

The Wednesday Reader

Zeppember 14, 2011

The Big Sky Pathways Initiative for 2011-2012

This past week has been a busy one with getting information out about this year's work with our Big Sky Pathways and the informational Webinar held yesterday to give details about the Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How.

Just to give a brief review, this year's work within the Big Sky Pathways Initiative is 1) work with those schools/programs/teachers who developed a Pathway last year to being the process of crosswalking the Pathway's associated [National CTE Knowledge and Skills Statements](http://www.careertech.org/resources/clusters/knowledge-skills.html) (<http://www.careertech.org/resources/clusters/knowledge-skills.html>) with the entire Pathway's curriculum (both CTE and non-CTE courses at both the secondary and postsecondary levels); 2) work with those who did not develop a Pathway last year and would like to develop one this year plus start the [National CTE Knowledge and Skills Statements](#) crosswalk process for the newly-developed Pathways; and 3) work with those who would like to increase their number of Pathways and start the [National CTE Knowledge and Skills Statements](#) crosswalk process for these new Pathways.

Everyone who can participate this year is strongly encouraged to do so as this is the only year we will have Gene Benson, who is nationally recognized for his extensive experience with Perkins legislation and who authored the 79 sample programs of study for the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education, to conduct the workshops and guide attendees through the process.

When selecting the location to attend for the workshops, please be sure to selection the location where you will be able to work with the same postsecondary partners as last year. This is key as the work to be done will be based upon the Pathways developed last year, if available. For example, if you worked with MSU-Great Falls College of Technology last year, please register to attend the Great Falls workshop.

To help reduce travel requirements and days out of the classroom, some locations will have more than one postsecondary institution present, such as Miles City where Dawson Community College and Miles Community College will be a joint session as well as at Fairmont Hot Springs with Montana Tech COT and Gallatin College Programs.

If you are not able to attend the location necessary to work with the same postsecondary partner as last year, please let me know and I will assist you in selecting an appropriate alternative.

One important item to note is these workshops are designed for schools to participate in at **no cost to the district**. Through state-level Perkins funds the costs for substitutes, mileage, hotel rooms, and per diem will be covered.

To [Register](#) please go to the [Big Sky Pathways website](http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/BigSkyPathways.asp) at <http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/BigSkyPathways.asp> and select the appropriate location under the Workshop Registration Pages/Links heading.

The deadline to register is Friday, September 30.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Locations, Colleges, and Dates for the Big Sky Pathways Initiative's Next Steps Workshops

Location	Participating Postsecondary Partners	Dates
Great Falls	MSU-Great Falls College of Technology	October 10 & 11
Havre	MSU-Northern	October 12 & 13
Kalispell	Flathead Valley Community College	October 26 & 27
Billings	MSU-Billings College of Technology	November 7 & 8
Miles City	Miles Community College & Dawson Community College	November 9 & 10
Missoula	UM-Missoula College of Technology	November 14 & 15
Helena	UM-Helena College of Technology	December 5 & 6
Fairmont Hot Springs	Montana Tech College of Technology & Gallatin College Programs	December 7 & 8

To register, please go to <http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/BigSkyPathways.asp>. Registrations must be received by Friday, September 30, 2011.

Did You Miss the Big Sky Pathways Initiative's Next Steps Webinar Held Tuesday, September 13?

If you were not able to participate in the informational Webinar regarding this fall's Big Sky Pathways Next Steps workshops, here are links to the Webinars associated resources:

- The recording of the webinar (about 40 minutes): <http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p2u35dsg2eg/>
- The PowerPoint Presentation: <http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/PPT.pptx>
- A PDF of the PowerPoint slides with notes: <http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/PIIppt.pdf>
- Questions and Answers from the Webinar: <http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/BigSkyPathwaysFAQs.asp>
- The Big Sky Pathways Webpage: <http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/BigSkyPathways.asp>

These links will help you to get up to speed on this exciting initiative. Make sure to bookmark the Big Sky Pathways Webpage as the site is updated frequently.

Getting Ready for Transition to Proposed Montana Common Core Standards

The first in a series of presentations developed by the Office of Public Instruction to provide information and resources for the transition to the proposed Montana Common Core Standards and assessment system aligned to those standards has been posted on MontCAS Presents. The PowerPoint with notes are also available for you to use.

