

The Wednesday Reader

January 18, 2012

Business Challenge and Stock Market Game Simulations Scheduled to Begin for 2012 Spring Semester

The spring semester 2012 competition of the Montana High School Business Challenge and Stock Market Game simulations are scheduled to begin February 15 and February 21, 2012, respectively.

Following is information regarding each simulation:

HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS CHALLENGE

The High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education, is an eight-week simulation, in which the students are managing a compact blu-ray player manufacturing company. Decisions are made once a week, with each decision representing one quarter in the lifecycle of the business.

Students are required to make decisions in the areas of price, plant size, amount of production, advertising, human resources, etc. The team that has the highest overall stock price determines the 'winner'.

A \$1,000 per student college scholarship is awarded for the first place team, \$500 scholarship per student for the second place team, and a \$250 scholarship per student for the third place team.

The first input is February 15, 2012, concluding on April 18, 2012.

To register for the **Business Challenge**, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, February 8.**

PLEASE NOTE: Teachers that have not previously participated need to attend a mandatory training session, at no charge. An online webinar training session will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 31-February 1. Each session begins at 4:15 p.m., concluding by 5:45 p.m. **If you are interested in participating but haven't been trained, please contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu as soon as possible, and he will then forward you the webinar registration link.**

STOCK MARKET GAME

The Stock Market Game, sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education, is a ten-week simulation, in which students are given a hypothetical \$100,000 dollars to invest in the stock market. Students must have at least five separate stocks and/or mutual funds at the end of the simulation, so research and diversification are crucial for success.

Prizes are awarded for the top three teams having the highest ending portfolio value. The first place team will receive \$200, the second place team \$150, and the third place team \$100. Trading begins on Tuesday, February 21st and concludes on Thursday, April 26.

Teachers that have not participated in the Stock Market Game are encouraged to attend a free one and one-half hour webinar which will be held on Thursday, February 15, beginning at 4:15 p.m. Information on how the simulation works, registration, using it in class, etc. will be discussed. For more information and the link to the webinar registration, please contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu or by telephone, 994-2263, as soon as possible.

To register for the **Stock Market Game**, go to the SMG webpage, www.stockmarketgame.org, and click on the link in the upper right hand corner of the page labeled 'How to Register.' Follow the instructions to complete your registration. **Registration deadline is Friday, February 17.**

Tim is looking forward to once again working with you who have previously participated in the simulations, and am excited to meet and work with those participating for the first time.

If you have any questions or if Tim can provide additional information, please be sure to contact him via email, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263.

[Family Economics & Financial Education \(FEFE\) 2012 National Training Grant Opportunity](#)

The [2012 Family Economics & Financial Education \(FEFE\) National Training](#) will take place June 25-28 at the [Omni Tucson National Resort](#). FEFE, in conjunction with their partners, is committed to helping educators receive support to attend FEFE trainings. Take Charge America offers grants annually to attend the FEFE National Training. **The Empowering Future Generations Grant application will be available January 23.** FEFE has also developed resources to help educators receive local funding support; check out our [Building Local Partners Page](#). FEFE hopes to see you in June!

Thank you to Take Charge America, Inc. for once again generously providing financial support so that FEFE can offer educators training with greatly subsidized registration fees as well as staff support to provide ready-to-teach, free-of-charge curriculum for the 2012 National Training.

The 2012 Grant (Valued at \$1,100) Includes:

- Curriculum valued at \$550
 - "Take Charge of Your Finances" semester curriculum
 - "Get Ready to Take Charge" lessons
 - Best Practices binder
- Training registration fee valued at \$550, which covers
 - Meals - All breakfasts, lunches, breaks and one dinner
 - Lodging - 4 nights (Sunday, June 24, 2012 – Wednesday, June 27, 2012) in a shared room with one individual. Single rooms available for a fee

Expenses not included in the grant which participants may incur include:

- Single lodging rooms available for a fee
- Lodging for additional nights
- Some dinners
- Travel expenses

All additional expenses vary depending upon the individual arrangements made.

