

The Wednesday Reader

January 23, 2013

CTSO Day at the Capitol: House Bill 86 – Strengthening Montana’s Career and Technical Student Organizations Hearing Announced

A hearing will be held on Monday, February 18 for [House Bill 86](#). House Bill 86—Strengthen Montana's Career and Technical Student Organizations— provides Montana’s qualified Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) funding to support the organizations long-term viability to increase graduation rate, enhance student leadership opportunities, develop workforce skills, and facilitate transitions to postsecondary education and employment ensuring all members are College and Career Ready.

House Bill 86 seeks funds for each of Montana's CTSOs to support their current leadership activities as well as expand the capacity for enhanced involvement at all levels and to support the growth and outreach of each organization at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. If approved, House Bill 96 will also provide funds to each Montana CTO to hire their own state advisor/state director. This individual will be employed by the CTSO instead of being a position shared within the duties of the CTE Specialists within the Office of Public Instruction.

House Bill 86 will provide a base funding amount to each CTSO with additional funds allocated on a per-member formula. The goal of House Bill 86 is provide secure and permanent funding to support, as well as expand, the missions and goals of Montana's Career and Technical Students Organizations.

The hearing on House Bill 86 will be held on Monday, February 18 by the House Education Committee in Room 137 of the Capitol Building at 3 pm. This will be the time for CTSO advisors and members to provide information and support for the Bill.

Details about House Bill 86, including links to the text of the bill itself, can be found at [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/LAW0210W\\$BSIV.ActionQuery?P_BILL_NO1=0086&P_BLTP_BILL_TYP_CD=HB&Z_ACTION=Find&P_SESS=20131](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/LAW0210W$BSIV.ActionQuery?P_BILL_NO1=0086&P_BLTP_BILL_TYP_CD=HB&Z_ACTION=Find&P_SESS=20131).

Spring High School Business Challenge & Stock Market Game Trainings & Start Dates

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) is sponsoring a series of trainings for the spring sessions of the High School Business Challenge and Stock Market Game simulation.

A Refresher Webinar for past High School Business Challenge participants will be held on Monday, February 4 from 4:30 to 6 pm. A training webinar for first-time High School Business Challenge teachers will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, February 5 and 6 from 4:30-6 pm both days. Teachers new to the High School Business Challenge must participate in both the Tuesday and Wednesday webinars.

The spring edition of the High School Business Challenge begins February 20 and ends April 24, 2013.

The spring session of the Stock Market Game will start February 19 and end April 25.

For more information about these learning opportunities please contact the Montana Council of Economic Education at mcee@montana.edu or visit their website at www.econedmontana.edu.

Registration Now Open for 2013 Economics Challenge

Team registrations are now being accepted for this year's [Montana Economics Challenge](#), taking place on March 4, 2013, in Helena. Registrations are due by February 12, 2013.

Every spring, the Federal Reserve Bank in Helena 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 and its Helena Branch later became involved with the Montana Economics Challenge first being held in 1996.

For additional details and to register for the [2013 Economics Challenge](#) please visit the Montana Council for Economic Education website at www.econedmontana.edu.

Register Today for the NBEA 2013 Annual Convention

The National Business Education Association 2013 Annual Convention offers general sessions, over 70 concurrent educational sessions, 26 technology workshops, a trade show with new technologies and products, as well as numerous networking opportunities. Register now so that you can take the newest ideas, technologies, strategies, and resources back to your classrooms! [Click here](#) to access convention registration materials.

The Atlanta Marriott Marquis is the headquarters hotel for this year's convention. [Click here](#) to make your reservations.

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.

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.

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.

[Did you know . . .](#)

porcupines float in water

Leonardo Da Vinci invented scissors

the US shreds 7,000 tons of worn out currency each year

Americans spend \$10 million a day on potato chips

there are 1,929,770,126,028,800 different color combinations possible on a Rubik's Cube

Britain was the first country to use postage stamps

the average person will consume 100 tons of food and 12,000 gallons of water in their lifetime

a deck of cards should be shuffled at least 7 times before playing

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.

February 5 is the Deadline for Many State BPA-Related Items

Registrations for the 2013 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference must be submitted by Tuesday, February 5. Chapters must register via the online registration system at <http://www.registermychapter.com/bpamem/>.

Several competitive events require materials to be submitted by Tuesday, February 5 to Judged Events Coordinator Elaine Stedman. The complete guidelines for which events must be pre-submitted and the materials to be included as well as directions for using the Judged Events Pre-Submission System can be found State Conference page of the Montana BPA website at <http://www.bpamt.org/stateconference.html>.

All Statesman Torch Award resumes must be completed and submitted via the online [Torch Awards System](#) on the National BPA website by Tuesday, February 5. Last submittals will not be accepted.

[Montana BPA State Leadership Scholarship](#) applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, February 5. Scholarship application materials must be sent to the Montana BPA State Advisor via US Postal Service and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

[Montana BPA State Officer Candidate Applications](#) must be postmarked to the Montana BPA State Advisor by Tuesday, February 5. Additionally, a copy of the applicants resume must emailed to the Montana BPA State Advisor by February 5. Any applications submitted incomplete and/or resumes not received by the State Advisor by February 5 will result in disqualification.

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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