

The Wednesday Reader

September 4, 2013

Welcome to the 2013-2014 School Year

Today is the first *Wednesday Reader* for the 2013-2014 school year. For those new to the *Wednesday Reader*, this informative email will be sent to you each Wednesday throughout the school year.

Please feel free to share any and all information with your students, parents, colleagues, and administrators. Also, if you have items/news/opportunities you would like to share with other Montana Business and Marketing Education professionals, please send it to me as you would like it to appear in the *Wednesday Reader* at know, eswenson@mt.gov.

Lastly, I would like to extend another “Welcome” to all of our new Montana Business & Marketing Education professionals.

New CTE Professionals Workshop-A Free One-Day Professional Development Event for New Teachers

For the fourth year in a row, the OPI Career and Technical Education division will be hosting a New Career and Technical (CTE) Education Professionals workshop. This is a **FREE** one-day professional development experience for Montana’s new Career and Technical Education professionals.

This year’s event will be held at the Bozeman School District’s Wilson Building (404 Wet Main) on Wednesday, October 16, just prior to the 2013 Montana ACTE Institute. The New CTE Professionals Workshop is designed specifically for Career & Technical Education professionals in their first, second, or third year in the classroom.

This professional development opportunity will provide teachers who are new to the classroom, as well as those with less than four years of experience, with information on a variety of topics essential for success in the career and technical education classroom including

- Montana’s Big Sky Pathways Initiative and the Development of Programs of Study;
- Perkins federal funding;
- State CTE funding;
- Advisory committees;
- Professional development;
- Professional organizations;
- CTE and program-area curriculum support, standards , guidelines; and
- Career & Technical Student Organizations.

The workshop will be held from 8 am to 4 pm. The training is **FREE** of charge and lunch will be provided for attendees. Up to six OPI Renewal Units will be offered.

A complete schedule of events will be available soon.

2013 MBEA/Montana ACTE Institute

Montana’s premier professional development opportunity for Career and Technical Education professionals and Montana’s business and marketing educators will be held in Bozeman, October 17-18.

The Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) in conjunction with the Montana Association for Career and Technical Education (Montana ACTE) invite you to Billings for the [2013 Montana ACTE Institute](#). This year’s institute will be held at the Bozeman Best Western GranTree Inn.

This year’s Institute will focus on the Common Core and the role of CTE within the Common Core.

Be sure to make your Best Western GranTree Inn hotel reservations early as well. Reservations can be made by calling the GranTree Inn at 406.587.5261. The Montana ACTE room block ends September 20—don’t delay, book today.

Montana Business Educators Attend 2013 Montana Institute on Educational Technology

For the 10th year, Great Falls College-Montana State University hosted the Montana Institute on Educational Technology June 17-21, 2013. The five-day professional development event offered over 70 hands-on workshops on the most current classroom technologies, best practices, equipment and the newest software applications. This year, representatives from Microsoft hosted several sessions relating to Windows 8, Office 365, and Office 2013 allowing attendees to see the latest updates and applications and get some of their preliminary questions answered before implementing the products during the upcoming school year.

This year, 27 Montana business and marketing educators from all corners of Montana attended the Institute and participated in a variety of sessions on a variety of Adobe applications, online course development, QuickBooks accounting, using free online resources and social media in the classroom, and tools for integrating technology into the classroom.

Westby Business Educator Receives Montana Council on Economic Education Award

Westby High School business educator Sonja Madel received the Eugene P. Lewis 2013 Teacher of the Year Award. The Award is in honor of Gene Lewis, a past president of the MCEE, who was instrumental in establishing the Stock Market Game in Montana.

Sonja received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Great Falls in 1998 and her Technology in Education Master's from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. She is certified to teach Business Education, Psychology, and Sociology.

Sonja started teaching at Westby School in 1999, and has taught numerous classes including Business Education, Accounting, Computer Applications, Digital Media, Keyboarding, Psychology I and II. She currently serves as the Technology Coordinator at Westby School, and previously worked as the School-to-Work Coordinator.

Mrs. Mangel received the Montana Governor's Award for "Best Practices" for School-to-Work in 2002. She has had students play in the SIFMA Foundation Stock Market Game Capitol Hill Challenge every spring since 2011. In 2011, Sonja's team placed third in the Challenging, winning a trip to Washington, DC.

The 4th Edition of the National Standards for Business Education is now available!

Released this spring, the revised and updated fourth edition of the [National Standards for Business Education](#) state what all K-14 students should know and be able to do in business. These national standards contain guidelines for a quality education in 10 content areas of business education—accounting, business law, career development, communication, economics and personal finance, entrepreneurship, information technology, international business, management, and marketing. Each content area incorporates achievement standards and accompanying performance expectations. Each achievement standard states the understanding and competency students should attain. Each performance expectation delineates what students need to do to exhibit the knowledge and the skills required to meet the achievement standard.

