

The Wednesday Reader

February 22, 2012

Montana Business Educators Attend Western Region Conference

A dozen of Montana's Business Education professionals attended the 2012 Western Business Education Association (WBEA) Conference in Newport Beach, California, over the President's Day Weekend, February 16-19. They joined over 200 other business and marketing education professionals from the western United States and Canada.

There were many great workshops presented, including a computer workshop by Sidney High School business educator & BPA chapter advisor Elaine Stedman entitled "Advanced Microsoft Office 2012" and a breakout session by Julie Hanson, business educator & BPA chapter advisor from White Sulphur Springs High School, entitled "Top Secret Photoshop Ideas."

In addition to workshops, Doug Andersen (Park City) and Elaine Stedman participated in the 2012 Professional Development Institute. The Professional Development Institute encourages new or veteran teachers who had not previously been involved in their professional associations to gain the skills and confidence to accept offices and committee assignments in their States/Territories/Provinces. Having a registration fee paid has also provided financial support for those teachers who do not have the support of their districts or colleges. The agenda includes leadership qualities, communication styles, organizational structures of the regional and national Executive Boards, Programs of Work, Bylaws, team building, goal setting, meeting management, convention planning, personal visits from regional and national officers, etc.

Three Montana business educators represented Montana and the Montana Business Education Association on the WBEA Board including Janie McFarland of Conrad as the WBEA Secretary and Scott Anderson (Baker) as the Montana Business Education Association's President and Elaine Stedman (Sidney) as the Montana Business Education Association's President Elect.

During the Western Business Education Association Award Banquet, Montana Business Education Association Membership Director Linda Cotton (Cascade) was awarded the Robert J. Thompson WBEA Membership Award. This award is presented to the a membership director who has achieved, or surpassed, the membership goal set by the National Business Education Association for their State/Territory/Province. In addition to Linda being presented with this award, the Montana Business Education Association also receives \$50.00 to help support membership recruitment efforts. Congratulations Linda and all the Montana members of the National Business Education Association.

Other Montana business educators attending the 2012 WBEA Conference included Kerri Cobb (Bozeman), Brian Fogerty (Frenchtown), Terri Norman (Helena Capital), Julie O'Dell (Hardin), Hailey Selch (Helena Capital), Eric Swenson (Business Education Specialist, Montana Office of Public Instruction), Tina Wheeler (Thompson Falls), and Regina Wood (Park High School, Livingston).

H&R Block Offering Grants to get the Virtual Business-Personal Finance Software into Schools for Free

H&R Block, through its Dollars and Sense program, is offering over 200 grants to help schools get Virtual Business-Personal Finance. Virtual Business-Personal Finance is the leading simulation-based financial literacy curriculum in the U.S., with over 3000 schools currently using the program. It allows students to learn and practice 18 money management skills in an environment that mimics real life. The simulation comes with lesson plans and study materials, so grant recipients have everything they need to teach a personal finance course.

Curriculum grants are available to high school teachers nationwide. The application process is easy and takes less than ten minutes. Grant applications are due by February 29, 2012. Recipients will be announced on the H&R Block Dollars & Sense website between March 1 and April 17, 2012. Grants will be delivered in May 2012.

Click here to request a grant: <http://www.hrbds.com/curriculum-grants/apply.html>

This is a great opportunity to get Virtual Business-Personal Finance for your school and ensure your students learn the money management skills they'll need in life. The H&R Block Dollars & Sense program has awarded more than \$2.5 million in curriculum grants and scholarships to high schools and students across the country.

Knowledge Matters Inc. is a leading developer and publisher of educational software, including Virtual Business®–Personal Finance. Knowledge Matters products have been used by more than 1 million students worldwide. For more information, please visit <http://www.knowledgematters.com/products/vbpf>

Next Week is the Due Date for Submitting 2011-2012 Participation Reports & Course Descriptions

The 2011-2012 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Report is currently available for completion via an online link.

The link is posted on the Secondary CTE web page and also located here:

<http://www.keysurvey.com/survey/345142/1aa5/>

Any high school district planning to apply for Carl D. Perkins and/or State VoEd funding for the 2012-13 school year must submit Participation Reports by all CTE teachers for all CTE programs at your high school. Please make sure that each CTE teacher completes their report and electronically submits it to the OPI by the **due date: Wednesday, February 29, 2012. Remember to also upload a copy of your current course descriptions.**

The data collected from these Participation Reports is used for Carl D. Perkins accountability reporting and factors that determine the State VoEd allocation. Therefore, it is imperative that the information submitted on these reports is complete and accurate. Incomplete, missing, or inaccurate data will affect your district's FY12 State VoEd/Perkins allocations.

