

The Wednesday Reader

January 16, 2013

Student Loan Forgiveness Programs for Teaching & Public Service (including teaching)

If you work full-time in a public service job, you may qualify for Public Service *Loan Forgiveness*. Wondering whether you can get your federal student loans forgiven or canceled for your service as a teacher? Learn about the forgiveness and *cancellation* programs to see whether you qualify.

In 2007, Congress created the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on their eligible federal student loans after they have made 120 payments on those loans under certain repayment plans while employed full time by certain public service employers. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program includes teachers at the secondary and postsecondary levels as well as individuals employed with local, state, and national governments and with certain non-profit organizations.

The Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue in the teaching profession. Under this program, if you teach full-time for five complete and consecutive academic years in certain elementary and secondary schools and educational service agencies that serve low-income families, and meet other qualifications, you may be eligible for forgiveness of up to a combined total of \$17,500 on your [Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and your Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans](#). If you have [PLUS loans](#) only, you are not eligible for this type of forgiveness.

To learn about both of these programs, to see if qualify, and to complete the application process, please visit www.studentloans.gov and click on the either the Public Service Loan Forgiveness or Teacher Loan Forgiveness link in the Managing Repayment section.

Save the Date: 2013 Montana Institute on Educational Technology

The Montana Institute on Educational Technology is coming! MIET 2013 is being planned for June 17-21, 2013. Be sure to save the date and visit MIET 2013 on Facebook as well as on the Outreach website, <http://outreach.msugf.edu>.

Organizers are in the preliminary planning stages with new information being added all the time. Some new things coming to MIET are Windows 8 and Office 2013, Computer Basics, and some folks from Microsoft will be here to offer classes on their new stuff.

Registration will open April 15, 2013 with the early-bird discount good until May 17.

ACTE Region V 2013 Conference Registration Now Open

The Association for Career and Technical Education's western region, Region V, will be hold its 2013 conference in Salt Lake City, April 11-13.

Details about the ACTE Region V conference, CTE: Keeping America Rock Solid, can be found on the Region V website at <https://www.acteonline.org/content.aspx?id=1638>. On the Region V site you can download a copy of the [tentative agenda](#) and [register now](#).

ACTE Region V would like to have two presentations from each state. A [Call for Presentations](#) can also be found on the site and must be submitted February 1.

For questions and additional details about the conference, please contact Ann Decker at and@provo.edu.

Career & Technical Education Day in Helena – 2013 Legislative Rotunda Activity

The Montana Association for Career and Technical Education (Montana ACTE) has scheduled an opportunity for Career and Technical Education programs to present to our state legislators in the State Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 from 8 am to 5 pm.

Montana ACTE would like to have all Career and Technical Education organizations and program areas represented at this event. Currently, three Montana programs have committed to present but representation from all CTE programs areas would be greatly appreciated.

Students will set up booths and displays to interact with state legislators and share the variety of skills that they are being offered in their local schools enriching their own and others' lives. They will have an opportunity to encourage our citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the career and technical education programs in Montana communities.

Career and Technical education is facing some profound economic and technological changes thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system. Students will be able to positively reinforce how career and technical education provides Montana with that school-to-careers connection and can be the foundation for a strong, well-educated workforce that fosters productivity in business, industry, technology and health care and contributes to our state's leadership in the global marketplace.

Career and technical education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn new skills promoting better career choices; and experience in practical, meaningful applications of basic skills such as reading, writing, science, technology and mathematics; thus improving the quality of their education; motivating students to stay in school and giving all students leadership opportunities in career fields and in their communities.

Please contact your local legislators informing them that you will be in Helena for this event, and ask them if they would be willing to introduce you and your students on the legislative floor. You can find your legislative contact information at <http://leg.mt.gov/css/find%20a%20legislator.asp>.

Please feel free to call Kevin Fochs at 406.223.0760 or email at kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us if you have additional questions and to confirm your participation.

