

The Wednesday Reader

September 25, 2013

U.S. House Kicks Off Renewal of Career and Technical Education Legislation

Career and Technical Education legislation has always been bipartisan—and lawmakers in the House are hoping that an upcoming reauthorization can continue the tradition.

CTE is the largest federal program for high schools, funded at about \$1.13 billion. And its focus—career education—fits in with House leaders' current embrace of workforce/job training issues. Still, it's kind of an obscure step-child to the much more glitzy Higher Education Act and Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (Maybe CTE's under-the-radar nature will help with bipartisanship?)

CTE reauthorization is on the Senate education committee's priority list. And the House education subcommittee that deals with K-12 issues held its very first hearing on legislation today. Opening remarks from the panel's chairman, Rep. Todd Rokita, offered some hints about what's to come:

--In an pretty typical GOP talking point, Rokita, an Indiana Republican, wants to ensure that CTE programs don't have to deal with "duplicative" federal reporting requirements. "We cannot allow redundant federal mandates to make it harder for states to offer the career training opportunities our young people need," he said.

--Congress needs to make sure CTE programs actually prepare students for the workforce and post-secondary education. That could mean a stronger emphasis on dual enrollment options with post-secondary education. "CTE coursework should provide students with opportunities to obtain relevant certificates, credits, and hands-on experience that will allow them to more seamlessly integrate into the workforce or get ahead in their quest to earn a postsecondary degree," Rokita said.

--Lawmakers should help states ensure that CTE teachers are effective.

Meanwhile, Rep. Raul Grijavla, D-Ariz., focused on the impact sequestration (those across-the-board cuts in federal spending) has had on CTE programs in his state. "We shouldn't cut funding for programs that mean the difference between getting ahead and falling behind for workers all over the country," he said.

For now, however, leaders on the House education committee are in the process of educating their members on exactly what the big issues in CTE reauthorization even are—the questions and testimony at the very first hearing on the renewal were very much at the 10,000 foot level. There could be a bill coming out of the House Education committee this fall, advocates say.

The Obama administration has already weighed in on CTE reauthorization—releasing its [blueprint](#) for renewal last year. The administration, which never met a competitive grant program it didn't like, wants to make CTE dollars, which currently flow by formula, competitive within states.

That idea went over like a lead balloon with the Association for Career and Technical Education, as well as with Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., a key voice in the Senate on education issues. (Murray largely liked the administration's CTE blueprint, just not the competitive funding proposal.) More [here](#).

And the administration wants to change the way the grants are structured. Right now, districts and post-secondary institutions get separate funding. The Obama folks instead would fund consortia of districts, post-secondary institutions, and their partners. Partners could include employers, labor organizations, and industry associations, among others. That is more likely to gain traction.

It's hard to say what the House lawmakers make of the administration's proposals—there was virtually no discussion of the blueprint at the hearing.

Back in 2006—the last time CTE was reauthorized—a [major flashpoint](#) was whether "Tech Prep" (a part of the CTE program supports partnerships in workforce training between high schools and colleges) should remain a separate entity, or be folded into the larger CTE program. Ultimately, lawmakers came down on the side of keeping the program in place, but beefing up some of the academic requirements.

Alyson Klein, [Politics K-12 - Education Week](#); Posted: September 20, 2013, 09:34 AM PDT

Participate in College Application Week

The Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education are inviting high schools to participate in Montana College Application Week on November 11-15, 2013.

College Application Week provides high school seniors the opportunity to learn about Montana colleges and universities and complete a college application during the school day. As part of College Application Week, many of our two-year and four-year colleges have offered to waive their application fee for the week!

We know that most of the jobs of today and tomorrow are going to require additional training or education after high school. I am committed to working with our public schools, Montana students and families, and the Montana University System to help break down the barriers students face when considering whether to enroll in postsecondary education.

If you are interested in participating in College Application Week, please sign up at www.surveymonkey.com/s/mcaw2013.

If you have any additional questions, you can contact Montana GEAR UP's College Application Week Project Manager, Veronica Willetto, at 406-281-4411 or vwilieto@montana.edu.

The Labor Day Report 2013—Montana Economy At A Glance

Each year the Research & Analysis Bureau of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry releases the Labor Day Report. The Labor Day Report gives a snapshot on the economy over the previous year.