In classrooms nationwide, business educators play a prominent role in preparing students to become responsible citizens, capable of making the astute economic decisions that will benefit their personal and professional lives. Using the concepts described in these standards, business teachers introduce students to the basics of personal finance, the decision-making techniques needed to be wise consumers, the economic principles of an increasingly international marketplace, and the processes by which businesses operate.

The fourth edition includes electronic media with all achievement standards and performance expectations for each content area to facilitate curriculum crosswalks.

[National Standards for Business Education](#)

NBEA Members: \$55.00

Nonmembers: \$90.00

Catalog #142.14

[Click here](#) to order your copy today!

Perkins Non-Traditional Grant RFP now available

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is requesting applications for the 2013-2014 Non-Traditional Request for Proposal (RFP) grant. Up to six (6) one-year grant awards of no more than \$15,000 each will be available to Perkins-eligible secondary high school districts, postsecondary two-year programs, tribal colleges, community colleges, or consortia to support the successful recruitment and retention of students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study that lead to a career which is non-traditional in gender. Only Perkins-eligible entities in good standing are eligible to apply.

See the full Request for Proposal (RFP) at http://mus.edu/wd/grant_apps.asp.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: September 20, 2013

Grant winners notified: October 24, 2013

Grant funds available: July 1, 2013-June-June 30, 2014

For more information and answers to questions about this RFP, contact Kali Wicks, OCHE Perkins Coordinator, by phone at 406.444.0313 or by email at kwicks@montana.edu.

2013-2014 Secondary Perkins Grant Applications Due September 15

The 2013-2014 Federal Carl D. Perkins E-Grant applications were made available in June for public high school districts to open and complete. Notification to all Authorized Representatives was sent out by email on June 20, 2013 from Kate Vatter, E-Grants Program Manager. The allocations loaded into the E-Grants system are FINAL numbers. The due date for opening/creating an application is September 15, 2013.

For questions about the E-Grant program, contact **Kate Vatter** at kvatter@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.7842.

For questions about the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant program or about your application, please contact one of the following:

Brad King, Agriculture Education Specialist, Email: bking2@mt.gov
Phone: 406.444.4451

Renee Harris, Health Science Education Specialist, Email: rharris3@mt.gov
Phone: 406.994.6986

Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist, Email: dfiedler@mt.gov
Phone: 406.444.9019

MCEE Learning, Earning, and Investing in a New Generation Workshop to be held in Billings

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](http://www.econedmontana.org) (www.econedmontana.org) is pleased to announce a repeat of a great workshop held last year in two other locations with super attendance: "Learning, Earning, and Investing in a New Generation." It will be held in Billings from Noon on Thursday, September 26 to Noon, Friday, September 27 at the First Interstate Operations Center in Billings.

Cost of the workshop, a wonderful lesson plan book, other resource materials, substitute cost reimbursement, room costs and some meals will be provided for attendees. *Seating IS limited so register early!* Workshop details and registration can be found at <http://www.econedmontana.org/events/lei/registration.html>.

Preceding the LEI will be a High School Business Challenge training by Tim Alzheimer held on Thursday morning, September 26, from 8 am-1 pm (Be our guest for lunch; Tim will talk about the Stock Market Game at that time). MCEE is arranging for videoconferencing in other locations where First Interstate Bank has banking facilities; if you are interested in attending a videoconference in one of these towns, please let us know NO LATER THAN September 6 so we can try to arrange for you to attend. Locations: Belgrade, Bigfork, Bozeman, Colstrip, Eureka, Gardiner, Great Falls, Hamilton, Hardin, Helena, Kalispell, Lame Deer, Miles City, Missoula, Polson, Red Lodge.

For more information, contact MCEE at mcee@montana.edu.

10th Annual Entrepreneur Day at MSU Jake Jobs College of Business & Entrepreneurship Invite

Greetings from Montana State University Jake Jobs College of Business & Entrepreneurship!

We have a very exciting 10th annual Entrepreneur Day planned for Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at the MSU campus in Bozeman. This event is geared towards students interested in entrepreneurship and business but it is also a great opportunity to visit a land grant university and learn more about higher education. Our business school with option areas in Accounting, Finance, Management and Marketing, is accredited by AACSB; only 5% of all business schools hold this distinction.