For more information with planning your costs, check out our interactive spending plan. ***Coming soon!***

2012 Grant Recipient Requirements

- **Pre-training:** Completion of all grant recipient requirements on or before their deadlines including the contract and deposit, travel arrangements and completion of approximately 8-10 hours of readings and reflections before the training.
- **During the training:** Must attend and actively participate in *all* sessions of "Empowering Future Generations." The training will begin at 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 25, 2012 and conclude at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 28, 2012.
 - Please do not make flight reservations before 2:00 p.m. on June 28. Depending on flights, this may require that you stay an additional night.
- **Post-training:** Completion of an on-line survey in Fall 2012.
- **Post-training recommendation:** Must be willing to be a mentor in home state. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting curriculum workshops and guiding educators who want to teach family financial education. FEFE has free materials available to support educators in this role.

2012 Grant Applications will be available January 23!

To learn more about the Family Economics & Financial Education (FEFE) Project visit <http://fefe.arizona.edu/>. To learn more about the training, visit the [FEFE National Educator Training page](#).

2012 National Training Registration coming soon!

Distribution of Approved 2010-2011 School Year Big Sky Pathways

During the Big Sky Pathways Next Steps Workshops in Great Falls, Havre, Kalispell, Billings, and Miles City the Pathways developed last year (during the 2010-2011 school year) and approved by the associated postsecondary partner, the OPI Specialist, and the Office of the Commission of High Education were distributed to the high schools if a representative was present.

The approved Pathways developed with University of Montana-Missoula College of Technology, University of Montana-Helena College of Technology, and Montana Tech College of Technology were to have been mailed from the Office of the Commission of High Education to the high schools in care of the school's counselor the week of December 19, 2011.

Additionally, if a high schools representative was not present at the Next Steps Workshops when the approved Pathways were distributed these Pathways will also be mailed to the high school in care of the school's counselor.

Therefore, if you did not get a copy of your Pathway(s) and the signed assurances form(s), please check with your school's counseling office.

If you have any questions about this procedure, please contact Jeannie Origbo at jorigbo@montana.edu.

Not to Worry, Aliens are not Holding Your Gap Analysis Spreadsheet Files Captive in Cyberspace

Prior to the Christmas break and again this week, many of the Gap Analysis spreadsheet files completed by the postsecondary faculty have been emailed out to partnering high school business and marketing educators.

Currently, there are still some Gap Analysis spreadsheet files needing to be completed by postsecondary faculty and emailed to me before they can be sent out to high school business and marketing educators.

Those still needing to be completed and/or sent to me are

- Flathead Valley Community College
 - All programs/pathways

- Montana State University-Billings College of Technology
 - Accounting program/pathway
 - Information Technology programs/pathways

- Montana State University-Northern
 - Business Technology program

- Montana Tech College of Technology
 - Information Technology programs/pathways

- University of Montana-Helena College of Technology
 - All programs/pathways

As soon as I receive the above Gap Analysis spreadsheets I will email them out to the appropriate high school business and marketing educators.

January 2012 Montana ACTE Newsletter Ready for You

The latest edition of the Montana Association for Career & Technical Education newsletter is available for all to download, read, and share.

The [January 2012 Montana ACTE Newsletter](#) can be downloaded from the Montana ACTE website, www.montanaacte.org.

Focus on Health Video Contest Deadline Draws Near

Calling all students enrolled in Montana K-12 schools! Are you interested in gaining notoriety and possibly a cash award for your school? Look no further. The **Focus on Health** video competition has arrived!

The Montana Team Nutrition Program is looking for student-made videos that feature examples of healthy eating, active living, and an overall healthy school environment. We are calling on students enrolled in K-12 Montana schools to take part. Through this video contest, your school, organization, or club will have the opportunity to win a cash prize gain statewide recognition, and have your video featured at statewide events.

Videos can be about any school program that promotes student health and wellbeing through food and nutrition. These could include: improvements in the nutrition of foods available in school meals, healthy snack options (vending, concessions, student stores, etc.), Farm-to-School programs, increased opportunity for physical activity, expanded school breakfast programs and healthy school fundraising programs.

The video submission deadline is January 31, 2012.

For more information, official rules, and registration form, visit: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/FocusOnHealthVideoContest/>.

Questions can be directed to Aubree Durfey, Farm to School Assistant, Montana Team Nutrition at aubreedurfey@gmail.com or (406) 994-5640.