The link to MontCAS Presents, Gettin Ready Presentation and Power Point document with Notes:

http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/MontCAS_Presents.html#p7Gpc1_5

For more information about the Montana Common Core Standards proposal, please contact

Jean Howard, Mathematics
Curriculum Specialist
jhoward@mt.gov
(406) 444-0706

or Judy Snow, State Assessment Director
jsnow@mt.gov
(406) 444-3656

2011-12 Virtual Business Scholarship Application is Now Available Online

[Knowledge Matters](#), the maker of Virtual Business simulations, is pleased to announce the annual [Virtual Business Scholarship](#). Business, marketing and personal finance students currently enrolled in their junior and senior years of high school throughout the United States are eligible for the 2011-12 Virtual Business Scholarship.

The applications will be judged nationally and the winner will receive \$2,000. Application submittals are

due by April 1, 2012.

The application is accessible at: www.KnowledgeMatters.com/scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Ginley via email at Ginley@KnowledgeMatters.com or toll-free at (877)965-3276.

Time to Prepare for the 2011-2012 Editions of the Stock Market Game and Business Challenge

The beginning of the semester signals the start of the fall competitions for the High School Business Challenge and Stock Market Game. The **Business Challenge will begin with the first input due on Wednesday, October 5, 2011.** The **Stock Market Game competition begins on Monday, October 10, 2011.**

Stock Market Game: To register for the Stock Market Game, go to www.stockmarketgame.org and click on the link in the upper right hand corner labeled 'Registration'. Another screen will open, asking for the nation and state you reside in. Please select USA and Montana, and another screen will appear. Click on the link in the upper right hand corner labeled 'Preregister Now.' The next screen is the one where you register your teams. Please complete this screen, as Tim cannot register you! If you experience any difficulties, please let Tim know.

Business Challenge: To register for the Business Challenge, please e-mail Tim at timalz@montana.edu with the number of teams you'll need. Please send Tim this information by no later than Wednesday, September 28. Tim will assign industry and team identification numbers at this time, and will forward those to you by no later than Friday, September 30.

There is a \$15 per team fee for participation in both the Business Challenge and Stock Market Game; however, if budgets are a constraint, please contact Tim, as scholarships are available.

PLEASE NOTE: FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS CHALLENGE must first go through a training session. Many of you already have, so please disregard if this is the case.

If you know of teachers wanting to participate and have not been trained, please have them contact Tim at 994-2263, or by e-mail, timalz@montana.edu.

Two separate training sessions are scheduled for this fall. The training sessions will be conducted via webinar, and is a four hour-two day session. The first session will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 20 and 21, and the second session on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 27 and 28. Each session begins at 4:30 p.m.

The link to register for the September 20-21 webinar is: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/444485880>. The link to register for the September 27-28 webinar is: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/469473345>.

New teachers need to participate in only one two day session.

There will be a one-day webinar training session for the Stock Market Game, which will be held on Thursday, September 29, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Attendance by first-time teachers at this webinar is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged. The link to register for the Stock Market Game training is <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/698138369>.

For questions or to get additional information please contact Tim Alzheimer at the location below.

Tim Alzheimer
Simulations Coordinator

Montana Council on Economic Education
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Finance
College of Business
Montana State University-Bozeman
(406) 994-2263 Office
(406) 994-2545 Fax
timalz@montana.edu

The Montana's Rural Health Initiative: Communities Connecting and Collaborating-- Putting Kid's Health First: Profitable and Healthy Fundraisers for Montana Schools

The Montana Action for Healthy Kids is proud to present a webinar featuring successful fundraising strategies for Montana schools that keeps student wellness in mind while raising funds for school projects or activities.

The informative webinar will be Thursday, September 22 at 12:00 pm (Mountain Time).

To register for the webinar please go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/541103834>

To call in for the Webinar's audio portion please call 888.617.3400 and use the Room number of 695912.

If you are unable to attend the live session, this webinar will be recorded and posted online to view at your convenience.

For connection details or any other questions, please contact Carolyn Pollari at cpollari@montana.edu or 406.994.5310.

Free Resources To Improve Insurance Literacy

InVEST teams high school educators with representatives from the insurance industry to provide insurance instruction, exposure to an insurance environment, and career opportunities to students.

Free classroom materials include textbooks, sample lesson plans, games & exercises. InVEST can be customized to complement individual academic programs from a two week period to a full semester program. In the longer programs there may also be the opportunity for students to gain insight into the insurance industry and its operations through internships, field trips, and job shadowing events.