This year we have the owner of fourOsix (<http://fourosix.com/>), Alex ‘Papu’ Rincon, Jr. as our keynote speaker. He was honored as a “Champion of Change” by the U.S. White House in 2011 and as Montana’s Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Each session is designed to be motivating and educational. We invite you to inform your students of this great event and encourage them to attend.

Entrepreneurship Day is free and does include lunch for students. The event is sponsored in part by funding from Boeing.

The tentative schedule for the day is as follows:

- 9:40 a.m. Check-In
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome/Overview & Glimpse into the Entrepreneur Program
- 10:20 a.m. Interactive Workshop with JJCBE faculty and students
- 11:00-11:30 a.m. Advisors/Teachers meeting with Entrepreneurship Center Director
- 12:00 p.m. Student workshop presentations
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Keynote, Q&A
- 2:00 p.m. College of Business student (clubs) led interactive workshop/activity
- 2:45 p.m. Adjournment – Optional campus tours

While we encourage your students to stay for the entire event, we understand that some may have conflicting schedules, so we invite them to come as they are able. We do ask that an advisor or teacher accompany the students if possible.

To accommodate proper set up, handouts and food preparation, an RSVP is requested on/before September 20. However, due to space limitations, we recommend that you reserve your seats as soon as possible.

Please let us know if your school is interested in a campus tour or an informational meeting with someone from the Jake Jobs College of Business & Entrepreneurship, which can be provided either before or after the event.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I understand this is a busy time of year for all, but we will provide a fun and highly valuable educational experience for you and your students.

Best Regards,

Audrey Lee
Jake Jobs College of Business & Entrepreneurship
Room 441 Reid Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717
audrey.lee@montana.edu

The Debut of the New Montana Career Information System

On August 12 the new version of [Montana Career Information System \(MCIS\)](http://www.mtcis.intocareers.org) went live and can be accessed at www.mtcis.intocareers.org. A short navigation video has been created to show you how to use the new MCIS at http://rad.dli.mt.gov/training/mcis/MCISNavigation.html?utm_source=MT+Career+Resources&utm_campaign=4967170899-February+Newsletter+20132+11+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e0e8400c9e-4967170899-19544493.

The first time you log into MCIS you will have to select two security questions. The webinar posted on the website on the new password protocol explains the reasons for the security questions:

<https://mtcis.intocareers.org/ViewHtmlStandalone.aspx?File=materials/Enhancements2013/New2013.htm>.

All of your portfolio content remains the same; everything was migrated to the new version. Navigation is handled primarily through the “mega menus” across the top of the page. Hover over any tab at the top to get a look at the sub menu choices. Anywhere you see the + sign you can expand the topic for more details.

A couple of new features have been added this year. First, 31 new **Programs of Study** have been added under the **Education tab**. The list of new **Programs of Study** can be found here: [Programs of Study](#)

Another new feature is the **Application Tracker** which can be found under the **Portfolio tab**. The **Application Tracker** helps students keep track of standardized test dates, college applications, scholarship applications, career fairs, and meetings with advisors/counselors. The **Career Fields** topic under the **Occupations tab** has been updated with a new layout and links to pathways.

Take some time to get acquainted with the new layout and let us know what you think. If you come across anything that doesn't work correctly or looks odd, let the staff at the Montana Career Resources Network know at mcrn@mt.gov.

Some older browsers may not display things as well as new versions. All attempts have been made to be compatible with most browsers. Feel free to call MCRN if you need some help finding something. Also, MCRN will be doing a series of trainings this fall to help everyone learn how to get the most out of this new system.

Busy Summer for FEFE – New Lessons, Updated Website, and a New Name

Since 2006 the Take Charge America Institute at the University of Arizona has been hosting and enhancing the Family Economics and Financial Education (FEFE) project. During this time, FEFE has been honored to partner with over 30,000 educators nationwide in an ongoing investment in financial and economic education for young people. And, these joint efforts are reaching over 750,000 students a year.

Over the summer, the FEFE website was updated to provide users with a more streamlined experience, improved searches, and simplified menus. Also, many lessons have been updated and new lessons added. Lastly, as of August 5, the Family Economics and Financial Education Project has a new name: Take Charge Today.

Along with the name change comes a new logo and new URL for the website (www.takechargetoday.arizona.edu). The old FEFE website URL will redirect to the new site.

Be sure to visit the new site, check out the new resources, and update your bookmarks. If you are not a past user, sign up for a user account today—it is FREE.

CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant Recipients Announced

CenturyLink 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. Applications were due April 26, 2013 with funds available in June.

The following individuals have received a CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant for the 2013-2014 school year. (* denotes a CTE teacher).

