

2021 Annual Conference: Rural Strong

Nov. 14-16 | Brainerd, Mn

Call for Proposals
Due: May 9, 2021

Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) seeks workshop and breakout session proposals for its 2021 Annual Conference to share best practices, solutions, and research on education in Greater Minnesota and rural areas.

Proposals should help maximize K-12 educator and school board learning and knowledge, focused on developing and sharing narratives from a position of rural strength and vitality. Submissions are encouraged in all context and focus areas at all experience levels.

2021 Focus Areas

- Family and community engagement and communication
- Overcoming rural tech and Internet barriers
- Supporting student resiliency and mental health
- Creating positive school climate and emotionally safe learning spaces
- Engaging children and families from communities of color and American Indian cultures
- Efficient and effective district operations
- Partnerships that support rural school and community vitality
- Creating pathways to teaching in Greater Minnesota
- Topics that address mandatory requirements for MN teacher license renewal

Proposal Development

MREA member educators want to learn how rural colleagues are solving educational problems and addressing the conference focus areas. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate active partnerships with Greater Minnesota educational professionals as presenters. Sessions may be accepted on the condition that a rural school representative will be co-presenter.

As you craft your proposal, consider a brief description of the presentation and its relevance to “Rural Strong,” leadership, learning, practices or policy in rural schools. Proposals must include:

- **Compelling Title** as it should appear in the conference promotion (5 words maximum). Avoid abbreviations and acronyms. MREA reserves the right to edit titles.
- **Session Description** clearly identifying:
 - Topic being addressed
 - Target audience among school administrators, teachers and school board members
 - Two learning outcomes
 - Participant engagement activities
 - Resources for participants
- **Contact Information** for primary presenter and co-presenter. Names and organizations must appear as you would like them listed in event promotions.
- **Recent Groups** to whom and when this presentation was delivered

Breakout Session Guidelines

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

Rank your preference for session length and day/time:

- **50-minute Breakout Sessions** Monday and Tuesday morning sessions to provide an overview into a specific innovative or promising practice.
- **75-minute Workshops** Monday afternoon sessions to dig into more depth around innovative or promising practices.

Proposal Submission & Selection

Complete proposals must be submitted online by midnight Sunday, May 9.

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Conference Committee. The proposal submitter will be notified by email by early June regarding acceptance status.

Conference Information

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

Dates: Sunday-Tuesday, November 14-16

- Sunday: Greater Minnesota education awards and banquet
- Monday: Opening keynote speaker, breakout sessions, workshops, networking, legislative update and Gallery Walk vendor fair
- Tuesday: Breakout sessions, networking, capstone speaker, annual membership meeting

Audience: 500+ Education Practitioners & Influencers

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

Venue: Cragun's Resort

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

Registration & Expenses

- Conference registration is required after your proposal has been accepted. Details will be sent.
- 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 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.

Complete your proposal [online here](#).



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