For more information or assistance with this on-line report, please contact Diana Fiedler, Accountability Specialist, at 406.444.9019 or by e-mail at: dfiedler@mt.gov.

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@milesc.edu
MSU-Billings COT	Tammi 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)

On This Day in History . . .

February 22

- 1819: The U.S. acquires Spanish Florida when Spanish minister Do Luis de Onis and U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams sign the Florida Purchase Treaty, in which Spain agrees to cede the remainder of its old province of Florida to the United States.
- 1979: *Rolling Stone* reports that Journey have entered into a sponsorship deal with Budweiser in one of the first instances of what will soon become standard music industry practice
- 1980: In one of the most dramatic upsets in Olympic history, the underdog U.S. hockey team, made up of college players, defeats the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet team 4-3 at the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, New York; two days later, the Americans defeated Finland 4-2 to clinch the hockey gold

February 23

- 1945: During the bloody Battle for Iwo Jima, U.S. Marines from the 3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment of the 5th Division take the crest of Mount Suribachi, the island's highest peak and most strategic position, and raise the U.S. flag; the event was captured by Marine photographer Louis Lowery
- 1954: A group of children from Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, receive the first injections of the new polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk
- 1980: No. 1 on the U.S pop charts is Queen's tribute to Elvis Presley, *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*

February 24

- 1917: During World War I, British authorities give Walter H. Page, the U.S. ambassador to Britain, a copy of the "Zimmermann Note," a coded message from Arthur Zimmermann, the German foreign secretary, to Count Johann von Bernstorff, the German ambassador to Mexico stating in the event of war with the United States, Mexico should be asked to enter the conflict as a German ally; in return, Germany promised to restore to Mexico the lost territories of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona
- 1980: Snow Patrol win Best Irish band and Best Album for *Final Straw* at Ireland's Meteor Awards in Dublin
- 1991: After six weeks of intensive bombing against Iraq and its armed forces, U.S.-led coalition forces launch a ground invasion of Kuwait and Iraq as the Gulf War ground offensive begins
- 1992: The Postal Service shows off two designs for its forthcoming Elvis stamp; people vote for the slender '50s Elvis over the '70s Elvis

February 25

- 1870: Hiram Rhoades Revels, a Republican from Natchez, Mississippi, is sworn into the U.S. Senate, becoming the first African American ever to sit in Congress
- 1984: Van Halen's *Jump* started a five-week run at No.1 on the US singles chart
- 1985: U2 began their first full north American arena tour, starting at the Dallas Reunion Arena in Texas

February 26

- 1929: Congress establishes Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming
- 1935: Nazi leader Adolf Hitler signs a secret decree authorizing the founding of the Reich Luftwaffe as a third German military service to join the Reich army and navy
- 1949: From Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas, the *Lucky Lady II*, a B-50 Superfortress, takes off on the first nonstop round-the-world flight; the aircraft averaged 249 miles per hour on its 23,452-mile trek, was refueled four times in the air by B-29 tanker planes, and returned March 2 after 94 hours in the air
- 1966: Nancy Sinatra went to No.1 on the U.S. singles chart with *These Boots Are Made For Walking*

February 27

- 1827: A group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans, Louisiana, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations

1943: The Montana communities Washoe and Bearcreek are shaken when an explosion at the Montana Coal and Iron Company's Smith Mine #3 kills 74 workers; it was the worst mining disaster in Montana's history

1980: Gloria Gaynor's *I Will Survive* wins the first—and last—Grammy ever awarded for Best Disco Recording

February 28

1953: Cambridge University scientists James D. Watson and Frances H.C. Crick announce that they have determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes

1983: The celebrated sitcom *M*A*S*H* bows out after 11 seasons, airing a special two-and-a-half hour episode watched by 77 percent of the television viewing audience; the largest percentage ever to watch a single TV show up to that time

1993: At Mount Carmel in Waco, Texas, agents of the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) launch a raid against the Branch Davidian compound as part of an investigation into illegal possession of firearms and explosives by the Christian cult

1996: Grammy award winners included Alanis Morissette who won album of the year for *Jagged Little Pill*, Nirvana's *Unplugged* won best alternative album and Coolio best rap performance with *Gangsta's Paradise*

2012 Montana DECA SCDC Concludes

Montana DECA recently concluded their 2012 Montana DECA State Conference held in Helena, February 12-14. There were nearly 300 students in attendance from 10 schools. The competition was fantastic and we had a number of community and business leaders help judge the students. The students competed for an opportunity to attend the International Career Development Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, to be held the end of April.