Turning BPA Trading Pins Into \$scholarship Dollars—The Merit Group Scholarship Opportunity

Merit Group and WILDPINS.COM (the company who makes the Montana BPA NLC trading pins) are awarding numerous scholarships worth up to \$1000-\$2500 for tuition, books, computers, printers, or anything else to help recipients attend school and continue moving forward in each individual's life. Any student (or parent of a student) currently enrolled or will be enrolled the next school year in a trade-school, college, or university program is eligible to apply for the Merit Group Scholarship Program.

Who should apply?

Any student (or parent of a student) that is a legal resident of the United States and is currently enrolled or will be enrolled the next school year in a trade-school, college, or university program is eligible to apply for the Merit Scholarship Program.

When are scholarships awarded?

Merit Scholarships are awarded throughout the year. Scholarship applications must be received by the 1st of each month in order to be eligible for the scholarship awards for that month. Any application received after the 1st will be eligible for the following month for up to one year (after which you must reapply).

More details about the Merit Group Scholarship program and to apply visit http://themeritgroup.biz/page.php?cm=cmd_page&_pageid=scholarship.

APPLY today as only a limited number of scholarships are awarded each month!

Calling All Shutterbugs—The Alaska Airlines & Horizon Airlines Magazine 2012 Photo Contest

Alaska Airlines Magazine and *Horizon Edition Magazine* are now accepting entries for our 2012 Photo Contest, and we invite you to give us your best shots. Whether you are an amateur or professional photographer, you may submit up to three images. Entries may include natural scenics, urban landscapes, wildlife shots or human-interest photos.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) entries—

First Prize

Two first-class tickets valid to any destination served by Alaska Airlines, including Alaska, the Lower 48, Canada, Mexico and Hawaii.

Second Prize

Two coach-class tickets valid to any destination served by Alaska Airlines, including Alaska, the Lower 48, Canada, Mexico and Hawaii.

Third Prize

Two coach-class tickets valid to any destination served by Alaska Airlines in the continental United States or Canada.

Entries must be postmarked by February 15, 2012.

In addition to awarding prizes for the top three photographs, the magazines will publish the top 10 finalists in the May 2012 issues.

For more details and to submit your photos visit http://www.paradigmco.com/2012_Photo_Contest.pdf.

Experience the History of Boston at the NBEA 2012 Annual Convention & Trade Show

The National Business Education Association's 2012 Annual Convention & Trade Show will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, April 3-7, 2012. With over 70 concurrent sessions, 26 technology workshops, three general sessions, a trade show, and numerous networking opportunities, you can't afford to miss the largest educational convention devoted to business education.

Visit www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/convention for registration and housing information. Early-bird registration ends March 14.

MCEE Presents Introduction To Economic Learning Modules (ELMs)—Plus!

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](http://www.montana.edu/economic) announces an Economic Ed Seminar to be held February in Missoula.

Introduction to Economic Learning Modules (ELMs)—Plus! Is a workshop for Social Studies, Math, Accounting, Economics, and Business Teachers in Missoula at the Wingate Inn, February 9-10, 2012.

The Seminar will offer attendees either [High School Business Challenge](#) training or Inventing and [Stock Market Game](#) training as well as [Economic Learning Modules \(ELMs\)](#) training on the Scarcity/Opportunity Costs, Exchange and Trade, Prices, Supply and Demand, and Market Equilibrium ELMs.

Attendees can earn four (4) OPI Renewal Units for participating in either the [High School Business Challenge](#) training or Inventing and [Stock Market Game](#) training and eight (8) OPI Renewal Units for participating in the [Economic Learning Modules](#) training.

Seminar, materials, sleeping rooms, substitutes, 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](http://www.montana.edu/economic) website at www.econedmontana.org. Registrations must be received by February

Next Steps Workshop Follow-Up—The Who, What, & When of Submitting Pathways-Related Materials for the 2011-2012 School Year

The eight Big Sky Pathways Next Steps Workshops have been completed. During the workshops, both secondary and postsecondary attendees began the Gap Analysis process by comparing the coursework of their Pathway courses with the Cluster- and Pathway-level Knowledge and Skills Statements from the National Career Clusters (www.careertech.org). The Gap Analysis seeks to provide documentation the various knowledge and skills of a pathway are being covered within the Pathway's coursework at either the secondary or postsecondary level, and in some cases both.