Grants Available to Learn Some Fun & Easy Ways to Teach with GIS & GPS in the Classroom

The Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors (MARLS) in conjunction with the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) intend to sponsor two teachers from Montana to attend the 2013 TwiST workshop. Sponsorship includes the registration fee, travel, food and lodging expenses.

The TwiST program is a one week course designed to teach K-12 teachers how to use Geographic Information Technology (GIT) in the classroom. The next TwiST program is scheduled for June 24-28, 2013, at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. This is a very exciting program and its impact is remarkable for successfully promoting the spatial sciences in our K-12 schools.

If you are a teacher currently active in a Montana school and are interested in applying for a grant, you are invited to apply by downloading and filling out the application: [Twist Application Form](#).

To view the schedule for application, selection and participation, click on this [Schedule](#) link.

To view more information about the TwiST program, please click on the following link: www.WFPS.org and you will be redirected to the WestFed home page; then simply click on the TwiST banner at the bottom of the page.

For more information, go to www.MARLS.com and click on the TwiST information bar on the home page.

Registration is Now OPEN for the 2013 National Financial Educator Trainings

[Family Economics & Financial Education](#) has teamed up with Junior Achievement and the Maryland State Department of Education to offer training opportunities that make a difference in how America's youth think about money.

The trainings are designed to provide educators with the skills and confidence to teach financial education, ultimately empowering future generations to be financially literate and savvy consumers. [The 2013 National Financial Educator Trainings](#):

- Provide interactive workshops led by current *classroom educators* modeling lesson plan activities
- Create *networking opportunities* for meaningful and relevant discussions about best practices within the classroom
- Invite participants to *connect with industry and university experts* as they discuss cutting-edge research and trends
- Offer an abundance of *ready-to-teach* curriculum materials *designed by educators*

Three trainings have been created specifically with you in mind and will be held July 30-August 1 at Stevenson University in Owings Mills, Maryland. Please click the training which best matches your interest and level of instruction (Elementary Education, Deep Dive, New and Improved Resources) to register. Registration closes June 29, 2013.

National Financial Educator Training: [Elementary Education](#)

- Who: Elementary educators K-6 teaching financial education
- When: July 30-31
- Cost: \$120—includes breakfasts, lunches and event materials (Optional curriculum add-on for \$25)
- Why: This hands-on session, led by Junior Achievement (JA), features JA and several other partner program resources that will help students learn basic economics in fun and age-appropriate ways.

National Financial Educator Training: [Deep Dive](#)

- Who: Educators who teach young adults (grades 7-12)
- When: July 30-August 1
- Cost: \$150—includes breakfasts, lunches and event materials (Optional curriculum add-on for \$225. Includes both the FEFE Get Ready to Take Charge Introductory level and FEFE Take Charge of Your Finances Advanced level materials.)
- Why: This interactive training is guaranteed to save you preparation time next year as you:
 - Receive comprehensive instruction about the entire FEFE curriculum
 - Explore effective ways to integrate technology into your classroom
 - Discuss classroom strategies and best practices
 - Learn from nationally renowned experts

National Financial Educator Training: [New and Improved Resources](#)

- Who: Middle and high school educators who have previously attended a FEFE 3 or 4-day training
- When: July 31-August 1
- Cost: \$120—includes breakfast, lunches and event materials (Optional curriculum add-on for \$175. Includes the FEFE Take Charge of Your Finances Advanced level materials.)
- Why: The FEFE curriculum and website are being significantly updated to be more effective and user-friendly. Previously trained FEFE educators are encouraged to attend this training to:
 - Learn about the new and improved lesson plans for over half of the FEFE advanced level course, Take Charge of Your Finances (released May 2013)
 - Examine the new recommended course flow
 - Explore effective ways to integrate technology into your classroom
 - Use the new FEFE website (released May 2013)

Check the [FEFE website \(www.fefe.arizona.edu\)](http://www.fefe.arizona.edu) for additional details about the National Trainings and for an endless number of resources for teaching financial education.

Register for the MCEE Learning, Earning, and Investing Workshop in Lewistown TODAY

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) announces a Learning, Earning and Investing (LEI) workshop preceded by the High School Business Challenge Training to be held in Lewistown on January 31-February 1.