Students that graduate from the InVEST program are eligible for scholarships. This year, InVEST awarded 54 students \$47,000 in scholarship dollars to InVEST graduates pursuing higher education majoring in insurance, risk management, actuarial science, or business.

InVEST is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational trust funded solely through tax deductible contributions by insurance companies, foundations, and insurance professionals dedicated to improving insurance literacy in the classroom and attracting new talent into the insurance industry.

For more information, visit www.investprogram.org.

Montana Business Education Association/Montana ACTE Institute Registration Open

Join your fellow Montana business and marketing educators as they gather in Great Falls for the [2011 Montana ACTE Institute](#) October 20 and 21 at the Best Western Heritage Inn.

The Institute will feature more than 16 breakout sessions, more than 15 exhibitors, the Montana ACTE silent and live auction, the 2011 Montana ACTE Awards Program, and a networking social.

The Institute's [registration form](#) can be downloaded from the [Montana ACTE website](#)

(www.montanaacte.org) or directly with the following link:
<http://www.montanaacte.org/documents/registration.pdf>. Registration Confirmations/receipts will be sent via email.

Early-Bird Registration ends October 1, so don't delay, register today.

Discover new approaches, find solutions to your shared challenges, share your best practices with colleagues and leave with constructive new ideas to take back to your school. You'll gain valuable insights and proven strategies that will improve your programs and increase student achievement in your district as well as assist you in implementing Big Sky Pathways in your district. For more information, including hotel reservations, please visit the [Professional Development](#) page of the [Montana ACTE website](#), www.montanaacte.org.

Econ Ed Summit Presented by Montana Council on Economic Education

The Econ Ed Summit is a workshop for Social Studies, Math, Accounting, Economics and Business Teachers and is presented by the [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (www.econedmontana.org).

The Econ Ed Summit will be held October 20-21, 2011, at the O'Haire Manor Motel in Great Falls.

Topics Offered Include:

- Economic Learning Modules (8 OPI Renewal Credits),
- High School Business Challenge Training with emphasis on financial statements (4 OPI Renewal Credits), or
- Investing and Stock Market Game Training (4 OPI Renewal Credits)

Sessions will be taught by Dr. Myles Watts, Dr. Randy Rucker and other staff from MSU Department of Ag Econ/Econ and a representative from D.A. Davidson & Co.

NOTE: Seminar, materials, sleeping rooms and OPI renewal units are provided by MCEE at no cost to teachers!

For more information or to register, visit the Montana Council on Economic Education website at www.econedmontana.org.

Montana Council on Economic Education Event Schedule for School Year 2011-2012

MFEC Statewide Conference (Billings) September 21, 8 am-5 pm
Go to www.mfec.org for information

High School Business Challenge Webinar #1 September 20 & 21, 4:30-6 pm
High School Business Challenge Webinar #2 September 27 & 28 / 4:30-6 pm
Contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu

Stock Market Game Webinar September 29, 4:30-6 pm
Contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu

Economic Education Summit (Great Falls) October 20 & 21
This year's focus is on bringing the Economic Learning Modules to teachers who incorporate economic learning in their classroom and need ready-to-use lesson plans to help them teach this critical subject. The seminar, materials, sleeping rooms are free; pre-registration is required.

High School Business Challenge Fall competition: October 5-December 7
Contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu Spring competition: February 15-April 18

Stock Market Game Simulation Fall competition: October 10-December 15

Contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu Spring competition: February 21-April 26

Focus: Globalization Seminar February 2012

Economics Challenge (Helena) March 2012
This annual event is highly popular with high school students, who love the competitive climate and interaction with other students around the state. Study materials available prior to the contest.

Focus: International Economics April 2012

ECNS 594: Applied Economics (MSU Bozeman) June 2012
The purpose of this seminar is to equip teachers in understanding and delivering quality economic education for their schools. Teachers from the fields of social studies, business, math, family consumer science and other teaching disciplines are encouraged to attend. On campus meals, lodging and parking provided by MCEE.

For information about any of these events or to register, visit www.econedmontana.org, or Email MCEE at mcee@montana.edu.

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Launches Enhanced Educators' Portal

The [Start Here, Go Places.](#)[®] team has been working hard over the summer to make some great enhancements to our [Educators' Portal](#).

We are happy to formally announce the launch of the newly-enhanced Educators' Portal for high school and community college educators and guidance counselors. Officially launched on August 17, the new portal features a sleek new design, easier navigation, improved features and even incentives for becoming an active and engaged member of the portal.