Below is the timeline and procedures outlining this year's submittal, review, and approval process.

Friday, December 2, 2011	Postsecondary Faculty submit Gap Analysis information to OPI Specialists
Friday, February 3, 2012	High Schools submit to Postsecondary Partner with High School CTE Teacher, Counselor, & Principal Review signature
Friday, March 2, 2012	Postsecondary Partner submits to OPI Specialist with College Lead Faculty and Chief Academic Officer Review Signatures
Friday, April 6, 2012	OPI Specialist submits to OCHE for review and approval
Friday, May 4, 2012	Agreement form returned to Secondary and Postsecondary schools with OCHE Deputy Commissioner Review and Approval

The Approval for this year has been modified/updated from the form used last year so be sure to use the new form (dated October 2011). When submitting for approval this year, please include the following materials/documents:

- Completed Pathway Template if developing a new Pathway or revising/updating your approved Pathway from last year (if not developing a new or revising/updating last year's Pathway, then you will just need to submit last year's Pathway as is)
- Completed Gap Analysis
- [2012-2013 Completed Agreement Form](#)

The [Request for Big Sky Pathway Approval form](#) to be submitted can be downloaded from the Big Sky Pathways page of the CTE section of the OPI website: http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_3.

Submitting Big Sky Pathways & Postsecondary Coordinator Point of Contacts Information

This year, the necessary documents/materials needed for Big Sky Pathway/Gap Analysis review and approval are to be submitted electronically to each postsecondary partner's Big Sky Pathway Point of Contact. Below is the listing of the contact person and email address for each partnering postsecondary institution.

Postsecondary Partner	Big Sky Pathway Coordinator	E-mail Address
Dawson Community College	Jim Cargill, DCC President	jcargill@dawson.edu
Flathead Valley Community College	Jeremy Fritz	jfritz@fvcc.edu
Fort Peck Community College	Craig Smith	csmith@fpcc.edu
Gallatin College Programs	Nicole Berg	nicole.berg@montana.edu
Miles Community College	Shelly Weight	weights@milescc.edu
MSU-Billings COT	Tammy Miller	tmiller@msubillings.edu
MSU-Great Falls COT	Heidi Pasek	hpasek@msugf.edu
MSU-Northern	Larry Strizich	strizich@msun.edu
Montana Tech COT	Denise Peterson-Elakovich	delakovich@mtech.edu
UM-Helena COT	Jennifer Shade	jennifer.schade@umhelena.edu
UM-Missoula COT	Kevin Brockbank	Kevin.Brockbank2@mso.umt.edu

When preparing to submit this year's work for approval, please be sure to have the following three (3) items completed:

- The completed Pathway Template if developing a new Pathway or revising/updating your approved Pathway from last year (if not developing a new or revising/updating last year's Pathway, then you will just need to submit last year's Pathway as-is)
 - If developing a new Pathway or revising the Pathway approved last year, please use the new [Big Sky Pathways Proposal Templates](#) which can be downloaded from the OPI website at http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_3
- The completed Gap Analysis spreadsheet with the data for the High School and Postsecondary courses
Remember: Gap Analysis spreadsheets must include the combined Postsecondary Gap Analysis data with your High School data
- The [2012-2013 Completed Agreement Form](#)
 - The [2012-2013 Completed Agreement Form](#) can be download from the OPI website at http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/BSP/12_13BSPApproval.pdf
 - Remember, the Approval/Agreement Form for this year has been modified/updated from the form used last year so be sure to use the new form (dated October 2011)

The target date to have all your Big Sky Pathways work completed and submitted for this year is Friday, February 3, 2012.

Lastly, just a reminder your course descriptions will continue to be submitted when you complete your Participation Reports in the Spring.

[Links to the Big Sky Pathways Gap Analysis Templates & Pathway Proposal Templates](#)

During the Big Sky Pathways Next Steps Workshops attendees are provided with hard copies of the pathway-specific Gap Analysis templates and copies of the new Big Sky Pathway Proposal Template.

Both of these items are also available in electronic format and can be downloaded for completion and submission.