Registration and more details are available at http://econedmontana.org/LEI/LEI_Registration.html.

The workshop will begin with a hosted lunch on Thursday noon, January 31, with sessions until 5:00, and dinner on your own. The workshop resumes with a hosted breakfast Friday morning at 7:30, and sessions will conclude at noon. The LEI workshop will be filed for eight OPI units.

Attendees will receive a book containing 21 lesson plans, resources by the presenters, reimbursement for substitute teachers (2 days max), shared motel rooms, and meals as indicated.

For those interested, a four-hour training on the High School Business Challenge will precede the LEI workshop on Thursday, January 31 from 8am-12pm (five minimum pre-registrants by January 11 required). The High School Business Challenge training will be filed for four OPI units.

For more details about the Learning, Earning and Investing workshop or the High School Business Challenge, please visit the [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) website at www.econedmontana.edu.

Did you know . . .

when your face blushes so does your stomach lining

you shed a complete layer of skin every 4 weeks

that after gasoline, coffee is the largest item bought and sold

the Chinese used fingerprints as a method of identification as far back as AD 700

to crack a whip the tip must be travelling faster than the speed of sound

the drinking straw was invented in 1886

according to the old English time system “a moment” is one and a half minutes

armadillos can walk underwater

BPA 2013 National Leadership Conference Schedule of Events is Now Posted

The preliminary National Leadership Conference’s Schedule of Events is now available from the [NLC page](#) of the Business Professionals of America website, www.bpa.org.

As you begin planning for your chapter’s attendance at the 2013 National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, please reference the [Schedule of Events](#).

Remember, this is a tentative schedule and changes may be made between now and when NLC registration opens the end of February.

Professional Development for SMOT Volunteers – Special Olympics Montana University

Special Olympics Montana, www.somt.org, is pleased to announce details about Special Olympics Montana University (SOMTU).

For the second consecutive year, SOMTU is all about serving YOU, the volunteer. Curriculum is designed to enhance your personal and professional development while preparing you to be a more effective leader and steward of the Special Olympics movement

If you, or some other registered SOMT volunteer, are interested in this opportunity, please apply by January 31. The Class of 2013 will be limited to 12 people and the program is tuition free.

Special Olympics Montana is very excited to introduce a professional development training program for you. As volunteers you give so much to Special Olympics Montana and Special Olympics Montana is delighted to have this program to give something back to you. For more information or to apply online visit www.somt.org.

Montana BPA State Leadership Conference Registration is Now Open

Registration for the 2013 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference opened on Monday, January 7.

Chapters must register via the online registration system at <http://www.registermychapter.com/bpamem/>. The registration fee for the 2013 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 5, 2013**.

Be sure to click the SUBMIT button after your registration has been completed in order for your chapter’s registration to be submitted.

There will be no refunds for cancellations. Registrations received after February 5 **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 5.

The last day to drop and/or make changes to Competitive Event registrations is Friday, February 22. After Friday, February 22 all drops/changes will need to be addressed onsite at State Leadership Conference registration Sunday, March 10 at City College MSU Billings (formerly known as MSU-Billings College of Technology).

Do You Know a Judge? Share Their Contact Info with Molly

Molly Barta is looking for judges. Our 2013 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.

DECA SCDC Written Events Due Next Week & Other Montana DECA Due Dates

The Montana DECA State Conference is almost here. Advisors don't forget that Written Events are due to the DECA PO Box by Wednesday, January 23. They need to be IN HAND on this date, not just postmarked.

All competitive event drops must be to Erin by Friday, January 25. Any drops after that point will incur a \$10/student/event penalty.

All DECA Scholarship applications are due Friday, January 18t. Please visit <http://www.deca.org/scholarships/> for more information.

Capital High DECA Chapter THRIVES

Congratulations to Capital High School! They have earned recognition at the THRIVE level for the Chapter Campaign.

Capital will be eligible to send up to three students to the THRIVE Academy at ICDC in Anaheim, California.

Past issues of the Wednesday Reader are 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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