The National BPA Pre-Conference Publication is Now Posted

The NLC Pre-Conference Publication (<http://bit.ly/yFfrjJ>) is a comprehensive guide to planning your trip to Chicago, Illinois, for the National Leadership Conference. The Pre-Conference Publication includes 2012 conference changes, session information, dress code policy, details on speakers, tours, sessions, elections, competitive events, deadlines, internships, leadership programs, the and the expo.

The publication also provides guidance on registration, the Conference Registration System, hotel reservations, transportation, logistics and details to remember at the conference.

Maps of Chicago and hotel floor plans are provided as well as a sample press release, schedule of events, necessary forms, and the Delegate Conduct policy.

The information in the Pre-Conference Publication is also available all over [the NLC section of our Web site](#).

[Click here to download the 2012 National Leadership Conference Pre-Conference Publication](#).

State BPA Drops & Team Changes Due Friday, February 24

The last day to drop and/or make changes to Competitive Event registrations is Friday, February 24.

After Friday, February 24 all drops/changes will need to be addressed onsite at State Leadership Conference registration Sunday, March 11 at the MSU-Billings College of Technology.

Please notify Becky DePuydt, State Leadership Conference Registration Coordinator, of any drops and/or changes at beckydepuydt@bpamt.org.

All drops are subject to the Registration Refund Policy.

Friday, February 24 is Postmark Deadline for Silver Star Award Applications

Friday, February 24 is the deadline to submit applications for the 2012 [Montana Association Silver Star Award for Chapter Development](#). All Montana BPA Silver Star applications must be postmarked on or before February 24.

The [Montana Association Silver Star Award for Chapter Development](#) is designed to award those Business Professionals of America chapters who actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve chapter

operations using a program of activities emphasizing student, chapter and community development. Quality standards have been developed in each area as minimum requirements for recognition in the Silver Star Award.

Details about the Montana Silver Star Award for Chapter Development and how to apply can be found on the Montana BPA website (http://www.bpamt.org/advisor_manual.html). Chapters wishing to apply for the Montana Association Silver Star Award for Chapter Development should submit written and supporting documentation to the State Advisor postmarked no later than February 24, 2012.

Announcement of chapters receiving the Montana Silver Star Award for Chapter Development will be made during the Awards and Closing Session of the State Leadership Conference Tuesday morning, March 13.

Montana BPA Member Recruiter Awards Due Friday, February 24

Applications for the 2012 [Member Recruiter Award](#) are due Friday, February 24. The Member Recruiter Award was established by the 2004-2005 State Officer Team to encourage current members of the Secondary and Postsecondary divisions to recruit new Business Professionals of America state and national members.

To receive the award, any current state Business Professionals of America member that recruits a minimum of one new state and national member must complete the Member Recruiter Award application (<http://bit.ly/xg30WX>).

On the application, they must list recruited member's name and their membership identification number. The local chapter advisor must verify, with their signature, that the applicant recruited the listed member(s).

Approved applicants will receive a certificate included in their registration packet at the State Leadership Conference and will be recognition during the Monday evening Second General Session. Certificates will be mailed to the local chapter advisor if not attending the conference.

Applications can be sent to Montana BPA State Advisor via E-mail at eswenson@mt.gov) or can be faxed to 406.444.1373. Complete applications must be received by Friday, February 24; incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted.

Ambassador Torch Awards & BPA Cares Program Awards Due March 15

Thursday, March 15 is the deadline for submitting Ambassador Torch Award applications via the Torch Awards Online Resume System (<http://www.bpa.org/awards/torchsystem>) and all awards within the BPA Cares Program (formerly Special Recognition Awards).

This year, there are three categories of BPA Cares programs:

- [Service Learning Awards](#) - Includes Community Relief, Community Action, Special Olympics, Environmental Action/Awareness, Safety Awareness, and Service Learning Individual;
- [Special Recognition Awards](#) - Includes the BPA Marketing and PR, BPA Merit Scholar, Chapter Activities Award of Excellence, Entrepreneurship Exploration, Member Recruiter, and National Center Capital Improvements Campaign awards; and
- [Professional Awards](#) - Includes the Advisor of the Year, Emerging Advisor, Emerging Professional, Hall of Fame, Outstanding Service, and Professional Cup awards.

The complete [BPA Cares Handbook](#) and details on how to submit BPA Cares Program Awards can be found on the BPA Cares page at <http://www.bpa.org/awards/bpacares>.

Montana BPA State Leadership Conference Dates to Note

February 24

- Silver Star Award Application Materials Postmarked to Eric Swenson, State Advisor
- Member Recruiter Award Applications E-mailed or Faxed to Eric Swenson, State Advisor
- 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 7

- Competitive Event Schedules Finalized

March 11-13

- 2012 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference, Billings

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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