



"In the 2017-18 Winter Issue of "The Voice" two articles were mistakenly omitted from the newsletter. I greatly apologize for the oversight and mistake. I hope this addendum will be informative to your practice."

*David Wolff, Editor of the Voice*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Bill Keilty, Ed. D., MEGT Legislative Liaison

Legislative advocacy continues. We continue to host Gifted Forums around the state. In that process we are learning from teachers and parents the reasons why this legislation is critical to their children and students. At each forum we are able to detailed the legislation, clarify elements of the legislation and share the research that supports the initiative. We have been successful in gaining support for this effort from administrators, coordinators, teachers and parents. We have also learned about what is currently available to gifted students within those districts within the Gifted Forum bounds.

What we are learning confirms the dire outlook for this underserved population. Program funding in those districts have been cut or

diminished. In one district we heard from in a Forum, the coordinator was being paid, like a para, for two days a week to manage programs. Those programs have been moved to Community Education and parents are paying for their kids to participate in an after school setting, even though the district receives \$13,000 for that programming. Other districts around the state do not have programming and are hopeful legislation will be passed that requires district to spend the dollars as intended and increases those dollars to broaden the support they provide for their gifted students.

This is a long term effort. We are building support through the Gifted Forums and we will continue to meet with legislators in St. Paul to build support. We plan to continue

the advocacy and continue to host Gifted Forums around the state. We are hoping you would consider being a host for such an event. We would provide you with all the communication information to help promote that gathering. We would ask you find a location and an evening date to schedule the event. The location could be a town library or other meeting place within a community. Neighboring districts would be invited to learn more about this proposed legislation and to share stories of successes and challenges faced by gifted advocates within the area. Please consider the opportunity to host a Gifted Forum. Please contact me with questions at [microtubel@me.com](mailto:microtubel@me.com)

## MEGT FOUNDATION Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented Foundation

By Bill Keilty

Greetings,

The Foundation continue to support teachers of the gifted through fundraising and grants. Over the next two weeks over a dozen teachers will receive notification of their grant awards. Some will be awarded for innovative teaching and some will awarded to help underwrite the grantee's attendance to the MEGT Mid-Winter Conference at Craguns' in late January, 2018.

Fundraising followed a similar pathway this year. Though the GIVEMN fundraising apparatus, we generated revenue. We also raised dollars through our Silent Auction held during the conference. We are a non profit, tax exempt organization and anyone donating to the Silent Auction or through our website will receive confirmation of their donation.

This is we are trying another fundraising stream. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the

AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. We are that charitable organization. [https://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi\\_ext\\_ch\\_81-4663167\\_dl?encoding=UTF8&ein=81-4663167&ref\\_=smi\\_chpf\\_redirect&ref\\_=smi\\_ext\\_ch\\_81-4663167\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ext_ch_81-4663167_dl?encoding=UTF8&ein=81-4663167&ref_=smi_chpf_redirect&ref_=smi_ext_ch_81-4663167_cl)

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Thanks and see at Craguns'