing Co.

Mountain West Bank  
MSU-Dept. of Education  
Janice Muller-Kohn  
Ke Norman  
Planet Beach Contempo Spa  
Sheri Postma  
Joan Sleeth  
Student Assistance Foundation  
Target  
Beth Thomas  
Cathy & Matt Warner  
JoAnn Weber  
Wells Fargo Bank NA  
Debbie Willis

### IN HONOR OF

Anne Dowling Keith

### IN MEMORY OF

Charlene Christopher-son  
Elmer Henry  
Myrtle Hubley  
Ralph Hughes  
Hazelle Kaul  
Laura Carlene Hammer Kessner  
John Kosich  
Fred C. Lamoreaux  
Paulette Linabary  
Merritt Olson  
Carl Rosenleaf  
Bonni Schilling  
Irene Sotelo  
Adam Schweitzer  
Joan Temple

Diane W. Thompson  
John "Jack" Franklin  
VanDaveer

### 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.

## 'Fore' Kids & Education: 2010 MPTF Golf Scramble

Golfers from all over Montana participated in the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation 7th annual golf scramble, "Fore" Kids & Education. The scramble took place at the Green Meadow Country Club in Helena July 29. A record 21 teams participated.

Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Foundation's five programs.

**Net winning team:** Three Guys and a Lady (Craig Todd, Joe Shupe, and Rod Donahue from Harlem and Cheryl Parker from Missoula).

**Gross winning team:** Carroll Hackers from Helena (Ben MacIntyre, Dick Franz, Patrick Harris, and Bob Stansberry).

**Thanks** to the Green Meadow staff, all the golfers, and the many individuals and groups who donated prizes.

**Special thanks** to our sponsors: MEA-MFT; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana; Montana Unified School Trust; NEA Members Auto & Home Insurance; the Helena, Billings, Great Falls, and Harlem Education Associations; SAS Institute; Montana State AFL-CIO; Pink Ribbon Holders; Student Assistance Foundation; Montana Staff Organization; Harvest Cleaning Service; Denny Menholt Chevrolet Hummer; Qwest; McDonald Law Firm; Karl J. Englund; Luxan & Murfitt; Mountain West Insurance; ServiceMaster Commercial Building Services; Larson Law Office; JCCS; WTR Consulting Engineers; Employee Benefit Resources; POP's (Paul's Office Products); Linda McCulloch; Anderson ZurMuehlen; K&J Convention Services; Anne Keith, 2010 Montana Teacher of the Year; Hughes, Kellner, Sul-

livan & Alke; and The Investment Group.

**See you next year!** Next year's scramble is scheduled for August 4, 2011 in Helena. Mark your calendar, and start recruiting your team. If you would like to be on the mailing list for the golf tournament, contact Cathy Warner at the Foundation office (406.447.1479).



### **Educator Forum (from p. 2)**

Museum & the Helena School District.

3. Using National Board Certification Take One! to create professional learning communities: Great Falls Education Assoc. & Great Falls School District.

4. Montana Digital Academy: Made-in-Montana distance learning opportunities.

5. Creating a regional effort to optimize opportunity and resources: Montana Association of School Superintendents Region 4.

As ever, discussion was lively and inspirational. Participants learned many innovative ideas to take home. That's what the forum is all about: sharing best practices with educators around Montana, for the benefit of Montana's students of all ages.

## 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 2009-10:

- Kate Cordes, English Language Arts, Billings
- Sara Childers, Library Media, Columbia Falls
- Charles McCurdy, Career and Technical, Anaconda
- Larry McMullen, Science, Billings
- Margaret Aukshun, Math, Billings
- Rodney Gottula, English/Language Arts, Billings
- Peggy Kimmet, Library Media, Hardin

## Nominate for presidential 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 2011 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation administers this program in Montana.

To learn more and to nominate, visit [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org). **Nomination deadline is April 1, 2011.** The nomination form should be completed early enough to ensure that the nominated teacher is given enough time to thoroughly prepare an application that reflects exemplary teaching prior to the application deadline. Applications are due by May 2, 2011.

The 2010 state finalists' applications for grades K-6 were submitted in June of this year. Montana finalists are Jon Konen of Great Falls (Science), Lizabeth Townsend of East Helena (Science), Colleen Windell of Lolo (Science), and Courtney Niemeyer of Billings (Math). The national organization reviews state applications until late spring 2011, at which time finalists will be announced.

Montana's 2009 presidential awardees, LeAnne Yenny of Bozeman (Math) and Darlene Ruble of Eureka (Science), will join awardees from other states for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and science agency leaders, beginning December 14.

## 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).