The Gap Analysis worksheets can be found on OCHE's Workforce Development page at <http://mus.edu/wd/Assets/BigSkyPathways/BSPGap.asp>. The worksheets are grouped by Career Cluster so please be sure to download the worksheet for your Pathway's program of study.

Should wish to submit a new Pathway, or revise one created last year, the Big Sky Pathway Proposal Templates can be found on the [Big Sky Pathways page](#) of the Secondary CTE section on the OPI website at http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#p7GPc1_3.

If you are not sure which Gap Analysis worksheet(s) and/or Big Sky Pathway Proposal Template(s) to use, just give me a holler.

[Information on Montana's Statewide Articulations](#)

Information about the [Statewide Articulation \(START\) agreements](#) and end-of-course assessments can be found on Workforce Development page of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) website at <http://mus.edu/wd/START.asp>.

Here you find the details about the various [Statewide Articulations \(START\)](#) discussed during the Big Sky Pathways meetings this fall as well as the form to register with OCHE as an instructor wanting to provide students with the opportunity to gain the START college credits.

Each START agreement provides details pertaining to the course outcomes, assessment procedures, assessment registration information (if applicable), and the awarded of earned credit(s).

Within Business and Marketing Education there are eight (8) START agreements—

- ACTG 101 Accounting Procedures I
- CAPP 120 Introduction to Computers
- CAPP 154 Microsoft Word
- CAPP 156 Microsoft Excel
- ITS 140 Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA): Discovery 1
- ITS 142 Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA): Discovery 2
- ITS 150 Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA): Exploration 1
- ITS 140 Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA): Exploration 2

Students who complete the coursework at the high school level can take the assessment identified within each START agreement and be eligible to gain college credit from a participating postsecondary institution should they pass the assessment.

In order to receive the credit(s), students must complete one academic term at a postsecondary institution where the course is offered. After students successfully complete the academic term, the earned START credit(s) will then be awarded and the grade of "Pass" will appear on the transcript.

Please note: If a student enrolls with a postsecondary institution where the course is not offered then the credit(s) cannot be awarded. For example, if a student passes the ACTG 101 Accounting Procedures I assessment and enrolls with MSU-Bozeman, the START credits cannot be awarded as ACTG 101 Accounting Procedure I is not a course offered by MSU-Bozeman.

Participation in the Statewide Articulation process is at the discretion of local school district and/or classroom teacher and is not a requirement for Perkins and/or State Career and Vocational/Technical funding nor required for Big Sky Pathway approval.

Career Clusters: The New Website/URL

The Career Clusters Website has been incorporated into the site for the National Association for State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) and the new URL is www.careertech.org.

Information about Career Clusters can be found under the Career Cluster button. The [Career Cluster page](http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters/) (<http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters/>) offers direct access to a wide-range of Career Cluster-related resources including the Knowledge and Skills Charts and Statements.

Within the realm of Business and Marketing Education, our Clusters and Pathways fall under the [Business Management & Administration](#), [Finance](#), [Information Technology](#), and [Marketing](#) cluster.

On This Day in History . . .

January 18

- 1778: English explorer Captain James Cook becomes the first European to discover the Hawaiian Islands when he sails past the island of Oahu; two days later, he landed at Waimea on the island of Kauai and named the island group the Sandwich Islands, in honor of John Montague, who was the earl of Sandwich
- 1083: President Thomas Jefferson sends a special confidential message to Congress asking for money to fund the journey of Lewis and Clark
- 1969: The Beatles release the soundtrack to their animated film *Yellow Submarine*

January 19

- 1809: Poet, author and literary critic Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston, Massachusetts
- 1974: University of Notre Dame men's basketball team defeats UCLA 71-70 in South Bend, Indiana, snapping UCLA's record-setting 88-game winning streak
- 2005: Green Day top the U.S. album charts for a second week with *American Idiot*
- 2007: First McDonald's drive-through opens in Beijing

January 20

- 1841: During the First Opium War, China cedes the island of Hong Kong to the British with the signing of the Chuenpi Convention, an agreement seeking an end to the first Anglo-Chinese conflict; Hong Kong handed back to China on July 1, 1997
- 1945: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only president to be elected to three terms in office, is inaugurated to his fourth term
- 1961: John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th president of the United States
- 1982: Ozzy Osbourne bites the head off a bat thrown onstage by a fan in Des Moines, Iowa

January 21

- 1924: Vladimir Lenin, the architect of the Bolshevik Revolution and the first leader of the Soviet Union, dies of a brain hemorrhage at the age of 54
- 2006: A plane carrying Bon Jovi skids off the runway at Hamilton International Airport in Canada; fortunately for hair metal, no one is injured
- 2009: Toyota officially passes GM as planet's biggest car maker; General Motors had been the world's largest automaker for more than 70 years

January 22

- 1901: Queen Victoria dies, ending her 63-year reign, the longest in British history
- 1972: Don McLean's album *American Pie* started a seven week run at No.1 in the US album chart
- 1998: In a Sacramento, California, courtroom, Theodore J. Kaczynski pleads guilty to all federal charges against him, acknowledging his responsibility for a 17-year campaign of package bombings attributed to the "Unabomber"
- 2010: Conan O'Brien hosts his final episode of *The Tonight Show*

January 23

- 1849: Elizabeth Blackwell is granted a medical degree from Geneva College in New York, becoming the first female to be officially recognized as a physician in U.S. history

- 1956 Rock 'n' Roll fans in Cleveland aged under 18 were banned from dancing in public (unless accompanied by an adult), after Ohio Police introduced a law dating back to 1931
- 1957: Machines at the Wham-O toy company roll out the first batch of their aerodynamic plastic discs--now known to millions of fans all over the world as Frisbees
- 1983: The television series *The A-Team* debuts on NBC

January 24

- 1848: A millwright named James Marshall discovers gold along the banks of Sutter's Creek in California, forever changing the course of history in the American West
- 1935: Canned beer makes its debut on this day in 1935 when the American Can Company, in partnership with the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company, delivered 2,000 cans of Krueger's Finest Beer and Krueger's Cream Ale to faithful Krueger drinkers in Richmond, Virginia
- 1972: After 28 years of hiding in the jungles of Guam, local farmers discover Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese sergeant who was unaware that World War II had ended
- 1980: A billboard is erected on Sunset Strip, West Hollywood, California to promote Pink Floyd's new album *The Wall*; every day workmen added another brick to the wall until it was finished

Whitefish DECA Chapter Receives National Recognition

Congratulations to Whitefish DECA and Jeremy Anderson, Chapter Advisor, for reaching the Peak Level in the 2011-2012 DECA Membership Campaign.

In order to reach this level, Whitefish DECA had to recruit at least 12 new members into their chapter. This is an outstanding accomplishment and one reached by less than 125 high schools across the country!!

The New Year is Off to a Busy Start for Montana DECA

Montana DECA is gearing up for the 2012 Montana DECA State Conference, February 12-14 in Helena! There are lots of dates and deadlines coming up in the next few weeks for Chapter Advisors. If there are any questions about any of the dates and deadlines, please let Erin Weisgerber (erinweisgerber@yahoo.com) right away.

January 13

- State Conference Registration due to Erin Weisgerber
- State Conference Hotel lists due to the Red Lion
- Montana DECA Membership Registration AND Payment deadline
- School Based Enterprises Submission and Recertification deadline (<http://www.deca.org/sbe/certification/>)

January 20

- DECA Scholarship Deadline (<http://www.deca.org/scholarships>)

January 27

- Written Events due to the Montana DECA P.O. Box (NOT postmarked!!)

February 3

- Last day for Competitive Event Changes (drop charges apply for any changes after this date)

State BPA Conference Registration Now Open

The Online Conference Registration System for the 2012 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference opened Monday, January 9. The 2012 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference will be held March 11-13 in Billings.

To access the 2012 Montana BPA SLC online registration, log on to <http://www.registermychapter.com/bpamem/>, click on 'Leadership Conference Registration Log In' and enter your chapter advisor username and password (the same one you used to register for dues), and from the list select the 2012 Montana State Conference—*Secondary* or *Postsecondary*.

The registration fee for the 2012 State Leadership Conference is \$45.00. This fee includes a conference T-shirt, Monday's lunch, Monday night's dance, Tuesday morning advisors' breakfast, top notch keynote address, and use of conference facilities. All students, advisors, and chaperones must pay the registration fee to attend the conference. Each chapter must complete the registration form and register for competitive events online by February 7, 2012.

State Leadership Conference registration is due February 7, 2012. There will be no refunds for cancellations. Registrations received after February 7 **WILL NOT** receive T-shirts as part of the registration fee. The late Registration Rate is \$60 for any chapter submitting its registration materials after February 7

State Leadership Conference registration is directly linked to national/state membership. Students and advisors must be registered members with Nationals before they can be registered as a state conference competitor or attendee.

Montana BPA State Leadership Conference Dates to Note

January 27

- Corporate Sponsor information due to Anza Ketterman, Executive Secretary

February 7

- State Conference Registration Due via the [Online Conference Registration System](#)
- State Competitive Event Presubmission Materials Submitted via the [Judged Events Pre-Submission System](#)
- State Competitive Event Software Needs Emailed to Julie O'Dell, Competitive Events Coordinator
- Statesman Torch Award Résumés Completed and Submitted for Review via the [Torch Awards Online System](#)
- State Officer Candidate Materials Postmarked to Eric Swenson, State Advisor
- Montana BPA Scholarship Applications Postmarked to Eric Swenson, State Advisor
- State Conference Intern Applications Submitted to Eric Swenson, State Advisor

February 8

- Deadline for Making Holiday Inn Reservations & Submitting Rooming Lists
Use booking code "BPA" to get the conference rate

February 24

- Silver Star Award Application Materials Postmarked to Eric Swenson, State Advisor

February 24

- Last Day for Event Drops/Registration Changes

February 27

- Deadline for Making Billings Hotel Reservations & Submitting Rooming Lists
Use booking code "BPA12" to get the conference rate

March 11-13

- 2012 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference, Billings

Judge Judy, Judge Wapner, Judge Joe Brown . . . Molly is Looking for Judges

Molly Barta is looking for judges. Our 2012 State Leadership Conference Judged Events Recruiter is now accepting names and contact information for individuals who would be interested in volunteering to judge for the State BPA conference.

If you have names and emails of potential judges, please send them to Molly at bartam@billingssschools.org.

Montana BPA Winter 2011 Newsletter Available on the Montana BPA Website

The Montana BPA State Officers have finished the [Winter 2011 Montana BPA Newsletter](#) and it is now available for downloading and sharing on the [Montana BPA website, www.bpamt.org](http://www.bpamt.org).

The Winter 2011 issue includes a calendar of Montana BPA events, details about running for a state office, ideas for fundraising, information about the 2012 State Leadership Conference keynote, the announcement and specifics relating to the proposed amendments to the Montana BPA Constitution, as well as articles about Forsyth High School's Brooke Channel winning the National Organization for Youth Safety logo contest, the Montana BPA Spirit of Professionalism award, MSU College of Business's Entrepreneurship Day, Rocky Mountain College's BPA Day, and writing scholarship essays.

Visit www.bpamt.org today and download the [Winter 2011 Montana BPA Newsletter](#) and share it with your chapter members and school administrators today.

[Are You Ready to Start Budgeting for NLC?](#)

The 2012 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference is April 25-29 in Chicago, Illinois.

This year, members will be able to *Reach New Heights* while exploring the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Windy City. Details about the 2012 NLC can be found on the BPA National Leadership Conference website at <http://www.bpa.org/nlc/>. Below are some preliminary budgetary numbers for some early planning.

NLC Registration

- Early Registration Opens February 24 & Closes April 1
- Member (Student & Advisor) Rate: \$115.00
- Guest Rate: \$80.00

NLC Hotel

- Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 Wacker Street, Chicago
- 1-2 persons/room: \$222.00
- 3-4 persons/room: \$232.00
- Rooms subject to 15.4% tax

Airport Shuttle

- [Go Airport Express: www.airportexpress.com/](http://www.airportexpress.com/)
- Discount Code: "BPA"
- Discount Amount: \$3 off one-way, \$6 off roundtrip
- Discounted Fare From/To O'Hare: \$59.00 roundtrip per person with Shared Van Service
- Discounted Fare From/To Midway: \$56.00 roundtrip per person with Shared Van Service

Past issues of the 2011-2012 school year's Wednesday Reader are now archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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