

## The Wednesday Reader

April 24, 2013

### HB 86 Scheduled to be Signed by Governor Bullock

House Bill 86—Strengthening Career and Technical Student Organizations is scheduled to be signed by Montana Governor Steve Bullock at 4 pm on Wednesday, April 24, 2013; however, depending on when the House adjourns for the day, the signing may get pushed later into the evening.

HB 86 would provide an additional \$1M to increase the staffing capacity and provide financial support for student activities for six of Montana's Career and Technical Student Organizations (BPA, DECA, FCCLA, HOSA, SkillsUSA and TSA). The goal of HB 86 is to increase participation in CTSOs by 10 percent each year of the biennium.

The text of HB 86 can be downloaded at <http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2013/billpdf/HB0086.pdf>.

Funding for House Bill 86 remains within House Bill 2, the traditional bill funding all of State Government for each Biennium, and final details on House Bill 2 should be available by the end of this week or early next week.

### Expanded Eligibility for Student Loan Repayment Assistance

Teachers in critical teacher shortage areas are eligible for student loan repayment assistance of up to \$3,000 a year for the next four years—for a total of up to \$12,000. This year, Superintendent Juneau and the Board of Public Education have expanded eligibility to include elementary teachers in 89 rural, high-poverty schools and special education cooperatives. For a list of the 89 impacted schools, [click here](#).

It is important that we continue to do what we can to keep good teachers in our rural schools, especially in areas like career and technical education and special education, which are difficult to fill.

Last year, 166 teachers were awarded \$494,890 in student loan repayment assistance. **The deadline to apply for assistance is April 30, 2013.**

To qualify for loan assistance, an educator must be a full-time educator teaching in an impacted academic area. These areas are: special education, career and technical education, music, mathematics, English, science, school counselor, speech-language pathologist, library, and art, respectively.

Additionally, they must be teaching in an impacted school. These schools tend to be rural and isolated, have a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students, and/or have greater challenges in closing the achievement gap. [A list of qualifying schools is available here.](#)

The Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program is administered by the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Questions regarding the program, eligibility and the application process should be directed to the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program at 800-537-7508. For the application, go to: [www.mgslp.org](http://www.mgslp.org).

### Get Pre-Approval to Receive OPI Renewal Units for Summer Workshops and Conferences

If you are planning to attend a professional development event, workshop, or conference this over the summer either in-state or out-of-state and they are not offering OPI Renewal Units, be sure to get OPI Renewal Units for these events.

The Educator Licensure division of the Office of Public Instruction will grant renewal units for certificate renewal when a Montana educator wishes to receive renewal units for attending an event not either delivered by an approved

OPI provider or approved by OPI as a single event. To gain the renewal units, you must complete the [Educator's Application for Prior Approval of Professional Development Activities for Renewal Units](#) form.

The fillable PDF [Pre-Approval form](#) can be downloaded from the [Renewal Applications—Educators page](#) of the [Educator Licensure section](#) of the OPI website, [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov). The completed form and a copy of the documentation, brochure, or promotional materials about the event need to be mailed to the address indicated on the form and be received at least seven (7) days prior to the event's start.

After you download the form, complete the required educator information and information about the course, conference, workshop, event or seminar. To determine the number of number of renewal units requested, most event documentation states the number of contact hours, the number of credits granted (1 semester credit=15 hours/units and 1 quarter credit-10 hours/units); or the number of credit hours granted by another education-related agency. Remember, units are awarded in whole hours—1 hour=1 unit; 1.5 hours=1 unit; 1.75 hours=2 units.

When the event is completed, submit documentation of your participation (most likely a certificate of completion including the number of contact hours) and a copy of your approval letter from the OPI and OPI will send you an official certificate. The certificate should be filed with your renewal unit certificates and college transcripts to be used as evidence when you apply for renewal of your Educator License.

**Please keep in mind, if you have applied to receive college credit for the event, you cannot request approval for renewal units.**

Should you have questions about the preapproval process, you may call or contact the Educator Licensure office at 406.444.3150.

### **[Check out the New FEFE Website – New Design, New Curriculum, New Opportunities](#)**

The [Family Economics and Financial Education \(FEFE\) Project](#) invites you to view the newly launched [FEFE website](#) at [fefe.arizona.edu](http://fefe.arizona.edu).

Launched on Monday, April 22, 2013, the [FEFE website](#) will has a brand new look, updated features and more to come.

The [Family Economics and Financial Education Project](#) provides educators with ready-to-teach, activity-based lesson plans for teaching economic and financial literacy concepts free of charge.

If you are not currently a FEFE user, get started today by registering for a free account at [fefe.arizona.edu/user/register](http://fefe.arizona.edu/user/register). By creating an account, you will have access to high quality, entertaining and educational curriculum, as well as ongoing professional development opportunities.

### **[MCEE Announces A Special Event Featuring Former Microsoft CFO John Connors](#)**

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) is excited to announce a special event featuring former Microsoft CFO John Connors entitled "Competition in a Global World".

This event will take place on Wednesday, July 17 in Bozeman at the Best Western at 12 pm. John Connors is a Miles City native and former CFO of Microsoft. John is currently a partner with Ignition Partners, Inc. (<http://www.ignitionpartners.com/>), a cloud computing firm.

