

The Wednesday Reader

September 11, 2013

Registration Open for the New CTE Professionals Workshop

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.

To register for the 2014 New CTE Professionals Workshop click the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FKDN7ZH>. A complete schedule of events will be available soon and will be provided with your registration confirmation.

Register Today for the 2013 MBEA/Montana ACTE Institute

Registration is now available for the [2013 Montana ACTE Institute](http://www.montanaacte.org) on the Montana ACTE website at www.montanaacte.org. This year's Institute, *The Common Core Advantage: Strategies That Work in CTE*, will be held at the Bozeman Best Western GranTree Inn, October 17-18. Early bird registration ends October 1.

The Montana ACTE Institute is Montana's premier professional development opportunity for Career and Technical Education professionals and Montana's business and marketing educators.

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.

Honoring Montana's Business and Marketing Teachers – The MBEA Awards Program

Do you have an outstanding business teacher on your staff or know a business teacher who deserves to be recognized for their contributions to the business education profession? The Montana Business Education

Association is seeking nominations for its 2013 Awards Program. Please consider nominating an awesome business educator for recognition in October during the Montana ACTE Fall Institute in Bozeman.

Categories include Rookie Business Teacher of the Year (1-3 years), Young Business Teacher of the Year (5 years or less), and Secondary Business Teacher of the Year (the winner for Young Business Teacher of the Year and Secondary Business Teacher of the Year will compete to move on to the Montana ACTE awards competition).

Letters of nomination can be sent to Scott Anderson, MBEA Past President, at andersons@baker.k12.mt.us or faxed to 406.778.2785. All nominations are due by September 20, 2013.

Girls STEM group launches mini-grant program Oct. 1

The Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project, a statewide initiative to encourage girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, will launch a mini-grants program on October 1. Teachers, community groups and other organizations committed to collaborating, informing and motivating girls are encouraged to apply.

The MGSCP mini-grants program is offered in partnership with the Women's Foundation of Montana.

Projects for consideration may include everything from a one-day event with a single classroom, to a youth organization partnering with a professional association, corporation or college, to an extended project of monthly meetings, or a summer camp. Organizations may apply for funding up to \$2,000 and must have at least one partner. Both partners must be listed in the MGSCP online program directory, which is free and accessible at <http://www.ngcproject.org/node/9459/programs>.

Learn more about the mini-grant program at <http://www.ngcproject.org/node/9459/grants/>. The online application system will open October 1.

Stock Market Game--a Fun Way to Learn!

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students?

Ask Sonja Mangel from Westby, Kurt Wohler from Billings Skyview, or other teachers you know that have participated about the benefits of involving their classes in The Stock Market Game™ sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education.

The program is easy to administer, and teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts: Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Cooperation and Communication, Primary Research, and Saving and investing. Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive gameplay creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. Cash prizes are also awarded for the top three teams.

Training Webinar: A training webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. It is designed for those that have never participated in the Stock Market Game, or for those wanting to better understand the game functions. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Seating is limited. To register for the webinar, go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/302358272>.

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on October 7, 2013, and runs for 10 weeks. To find out more information and register teams for competition, go to www.smgww.org, and click on the registration link in the upper right-hand corner.

What students gain from The Stock Market Game™ program is a remarkable experience — and even more important, an education for life. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone at (406) 994-2263.

It's Time To Start Thinking About WBEA Awards

It's time to start thinking about all those fabulous teachers that you work with in your State/Territory/Province! There are so many of them, let's get them the recognition that they deserve! Maybe it's even YOU!

There are several awards that you can nominate your co-workers for. Please check out the WBEA Awards page at <http://www.wbite.org/new/awards/awards.html>.

The web page has a short description of each award as well as the online application. Please review your membership listings and nominate one of your fabulous teachers in each category.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime at KYamadaUT@comcast.net.

Remember all nominations are due December 1, 2013.