Use the Educators' Portal to have discussions with fellow educators from across the country, ask for help, request classroom materials and make direct connections with the AICPA and your local state CPA society.

Once logged in, you can navigate to any one of the four main sections: Classroom Curriculum, Educators' Forum, Career Resources and Conferences & Events.

The [Classroom Curriculum](#) section hosts several series of lesson plans, including student worksheets, facilitator answer keys and grading rubrics. This is a secure/locked down section of the portal for educators who request access, and are verified in order to ensure that only current educators are granted access to this exclusive section. Another locked down section only for current educators is the [Educators' Forum](#). This section offers educators a secure community to share ideas, receive classroom advice and share best practices with colleagues across the country.

In the [Career Resources](#) section, educators, as well as other portal members, have access to classroom presentation materials, college and university information, CPA exam information and more. The [Conferences & Events](#) section is a place for AICPA staff, state society ACD staff and Start Here, Go Places. partners to post events being held for students and educators.

With these enhancements completed, and more in the works, the AICPA invites you to utilize this site for all of your information and resources related to the CPA profession.

For more information on the Educators' Portal, contact the AICPA at StartHereGoPlaces@aicpa.org.

Here's to a great school year,
[Start Here, Go Places.](#)

An Invitation from MSU-Bozeman for MSU College of Business Entrepreneur Day

Business Educators and BPA advisors:

I am pleased to announce that the MSU College of Business Entrepreneur Day is planned for Wednesday, October 26 here on the MSU campus in Bozeman. This event is FREE and our keynote speaker this year is co-owner of Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures, Ian Davis.

We provide an opportunity for high school students to come and learn more about entrepreneurship and interact with professors and current students. Our business school with option areas in Accounting, Finance, Management and Marketing, is accredited by AACSB; only 15% of all business schools hold this distinction.

The tentative schedule for the day:

9:30 a.m. Registration
10:00 am. Welcome and overview
10:15 a.m. Interactive Workshop with CoB faculty and students
12:00 p.m. Glimpse into the Entrepreneur Program
12:15 p.m. Lunch with young entrepreneurs
1:00 p.m. Keynote
2:00 p.m. Adjournment

Please let us know whether or not your school would like to participate and I will follow up with more specific information about what activities and workshops we will have. If you are no longer the current business teacher or BPA advisor, please pass this information onto the new advisor or an activities coordinator at the school. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me. Thank you very much for your time.

Regards,

Audrey Lee
Communications & PR
MSU College of Business
PO Box 173040
Bozeman, MT 59717-3040
P 406.994.7026
F 406.994.6206
www.montana.edu/cob

Nominations Being Accepted for MBEA Awards

Montana Business Education Association (www.mbea.info) is seeking nominations for its 2011 Awards Program. Please considering nominating a fellow business educator for recognition next fall during the MBEA-Montana ACTE Fall Institute in Great Falls.

Categories include Rookie Business Teacher of the Year (1 year), Young Business Teacher of the Year (5 years or less), Secondary Business Teacher of the Year, Post-Secondary Business Teacher of the Year (2-year), Collegiate Business Teacher of the Year (4-year), as well as two Distinguished Service Awards: Outstanding Contributions to Business Education by an Administrator of Business Education and Outstanding Contributions to Business Education by an individual associated with an institution involved in Business Education.

Letters of nomination can be sent to Janie McFarland at janiehmcfarland@yahoo.com. Please submit nominations by September 15.

On This Day in History . . .

September 14

1901: 42-year-old Theodore Roosevelt is suddenly elevated to the White House when President McKinley dies from an assassin's bullet

1974: Eric Clapton's *I Shot the Sheriff* hits #1 on the music charts; the song was written by Bob Marley

1982: Princess Grace of Monaco—the American-born former film star Grace Kelly—dies at the age of 52 from injuries suffered after her car plunged off a mountain road near Monte Carlo

September 15

1890: Author Agatha Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express*, is born

1978: Muhammad Ali defeats Leon Spinks at the Louisiana Superdome to earn his third world heavyweight title

1979: Led Zeppelin scored their sixth US #1 album when 'In Through The Out Door' started a seven-week run at the top of the charts

(just a bit of *Zepp*tember history for you)

September 16

1620: The *Mayflower* sails from Plymouth, England, bound for the New World with 102 passengers; the ship was headed for Virginia