Additional details on registration for the event can be found on the Montana Council on Economic Education website ([www.econedmontana.org](http://www.econedmontana.org)) or directly at [www.econedmontana.org/events/JohnConnors.html](http://www.econedmontana.org/events/JohnConnors.html). Teachers are welcome to attend at a 50% discounted price.

### **Register Today for the 2013 MCEE Sponsored ECNS 594 in Bozeman this June**

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](http://www.montana.edu/mcee) is pleased to announce the next annual ECNS 594 will be held June 19-21, 2013, at the Museum of the Rockies board room in Bozeman.

This year's ECNS 594 will be discussing some of the Economic Learning Modules and various current topics from an economic perspective...all thought provoking materials for you to take back to the classroom. MCEE is delighted that Dr. Terry Anderson has again graciously agreed to provide attendees with his knowledge and expertise of the Madison Buffalo Jump for an enjoyable field trip, and information that will be very useful for your "Indian Education for All" lessons.

If you are a teacher new to teaching economics, or have not attended MCEE our workshops previously, you will find this session extremely beneficial.

Space is limited; so be sure to send your \$50 registration fee in right away with the [registration form](#) to secure your spot. Registration is due May 24.

Provided to you is the seminar and its materials, campus lodging and parking and most meals.

ECNS 594 will start bright and early on Wednesday morning, and conclude Friday noon, with evenings also used to fill the 22 CEUs and requirements for the one 500-level credit from MSU for those who elect that option.

Please contact the Montana Council on Economic Education if you have any questions at [mcee@montana.edu](mailto:mcee@montana.edu) and visit the ECNS 594 website at [www.econedmontana.org/ecns594/ecns594\\_registration.html](http://www.econedmontana.org/ecns594/ecns594_registration.html) for details about this year's event.

### **Take Advantage of the Early-Bird Rate & Wide-Range of MIET Sessions**

The course schedules and registration are now available for the 10th annual Montana Institute on Educational Technology. The 2013 Montana Institute on Educational Technology will be held June 18-21 at Great Falls College Montana State University.

All the details, fees, course schedules and descriptions, and registration can be found at [http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET\\_web/index.html](http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET_web/index.html). Early-bird registration ends May 17.

### **Friday is the Deadline for Reporting CTE Concentrators**

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collections began March 1, 2013, and ends April 26, 2013. High schools need to identify all students in grade 12 who were enrolled at any point during the current 2012-2013 school year and have met the definition of a CTE Concentrator.

CTE Concentrators are high school 12th graders who have earned three (3) or more credits in any CTE Area of Concentration in any combination. Currently enrolled courses count towards credits earned. Students meeting the CTE Concentrator definition must have the Concentrator box checked and an Area of Concentration entered into

the AIM/Infinite Campus data system. If the student has a child or shares the parenting of a child, the Single Parent box should also be marked.

All schools who receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program must complete this CTE Spring Data Collection.

Instructions for completing the CTE Spring Data Collection can be found inside the 'Data Collections' tab on the Secondary CTE web page located at [http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1\\_6](http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_6).

Questions regarding this data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1.877.424.6681 or emailing [opiainhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiainhelp@mt.gov).

Questions regarding CTE programs and/or the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program should be directed to Diana Fiedler at 406.444.9019 or emailing [dfiedler@mt.gov](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov).

### **CenturyLink Innovative Technology Grants Due Friday, April 26**

CenturyLink has allocated \$35,000 to the Montana Association for Career & Technical Education (Montana ACTE) through an education grant to be awarded to Montana K-12 educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom.

The funds will be disbursed to local school districts on a competitive basis. All current K-12 Montana teachers who reside in the service area of CenturyLink are eligible to apply with the exception of any members who are on the selection committee or are previous grant recipients. Applicants do not need to be customers of CenturyLink.

A teacher may receive a maximum of one grant award but there is no limit to the number of awards given to different teachers at any particular school.

The funds may be used to purchase the following for use in the classroom: supplies and materials, software and hardware, or professional development activities. Any supplies and materials, software and hardware purchased become the property of the school should the teacher leave the school.

The grant application can be found at [www.montanaacte.org](http://www.montanaacte.org). The funds will be available June 2013 and must be spent during the 2013-2014 academic school year. **The application is due April 26, 2013.**

### **Did you know . . .**

out of the 250+ known species of shark only 18 are known to be dangerous to man

an ostriches can outrun a horse

the fastest fish in the sea is the swordfish and can reach up to speeds 68 mph, or 59 knots

toads only eat moving prey

on the average there are 8 peas in a pod

you have to eat 11 pounds of potatoes to put on one pound of weight; a potato has no more calories than an apple  
the ice cream cone was introduced in 1904

arachibutyrophobia is fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth

### **2013 National Leadership Conference Dress Guidelines**

Be sure to review and share with your students the [Dress Code](#) for the 2013 National Leadership Conference.

Members not dressed in required attire will not be able to participate in any session or any competitive events and members not adhering to the [Professional Dress Code](#) will not be allowed on stage.

The NLC Dress Code can be found at [www.bpa.org/nlc/dresscode](http://www.bpa.org/nlc/dresscode).

Past issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at [www.mbea.info](http://www.mbea.info). The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

#### **Eric Swenson**

Business Education Specialist  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
PO Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620-2501  
406.444.7991  
406.444.1373 (Fax)  
[eswenson@mt.gov](mailto:eswenson@mt.gov)