IRS Offers Tax Tool for Teachers

Does teaching about taxes seem as intimidating as completing your yearly tax forms? Don't worry! The Internal Revenue Service has introduced the [IRS Understanding Taxes](#) program, a free online tool designed for classroom use by teachers.

[Understanding Taxes](#) is the quick and simple way to understand your taxes. For Educators, every [Understanding Taxes](#) lesson includes the correlations to national and state educational standards. Each lesson plan includes a link to the applicable national and state standards, making it simple to integrate [Understanding Taxes](#) into your existing classroom curricula.

[Understanding Taxes](#) can be customized to fit your own personal teaching style. You have the freedom to choose which activities and methods of instruction work best to meet the needs of your students.

The online [Understanding Taxes](#) site includes both a Teacher and Student site. Teaching taxes can take a traditional approach as students complete downloaded worksheets, classroom activities, and assessment pages. Or, students can complete work online and take part in interactive activities and simulations.

To learn more and to explore resources and material available, begin your journey to [Understanding Taxes](#) at <http://apps.irs.gov/app/understandingTaxes/index.jsp>.

USDA Proposes CTE Waiver for School Nutrition Regulations

The following link provides details about a waiver for the Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010. Though intended to target foods sold in vending machines, at a carte lines and school stores, the stricter guidelines could impact CTE programs that have incorporated into their course curriculum a student-run café, bakery or other school-based business that sells food.

Click here to learn more:

https://www.acteonline.org/ctepolicywatch.post.aspx?id=4661&blogid=2289#.UjDSdD_57jt

Register for the Learning, Earning, and Investing in a New Generation Workshop Today

The [Montana Council on Economic Education \(www.econedmontana.org\)](http://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
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Bozeman, MT 59717
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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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The average square mile of land in Montana contains 1.4 elk, 1.4 pronghorn antelope, and 3.3 deer.

The Freezeout Lake Wildlife Management Area west of Fairfield contains as many as 300,000 snow geese and 10,000 tundra swans during migration.

At Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, east of Malta, it is possible to see up to 1,700 nesting pelicans.

The Montana Yogo Sapphire is the only North American gem to be included in the Crown Jewels of England.

Calling All Montana DECA Advisors

The Montana DECA Fall Advisor/Officer meeting will be Sunday, September 29, in Great Falls.

Additional details on times, location, etc. will be sent out soon. Be sure to RSVP to Montana DECA State Director Krista Bergstrom at kberg151@gmail.com.

BPA Certified Local Advisor Leadership Training

Montana BPA invites all chapter advisors, both new and experienced, to participation in the Business Professionals of America Certified Local Advisor Training.

Advisors who complete the training will assist Montana BPA in meeting the goals of the House Bill 86 funding grant. During the meeting of the Montana BPA State Executive Board of Directors, the challenge was made for all regional coordinators to participate and to become certified.

The Local Advisor Training is comprised of six 50-minute webinars and a required follow-up discussion post after each webinar. The complete schedule and links to register for the webinars is located on the Business Professionals of America website (www.bpa.org) at <http://www.bpa.org/news/1032>. The first webinar will take place Monday, September 16.

You may also gain one (1) professional development credit from Idaho State University or register with the Office of Public Instruction to gain renewal units for completing the Certified Local Advisor Training via the [Pre-Approval Form](http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/cert/PreApprovePDActivities.pdf) (<http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/cert/PreApprovePDActivities.pdf>).

Montana Advisor Manual Files Updated on the Montana BPA Website

During the summer, many of the files for the Montana Advisor Manual have been updated and are posted on the [Advisor Manual page](#) of the [Montana BPA](#) website (www.bpamt.org).

The State Executive Board Directory, also on the [Advisor Manual page](#), lists the names and E-mail information for the eight (8) regional coordinators. Please feel free to contact them with any questions you may have regarding the fall advisor meeting or the Regional Leadership Conference.

Be sure to download the files and update your Montana Advisor Manuals. For new advisors, be on the look out of a complete Montana Advisor Manual in the mail.

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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