This month's Economy At A Glance article highlights some of the key elements of the Labor Day Report.

To view the complete article, go to [Montana Economy at a Glance](#).

Announcing Financial Education Day at the Federal Reserve

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Helena Branch invites you to join local and national staff from the Federal Reserve for an online web event to learn about how you can use Fed resources in your Economics or Personal Finance classroom.

The web event Teaching Tools for Financial and Economic Education Teachers will be held Wednesday, October 23, 2013, from 3:15-4:15 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time).

To register for the web event, go to <https://fed-fin-ed-day.eventbrite.com/>.

**This event is geared to high school teachers, but is open to all. Please feel free to pass this event information on to anyone else you think may be interested in attending.

You're Empowered. You're Inspired. Get Creative Now with Adobe

Explore these great resources and get ready to help your students do amazing things this year.

As your partner in the classroom, Adobe offers all kinds of resources to help you infuse the new school year with creativity and inspiration. Expand your digital skills to find new ways to engage your students — and connect with fellow educators.

Online Course: Digital Creativity in the Classroom

Creativity can indeed be taught, and this five-week online class will sharpen your digital skills in no time. Begins October 6, 2013. [Click here to register for the course.](#)

Education Webinar Series

Discover how fellow teachers have engaged their students and nurtured creativity. This weekly session will feature a guided tour of the Adobe Education Exchange and the most innovative lesson plans, activities, and resources. [Register for the series here.](#)

Make it with Creative Cloud Workshop

This professional development workshop will show you how Adobe Creative Cloud has inspired students and their work. Explore the teacher toolkit, complete with lesson plans, suggested assessments, tutorials, and more. [Click to explore the workshop.](#)

Virtual Team Challenge – Free Multiplayer Business Education Simulation

The Fall 2013 Virtual Team Challenge competition begins in 2 weeks. Now is the time to register. That's the only way you can engage your students in a Virtual 3D Business World.

The Virtual Team Challenge is an entirely FREE online, multiplayer business simulation that takes place in the animated 3D world of New City. The team objective in the simulation is to help the mayor (pictured to the right) stage the most efficient oil spill recovery effort. Top-performing teams are eligible for prizes for themselves, their teachers, and local charities!

Virtual Team Challenge runs this Fall from October 8 through November 19. Check out an article in [The New York Times](#) to read about one NJ teacher's success with the program.

Virtual Team Challenge comes complete with lesson plans and in-class exercises which form a curriculum that highlights general business acumen, business ethics, negotiation skills, decision-making processes and accounting while placing a special emphasis on important life/career skills such as teamwork, communication, professionalism and research methods.

Register now at www.virtualteamchallenge.com.

Register Today for the New CTE Professionals Workshop – Registration Deadline October 7

The New Career and Technical (CTE) Education Professionals workshop will be held in Bozeman on Wednesday, October 16. This is a **FREE** one-day professional development experience for Montana's new Career and Technical Education professionals.

Registration is now open at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FKDN7ZH> and will close on Monday, October 7.

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.

A complete schedule of the 2013 New CTE Professionals Workshop can be found on the Secondary CTE page of the OPI website or directly at http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/13_NewCTEProfessionalsWorkshop.pdf.

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.

October 1 is Early Bird Registration Deadline for Montana ACTE 2013 Institute

The [2013 Montana ACTE Institute](#), *The Common Core Advantage: Strategies That Work in CTE*, will be held at the Bozeman Best Western GranTree Inn, October 17-18.

[Registration](#) is now available on the Montana ACTE website at www.montanaacte.org with early bird registration ending October 1.

A [schedule of events](#) can be found on the Montana ACTE website at <http://www.montanaacte.org/documents/program.pdf>.

CodeMontana Unveiled to Teach High School Students Basics of Programming

During the Montana Economic Development Summit in Butte this week, Greg Gianforte, the founder and former CEO of RightNow Technologies in Bozeman announced the creation of [CodeMontana](#), an online curriculum to teach Montana's high school students the basics of computer programming.

In addition to learning about programming, [CodeMontana](#) is offering \$10,000 in prize money.

