

# LEARNING MATTERS

## News from the Minnesota Department of Education

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Learning Matters highlights the most important issues coming out of the Minnesota Department of Education including press releases, policy announcements, grant and scholarship opportunities and other items of interest.

Please forward this newsletter to others in the education field who may be interested in Learning Matters. [Subscribe to Learning Matters](#). If you do not wish to receive Learning Matters, [send us an e-mail](#).

### **New College Preparation Website “Ready, Set, Go” Launches**

The Ready, Set, Go MN website provides resources to students, parents and educators for navigating the path from high school to higher education. [Visit the website](#). [See the October 3 press release](#).

### **Minnesota Department of Education Appoints Director of American Indian Education**

Dennis Olson Jr. will serve as the new director of American Indian Education for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). This key position further strengthens the department’s efforts to better serve Minnesota’s American Indian students through a stronger relationship with each of the state’s eleven tribal nations. [See the September 28 press release](#).

### **Education Finance Working Group to Hold Statewide Listening Sessions**

The Education Finance Working Group is embarking on a statewide tour to share its findings and hear from Minnesotans. The School Funding Listening Session tour begins today and continues throughout the fall. [See the September 26 press release](#).

### **Providing Access to Data for All – MDE-ORG Now Available!**

The Minnesota Department of Education-Organization Reference Glossary (MDE-ORG) provides data on schools and organizations in one easy-to-use site. The system provides open access for all to the wealth of information we collect from Minnesota schools, districts, early learning providers and more. Create your own databases, contact lists and more. [Start using MDE-ORG now!](#)

## **Reading Rocktober Enrollment Now Open**

Reading Rocktober is an exciting new program where learners of all ages can receive prizes just for doing what they already love, READING! By setting reading goals and meeting them, students become eligible to receive rewards from participating sponsors.

Please forward this information to your principals, curriculum and staff development personnel, school-wide reading coaches, district literacy coordinators, and classroom teachers. The program will run from October 2012 to April 2013. Sign up for Reading Rocktober today! [Register online](#).

## **2013 United States Senate Youth Program Applications Available – Deadline October 19**

The U.S. Senate Youth Program is a nationwide program that brings high school students to Washington D.C. for an onsite introduction to the functions of the federal government, particularly the U.S. Senate. Students will spend the week of March 9-16, 2013, in Washington (all expenses paid) learning about the Senate and meeting with political leaders. The selected students are also eligible for a \$5,000 scholarship. Students are eligible for consideration if they hold an elected office (student government, civic, community, etc.) that will continue into the 2012-2013 school year or will hold an elected position in the 2012-2013 school year. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Senate and completely funded by The Hearst Foundations. For more information, [visit the U.S. Senate Youth Program website](#). [Access the application form](#).

## **Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO) Fall Conference – October 11-13, 2012**

School library media specialists, technology integrationists, and technology coordinators: Register now for the 2012 MEMO Fall Conference! The conference will be held at the River's Edge Conference Center and Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, Minnesota. [Visit the MEMO website for registration and further details](#).

## **Presidential Libraries – 2012-13 Video Conferencing Project**

The Presidential Primary Sources Project is a collaborative program sponsored by the U.S. Presidential Libraries and Museums, National Parks, the Internet2 K20 Initiative, and other primary source stakeholders offering a video conferencing learning series relating to the Presidency. Audience: for students grades six through 12. The goal of the annual project is to engage classrooms throughout the national and international education community with an overarching theme, utilizing primary source documents for student research and presentation. This promises to be a great learning experience for students and an excellent resource for teachers working with history content. [See more information](#). [See the project website](#).