Melissa Schnitzmeier – Pioneer Elementary (Independent School, Billings) – Digital Classroom with iPads

*Tom Kain – Helena Capital – Welding Fabrication Program, industrial tubing and pipe hydraulic bender

*Jim Weber – Helena Capital – CNC Machine, monies combined from the district to purchase a new CNC machine

Hans Bodenhamer – Bigfork High School – GIS – Bathymetric Mapping, partnership with land managing agencies and private entities to develop natural resource monitoring and management.

*Shelly Stanton – Billings West High School – Business Class will run a small t-shirt printing business (accounting, marketing, desktop publishing)

*Angela Hammang – Beaverhead County High School – Kindle Fire E-Readers to access multiple online interactive resources such as Visible Human Project, Forensics views of the body as well as Monida Health Care Simulation Manikin.

Kate Cores – Billings Senior High School – Chromebooks for English Language Arts for Common Core Activities

*Bonnie Taylor – iPods to produce “travel” videos of recreational areas in Montana to be posted on the school’s YouTube Channel.

Congratulations to our CTE teachers who received a grant this year.

About the CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant

The funds are 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 is available in the spring and is posted on the Montana ACTE website at www.montanaacte.org.

For more information about the CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant please contact Montana ACTE Executive Director Mark Branger at mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us.

Helpful CTE Calendars Now on the Secondary CTE Web Page of the OPI Website

Welcome back to school from all of the OPI staff in the Career and Technical Education division.

As the new school year begins, you'll find two very helpful CTE-related calendars now posted on our web page. First, the [CTE Due Dates and Deadlines for 2013-2014](#) lists all due dates and deadlines relating to CTE accountability data and money-related concerns. Second, the [2013-2014 CTE Calendar of Events for 2013-2014](#) lists additional dates and happenings related to Career and Technical Education such as student organization conference dates and teacher professional development.

You will find both calendars on the Secondary CTE web page under the 'Calendar' tab, and located at http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_5.

The National Business Honor Society Promotes Student Achievements!

Start a National Business Honor Society Chapter!

There are currently 92 National Business Honor Society chapters throughout 34 different states and U.S. territories—including one chapter at Sidney High School. Join this elite group of schools by providing recognition to your students for their academic achievements.

Who is eligible? Any high school junior or senior who has completed or is currently enrolled in his/her third business course and has a 3.0 (overall) and 3.5 (business course) GPA.

Why wait until next year when you can start your chapter today! Applications must be received by October 1. It's very easy to do!

IMPORTANT: You do not have to wait until you have identified your eligible students before starting a chapter. Actually, it's best to start the chapter and work on student eligibility as your chapter approval process is completed. Student members' names are not submitted during the second semester.

Future deadlines for the 2013-2014 school year are December 1 and March 1.

Start Your Chapter Today! For more instructions and information on starting a chapter [click here](#) or contact National Governing Council Chairman [Maurice S. Henderson](#).

If you have already started a NBHS chapter, please share this message with your colleagues and encourage them to start a chapter.

The National Business Honor Society is a division of the [National Business Education Association](#).

Fun Facts and Trivia

Montana has the largest migratory elk herd in the nation.

Montana boasts the largest breeding population of trumpeter swans in the lower United States.

At the Rocky Mountain Front Eagle Migration Area west of Great Falls more golden eagles have been seen in a single day than anywhere else in the country.

North of Missoula is the largest population of nesting common loons in the western United States.

Montana BPA and Montana DECA Announce New State Directors

During the past legislative session, House Bill 86: Strengthening Montana's Career and Technical Student Organizations was signed into law and provides funding for all of Montana's Career and Technical Student Organizations to enhance and support new programming, promote and increase membership, and to hire their own directors—no longer relying on the OPI Career and Technical Education Specialists to lead and direct the organizations.

Over the summer, both Montana associations for Business Professionals of America and DECA worked to advertise and secure their new state directors. Becky DePuydt, a retired business educator and BPA chapter advisor at Saco High School, has been selected as the new state Director for Montana BPA. Becky can be contacted at beckydepuydt@bpamt.org.

For Montana DECA, Krista Bergstrom from central Montana's Belt Valley, was selected as the successful candidate to be the new state director. Krista can be reached at kberg151@gmail.com.

BPA Competitive Event Guidelines & Resources Now Available

The Business Professionals of America [Workplace Skills Assessment Program \(WSAP\) Guidelines](#) and supporting documents have been uploaded and are available [online](#). Please use your username and password to access the [Download Center](#) to download this year's documents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Vickie Thomas, Director of Education, at vthomas@bpa.org. For technical assistance, please email Joel Stieg, Interactive Marketing Communications Manager, at jstieg@bpa.org.

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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