



## Call for Proposals: “Relating with Students Now”

**MREA 2019 Annual Conference  
Nov. 17-19, 2019 | Brainerd, MN**

**Submission for 2019 is now open. The submission deadline is 5 pm Tuesday, April 30, 2019.**

Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) seeks dynamic workshop and breakout session proposals for its 2019 Annual Conference that share best practices, solutions, and research on “Relating with Students Now.” Submissions are encouraged in all context areas.

Session proposals should help maximize educator learning and knowledge, focused on developing positive relationships between teachers, students, families and communities.

Positive relationships with students lead to good social and academic outcomes, promote a sense of school belonging, and encourage students to participate cooperatively. Supportive classroom environments, combined with productive relationships and high expectations between teachers, students, families and communities will provide a platform in which students can develop confidence to experiment and succeed.

Teachers are in a position to act as a powerful and effective means of support and encouragement when this may not always be available in the home environment. What does it take? How can highly motivated teachers be aware of the impact they have on student learning and overall development inside and outside the classroom? How can educators, families, and communities work together to bring about differences in the educational environment that create positive, powerful, and lasting student connections?

### **Focus Areas**

MREA is interested in breakout session proposals that help educators and communities meet students where they are and create a culture of mutual respect and learning – while acknowledging nuances in values and priorities:

- Family and community engagement and communication
  - Early Childhood
  - Building Effective PTO/PTAs
- Mental health service delivery models
- Positive school climate, classroom management, and creating emotionally safe learning spaces
- Engaging children and families from communities of color and American Indian cultures
- After-school opportunities that enrich and strengthen students
- Topics that address mandatory requirements for MN teacher license renewal
- Additional valuable breakouts:
  - Student and school safety
  - Innovation and entrepreneurship
  - Understanding school board responsibilities

## Proposal Development

As you craft your proposal, consider a brief description of the presentation and its relevance to “Relating with Students Now,” leadership, learning, practices or policy in rural schools. Proposals must provide:

- **Compelling Title** as should appear in the conference promotion (5 WORDS MAXIMUM). Avoid abbreviations and acronyms.
- **Session Description** clearly identifying:
  - Education topic to be addressed
  - Target audience among school administrators, teachers and school board members
  - Two outcomes
  - Participant engagement activities
  - Resources participants will receive
- **Contact Information** for primary presenter and co-presenter. Names and organizations must appear as you would like them included in event promotions.
- **Recent Groups** to whom and when this presentation was delivered

*NOTE:* MREA members want to learn how fellow members are solving educational problems and addressing the focus of the conference. Proposals from our allies in for-profit companies are welcome; however, preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate active involvement of Greater Minnesota educational professionals as presenters. Sessions may be accepted on the condition that a rural school representative will be co-presenter.

## Breakout Session Guidelines

Sessions will generally host from 25 to 70 participants each, depending on the room size. Presenters will provide their own presentation devices, audio speakers and handouts.

Rank your preference for session length and day/time:

- **90-minute Early Bird Workshops** These Sunday evening workshops should deliver content that dives deep into the topic and prompts participant dialogue and interaction.
- **50-minute Breakout Sessions** These Monday morning sessions are intended to provide an overview into a specific innovative or promising practice.
- **75-minute Breakout Sessions** These Monday afternoon sessions are intended to go into more depth around innovative or promising practices.

## Proposal Submission & Selection

**Complete proposals must be submitted online by 5 pm Tuesday, April 30, 2019.**

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Conference Committee. The proposal author will receive an e-mail notification regarding acceptance status by early June.



## Conference Information

Here's what else you need to know about this premiere Greater Minnesota conference.

### Dates: Sunday-Tuesday, November 17-19

- Sunday: Early bird workshops and networking
- Monday: Opening keynote speaker, breakout sessions, networking, legislative update and awards banquet
- Tuesday: Closing speaker, Gallery Walk vendor fair, annual membership meeting

### Audience: 400+ Education Practitioners & Influencers

- School board members, K-12 teachers, and administrators
- Representing every corner of Minnesota
- Attendance has grown over 50% last three years

### Venue: Cragun's Resort

- In the heart of Brainerd Lakes Area
- Comfortable spaces and technology
- Updated accommodations

### Registration & Expenses

- Conference registration is required after your proposal has been accepted.
- Up to two (2) presenters per presentation will receive free and/or discounted registration fees. Additional presenters beyond 2 will pay the full conference registration fee.
- Presenters attending only Monday receive free registration and either complimentary breakfast or lunch.
- Travel and lodging coordination and expenses are not provided.

## Questions?

Contact Diane Vosen, Administrative Coordinator at 320.762.6574 or [diane@mreavoice.org](mailto:diane@mreavoice.org).

Complete your proposal [online here](#).