To learn more about [CodeMontana](#) go to www.codemontana.org.

Building Leaders: The 2014 WBEA Professional Development Institute

The [Western Business Education Association](#)'s Professional Development Institute is an opportunity to network, energize, and develop leadership skills. The Institute is sponsored by WBEA and each of the western region associations, including the Montana Business Education Association.

The Professional Development Leadership Training has been revamped. This year's Professional Development Institute encompasses the Presidents-elect workshop, Membership Directors workshop, and leadership training.

We are encouraging all Presidents-elect, Membership Directors, and those interested in leadership training to sign up for this workshop.

The 2014 WBEA Professional Development Institute will be held during the [2014 Western Business Education Association Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon. The workshop will take place on Friday morning, February 14, 2014, 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Some of the topics the workshop will cover are:

- Structure of Professional Organization
- Leadership
- Communications
- Meeting Management
- Other Leadership Responsibilities

In addition, participants will receive a flash drive with information from the workshop and a healthy snack break.

To be considered as a Montana representative for the 2014 Professional Development Institute, complete the [2014 Professional Development Institute Application](#) and submit to Montana Business Education Association President Elaine Stedman (estedman@sidney.k12.mt.us) by November 23, 2013. Additional details about the WBEA Professional Development Institute can be found at <http://www.wbea.info/new/profdev/pdi.html>.

2014 WBEA Educational Improvement Scholarship Application Information

The Western Business Education Association (WBEA) announces the annual WBEA Educational Improvement Scholarship for business and computer science educators. This Scholarship is provided to help offset tuition costs for educators who are pursuing an ADVANCED degree to support teaching in the area of Business Education. It is available for tuition and is offered and managed by the WBEA Executive Board through the WBEA Professional Development Committee. Funding for the scholarship will be through donations from individuals, companies, and other sources.

The scholarship is for \$500 and to apply, applicants must

1. Be a current member of an S/T/P (State/Territory/Province Business Education Association and a member of NBEA/WBEA,
2. Be currently engaged as an instructor in business/computer education
3. Be currently accepted in a business/computer education degree (Proof of an unofficial transcript and/or grade sheet showing completion of at least one class) must be submitted with application),
4. Additional information submitted as stated on application.

For additional details and to complete the application, please visit the WBEA Scholarship page of the WBEA website at <http://www.wbea.info/new/profdev/eos.html>.

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.

Cha-Ching! Get \$1000 from the National Business Education Association for Business Ed Studies

Each year, NBEA awards two \$1,000 scholarships to individuals pursuing continuing education or graduate study in business education. The scholarships recognize and support educators who give evidence of leadership and scholarship potential in the field of business education. The NBEA Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to outstanding individuals for the purpose of continuing their study and professional development in business education.

To be eligible for an NBEA scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be enrolled in a college or university post-baccalaureate or graduate-level program and submit proof of enrollment;
- Be enrolled in a business education program and/or other related areas in business;
- Submit proof of completion of at least two graduate courses (six semester hours);
- Submit a one-page letter describing (a) past contributions to the field of business education, (b) plans to utilize the degree in the future, (c) two or three significant issues in business education, and (d) why the applicant should be the recipient of the award;
- Submit a current resume;
- Submit two letters of recommendation attesting to the scholarship/leadership potential of the applicant;
- Be currently teaching and plan to continue to teach, or plan to teach upon completion of the program, in the field of business education;
- Be a current professional member of NBEA at the time of application.

An anonymous selection committee, made up of representatives from each of NBEA's five regions, will evaluate the applications and identify the winners. Scholarship winners will be announced during the Awards Luncheon at the NBEA 2014 Annual Convention in Los Angeles, California, on Friday, April 18.

To qualify for this years' Scholarship Program, the Scholarship Application Form must be postmarked no later than December 1 and returned to NBEA headquarters.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The first jail constructed in Montana was build by notorious outlaw Henry Plummer in Bannack.

No state has as many different species of mammals as Montana.

The moose, now numbering over 8,000 in Montana, was thought to be extinct in the Rockies south of Canada in the 1900s.

Flathead Lake in northwest Montana contains over 200 square miles of water and 185 miles of shoreline. It is considered the largest natural freshwater lake in the west.

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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