1908: Buick Motor Company head William Durant spends \$2,000 to incorporate General Motors in New Jersey

1940: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Selective Service and Training Act, which requires all male citizens between 26 and 35 to register for the military draft

1978: Boston went to No.1 on the US album chart with *Don't Look Back*

September 17

1787: The Constitution of the United States of America is signed by 38 of 41 delegates present at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia

1931, The first 33¹/₃ LP players were launched by RCA Victor

1976: NASA publicly unveils its first space shuttle, the *Enterprise*, during a ceremony in Palmdale, California

September 18

1793: George Washington lays the cornerstone to the United States Capitol building

1981: The West Edmonton Mall's 20,000-car parking lot makes *Guinness Book of World Records* as the largest parking lot in the world

1984: David Bowie won Video of the year for 'China Girl' at the first MTV Video awards.

September 19

1957: the United States detonates a 1.7 kiloton nuclear weapon in an underground tunnel at the Nevada Test Site; known as Rainier,

the test was the first fully contained underground detonation and produced no radioactive fallout

1988: American diver Greg Louganis wins gold in the springboard competition at the Summer Olympics, in Seoul, South Korea

1995: A manifesto by the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski, is published by *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*

September 20

1519: Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan sets sail from Spain to find a western sea route to the rich Spice Islands of Indonesia

1934: Sofia Villani Scicolone, later known to the world as the actress and screen siren Sophia Loren, is born in Rome, Italy

1973: In a highly publicized "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match, top women's player Billie Jean King, 29,

beats Bobby Riggs, 55, a former No. 1 ranked men's player
1973, On his way to perform his second concert of the day, US singer, songwriter Jim Croce was killed with five others when his chartered aircraft hit a tree on take off in Louisiana

Register Your BPA Membership Today

The Business Professionals of America Online Membership Registration System opened on Friday, August 26. Register your chapter members today and prepare to *Reach New Heights* with BPA during the 2011-2012 school year.

To access the online membership registration system please go to <http://www.registermychapter.com/bpamem/> and enter your username and password.

Membership dues for this year are \$12.00 per member/advisor for National-level dues and \$8.00 for State-level dues.

If you do not remember your username and/or password or if you are taking over as a chapter advisor please let me know and I will email you the information.

Please note members must be registered by November 1 and all members must be registered in order to compete at the regional, state, and national levels.

The 2012 Business Professionals of America WSAP is Ready for Download

The [Workplace Skills Assessment Program 2012 Download Center](#) is now open. The [WSAP Guidelines](#) for each division have been published, along with related documents.

Members and advisors can also download the documents individually. However, be sure to download the WSAP Guidelines in full to review the 2012 general info, guidelines, and deadlines.

The Workplace Skills Assessment Program 2012 Download Center, is available under the Compete tab of the National BPA website, www.bpa.org, or directly at <http://www.bpa.org/compete/eventdownload>.

Montana BPA 2011 Design Contests Looking for the Creative & Inspired Montana BPA Members

Again this year the Montana association of Business Professionals of America is inviting all Montana BPA members to submit entries for the three design competitions: [NLC Trading Pin](#), [State Conference Program Cover](#), and [Montana BPA T-Shirt](#).

Contest details, design specifications, and submission dues dates and procedures can be found on the [Advisor Manual page](#) of the Montana BPA website (www.bpamt.org).

Montana DECA Fall Advisor Meeting Sunday

Montana DECA advisors, don't forget....the Fall Advisor Meeting will be held this Sunday, this September 18, at Capital High School in Helena. The meeting will start at 9:30 am and run until 5 pm and lunch will be provided.

If you haven't RSVP'd to Erin, erinweisgerber@yahoo.com, yet, please do so right away. See you there!

DECA/DeVry Deadline Quickly Approaching

The DECA/DeVry Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge deadline is Monday, October 3.

Students are asked to present their project to DeVry faculty, administrators and executives via videos posted on YouTube.

Additional details can be found on the DECA.org website or directly at <http://www.deca.org/events/62/>.

Register Students Today for Opportunities Tomorrow

If you are interested in any DECA Conferences (New York Experience, Sports & Entertainment Conference, etc.), please remember all students attending must be registered and paid through the Online Membership System prior to their Conference Registration.

If you have any questions concerning the new online system, please contact Erin at erinweisgerber@yahoo.com.

Eric Swenson

Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov