

The Wednesday Reader

January 25, 2012

MBEA Website Gets a Facelift

The website for Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) has been revised by the Baker High School Computer Apps III class. The new website was launched Thursday, January 19.

Please visit www.mbea.info to check out the website's new look.

Thank you MBEA President Scott Anderson and his students for designing and maintaining the MBEA site.

FEFE 2012 National Training Grants Now Available

Grant applications are now available for the [2012 Family Economics & Financial Education \(FEFE\) National Training](#). The FEFE 2012 Empowering Future Generations National Educator Training will take place June 25-28 at the [Omni Tucson National Resort](#). Grant applications and application details are available on the FEFE website (www.fefe.arizona.edu) at fefe.arizona.edu/pro-dev/training/national-training/grants.

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.

Eligibility

Classroom educators who actively teach or will be teaching junior high or high school financial education are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to those who have not previously received a grant to attend the National Training.

All [2012 Empowering Future Generations National Educator Training grant applications](#) must be submitted electronically by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on February 17, 2012.

The 17th Annual Montana Economics Challenge

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) are pleased to announce the 17th Annual Montana Economics Challenge. The 2012 Montana Economics Challenge will be held Monday, March 5 in Helena at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel.

The Federal Reserve Bank invites Montana high school teachers of social studies, government, economics, business, and enrichment programs to assemble teams of students to compete in a challenging array of tests covering economic concepts, issues and reasoning.

The purpose of the Economics Challenge is to increase students' exposure to and interest in economics in an entertaining atmosphere. The Economics Challenge began in 1988 as a product of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis became involved in 1992 when it sponsored a playoff round for the winning schools from the state's various regional centers for economic education. The Helena Branch participated for the first time in 1996 when, along with the MCEE, it held the first Economics Challenge in Montana.

Teams are comprised of their coach and up to a maximum of four students, who compete individually and as a team. Essentially, each participant takes a 15-question, multiple-choice test in each of the following three areas: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and International Trade and Economics. To determine team scores, the top three individuals' scores in each category are combined. The top two teams after the first three rounds will compete against each other in a buzzer round on Current Events to determine the final winner. Awards for top scores are given to individuals and to teams. Please keep in mind that each school may have more than one team and that it's not necessary for a school to offer a general economics class to compete in the Challenge.

The Federal Reserve Bank will cover costs associated with the Montana Challenge, including refreshments, breakfast, the luncheon, awards, and test facilitation. The Montana Bankers Association will cover lodging expenses on Sunday, March 4 for teams who wish to travel to Helena the day before the Challenge and the MCEE will cover costs for a substitute teacher on March 5. There will not be a regional competition for 2012 but instead a semi-final round which will be a proctored exam taken at the state champion's school. The National Economics Challenge will be held in New York on Sunday, May 20.

Registration for the 2012 Montana Economics Challenge ends February 17. Additional details, including registration information, will be available on the Montana Council on Economic Education website (www.econedmontana.edu) and can be obtained by contacting Rhonda Krieger at the Federal Reserve's Helena Branch at 800.823.4233, ext. 73864 or at Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org.

Let Your Students' Financial Skills Shine with the National Financial Capability Challenge

High school teachers are encouraged to sign up for the National Financial Capability Challenge. Sponsored annually by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Education, the Challenge is a **free**, online series of financial questions for high school students to test their knowledge of earning, spending, saving, borrowing, risk protection, and more.

Teachers who sign up now will receive tools and resources to help prepare students for the Challenge and for future financial success. The top two (2) scorers at each school, plus all students scoring in the top 20%, will receive National Financial Capability Challenge Award certificates. All participating educators will receive an official certificate as well.

For more information and to register click to challenge.treas.gov. The Challenge will run from March 12 through April 13, 2012.

The MyCollegeOptions Scholarship Search is a Free Tool for Students Looking for Funds

The [MyCollegeOptions Scholarship Search](http://www.mycollegeoptions.org/home) provides students access to over 60,000 scholarships using the free online scholarship searching tool. From My College Options (www.mycollegeoptions.org/home) the [MyCollegeOptions Scholarship Search](http://www.mycollegeoptions.org/home) lists a wide range of scholarships including academic, merit-based, corporate, and private organization scholarships.

Visit www.mycollegeoptions.org/home to see what other resources MyCollegeOptions has available for teachers, students, and parents.

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.

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.

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
Montana Tech COT
UM-Helena COT
UM-Missoula COT

Larry Strizich
Denise Peterson-Elakovich
Jennifer Shade
Kevin Brockbank

strizich@msun.edu
delakovich@mtech.edu
jennifer.schade@umhelena.edu
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 25

1924: The first Winter Olympics take off in style at Chamonix in the French Alps

1961: President John F. Kennedy becomes the first U.S. president to hold a live televised news conference

1962: RCA Records release Sam Cooke's *Twistin' the Night Away*, which will become the soul singer's 15th top 40 hit

2006: Motley Crue receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

January 26

1950: The Indian constitution takes effect, making the Republic of India the most populous democracy in the world

1965: *Downtown* by Petula Clark was at No. 1 on the U.S. singles chart

1979: *The Dukes of Hazzard* and the General Lee debuts on CBS

1986: The Chicago Bears score a Super Bowl record number of points to defeat the New England Patriots, 46-10, and win their first championship since 1963 in Super Bowl XX

January 27

1785: The Georgia General Assembly incorporates the University of Georgia, the first state-funded institution of higher learning in the new republic

1888: The National Geographic Society is founded in Washington, D.C., for "the increase and diffusion of geographical knowledge"

1956: Elvis Presley releases his first No. 1 single, *Heartbreak Hotel*; the release is timed to coincide with his first appearance on national TV, on the *Stage Show*, hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey the following day

1973: The United States, South Vietnam, Viet Cong, and North Vietnam formally sign the Paris Peace Accords, "An Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam"

January 28

1959: The Green Bay Packers sign Vince Lombardi to a five-year contract as the team's coach and general manager

1985: Organized by legendary global record producer Quincy Jones, American recording artists gather to record *We Are the World*

1986: The space shuttle *Challenger* explodes just after liftoff on this day in 1986, killing the seven astronauts aboard, including New Hampshire teacher Christa McAuliffe

January 29

1845: Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem *The Raven* is published

1861: Kansas is admitted to the Union as the 34th state and as a free state

1936: The U.S. Baseball Hall of Fame elects its first members in Cooperstown, New York: Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Matthewson and Walter Johnson

1962: Peter, Paul and Mary sign their first recording contract

January 30

1933: President Paul von Hindenburg names Adolf Hitler, leader or *Führer* of the National Socialist German Workers Party (or Nazi Party), as chancellor of Germany

1948: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, is assassinated in New Delhi by a Hindu fanatic

1969: The Beatles performed for the last time as a group on the roof of Apple Records in London

1991: American and Iraqi soldiers fought the first major ground battle of the Persian Gulf War in the Saudi Arabian border town of Khafji

January 31

1865: The U.S. House of Representatives passes the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery in America

1981: Blondie went to No.1 on the U.S. singles chart with *The Tide Is High*, the group's third U.S. No. 1

1988: The Washington Redskins defeat the Denver Broncos 42-10 in Super Bowl XXII played in San Diego

1990: The Soviet Union's first McDonald's fast food restaurant opens in Moscow

Application Forms for Interview Skills & Advanced Interview Skills

Members competing in Interview Skills and Advanced Interview Skills at the Montana BPA 2012 State Leadership Conference may use either the application form available on the [State Conference page](#) of the Montana BPA website or the application form available via the [Judged Event Pre-submission System](#).

If members choose to download and use the application form from the Montana BPA website, it must be submitted in PDF format.

Montana BPA Corporate Sponsors

If your chapter has recruited any new **corporate sponsors** for 2011-2012, please send all information to Anza Ketterman by **Friday, January 27** to ensure the corporate sponsor is recognized in the conference program. All information can be email to Anza at kettanza@isu.edu. As a reminder, the recruiting chapter will receive 50% of the donated funds for each new corporate sponsor added to the Montana BPA Corporate Sponsor Program.

The Advisor Manual page of the Montana BPA website (www.bpamt.org/advisor_manual.html) has all the information you need to complete the sponsorship program.

2012 NLC Special Event—Party On The Pier/ Walk For Special Olympics

On Saturday of NLC (Saturday, April 27), BPA will be having a Party on the Pier! At Navy Pier, the special event will include all kinds of activities for all ages, ranging from arcade games, interactive media, a DJ, and live entertainment. There will be all kinds of prizes and giveaways (including an iPad!)

Make sure you walk with the National Officers, the Special Olympics, and the rest of BPA for the first ever Walk for Special Olympics. If you join in the Walk, you will have a chance to enter the special event earlier than the rest of BPA, plus have a better chance of winning prizes!

\$5.00 Microsoft/Adobe Certifications Available At 2012 NLC

At this year's NLC there will be a once in a life time opportunity to take a certification test for Microsoft and Adobe products for the unbelievably low price of only \$5! These tests usually cost about \$60, so this is a great chance to enhance your resume and gain credibility. Be sure to look for more information about signing up in the following months.

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.

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 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

Montana DECA State Conference Quickly Approaching

The countdown is on for the Montana DECA State Conference! For all DECA Advisors, please remember the deadline for Written Event submission is this Friday, January 27. Written Event portfolios must be in Helena by this date...it is NOT a postmark date.

In addition, the last day for any Competitive Event changes is February 3. Any drops after this point will be assessed a \$10 per student, per event fee.

Montana DECA Program Contest Winner Announced

Congratulations to Rebecca Norman from Sentinel High School for winning the State Conference Program Cover design contest! Rebecca received a \$50 first place prize.

Come to the 2012 Montana DECA Career Development Conference and see her winning design in action on the conference's program.

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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