

## **The Wednesday Reader**

### **November 6, 2013**

#### **2014 WBEA Conference Early Bird Registration Ends Next Week, November 15**

Friday, November 14 is the early-bird registration deadline for the 2014 [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) Conference in Portland, Oregon. The 2014 WBEA Conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Portland at Lloyd Center February 13-17

Registration information, conference schedule, tour details, and hotel information can be found on the [2014 WBEA Conference](#) page of the WBEA website at <http://www.wbea.info/new/conferences/2014/2014conference.html>.

For those interested, college credit is also available from Oregon State University. Credit requirements can also be found on the [2014 WBEA Conference](#). If you are not interested in the credit, you can apply with the Office of Public Instruction for pre-approval and earn Renewal Units. Just complete the [Pre-Approval Form](#) and submit all necessary documentation at least two weeks prior to the conference.

#### **Financial Literacy & Financial Education from Better Money Habits**

Bank of America has partnered with the Khan Academy—a not-for-profit with the sole purpose of delivering a free world-class education for anyone, anywhere—to bring you [BetterMoneyHabits.com](#).

[BetterMoneyHabits.com](#) is a new way to learn the "why" and the "how" behind personal finance and we believe our collaboration with Khan Academy will help you put that knowledge into practice more effectively than ever before. The Khan Academy approach is focused on enabling people to learn what they want to know - in their own way and at their own pace.

The [BetterMoneyHabits.com](#) site contains resources and videos relating the topics of using credit, home buying, and saving & budgeting.

It is the goal of Bank of America and [BetterMoneyHabits.com](#) to ensure you a unique, engaging and valuable online experience.

#### **STEM Transitions: 61 Curriculum Projects Ready for Classroom Use**

Looking for some resources for teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts in your curriculum? Check out the [STEM Transitions initiative](#) website at [stemtransitions.org](http://stemtransitions.org).

Led by the Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD) and with funding from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education and under cooperative agreement with the League for Innovation in the Community College, the project builds on the work of the College and Career Transitions Initiative. At its core are six Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) career clusters that have provided the context for instructional materials demonstrating the convergence of academic and technical content at the community college level.

CORD staff, in partnership with a team of 40 community college faculty from across the country, recently completed 61 integrated curriculum projects for use in math, science, and technical courses in the six STEM-related clusters, including:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Health Science
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

These context-based instructional materials provide faculty with teaching resources that will boost both the academic and career-related skills of their students. The projects offer:

- a variety of instructional components to enrich existing courses
- integrated math and science instruction within the context of a technical discipline
- self-contained teaching materials
- all the necessary components for implementation, from equipment lists to student handouts, to assessments and web-based resource links

All of the instructional materials can be found under the **Integrated Projects** tab. An evaluation form for user feedback is available within each of the projects.

To view the lessons and resources available, check out the [STEM Transitions initiative](http://stemtransitions.org) website at [stemtransitions.org](http://stemtransitions.org) today.

### **Register Today to be a Part of the Conversation with the Chairman of Federal Reserve**

As the Federal Reserve System commemorates 100 years of service to the American people, Chairman Ben Bernanke will share his perspective with educators around the country. Educators are invited to a special program on the evening of Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

Events for teachers will take place in Helena, and will include the videocast presentation with the Chairman, tour of the bank and discussion of teacher resources produced by the Fed. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask the Chairman follow-up questions.

#### **Event Schedule**

- 3:30 pm MST—Arrive at Branch for event
- 4:00 pm MST—Tour of building, including Cash Department
- 5:00 pm MST—Videostream Conversation with Chairman Bernanke
- 6:00 pm MST—Wrap-up discussion

[Click here to register](#)

### **2014 Montana Economics Challenge—Save the Date**

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis is pleased to announce the dates for the 2014 Montana Economics Challenge.

The 2014 Economics Challenge will be held in Helena on Monday, March 3, 2014.

For more information regarding the 2014 Montana Economics Challenge, please contact Rhonda Krieger at 800.823.4333, ext. 3964, or via email at [Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org](mailto:Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org).

### **CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant Now Available**

CenturyLink Foundation has allocated \$20,000 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.

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 funds will be available May, 2014 and must be spent during the 2014-2015 academic school year. The funds must be spent by June 30, 2015.

The complete CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant application is available on the Montana ACTE website at [www.montanacte.org](http://www.montanacte.org). The deadline for applications is January 10, 2014.

The grant application process will be administered by a partnership of Montana ACTE and CenturyLink.

### **2013-2014 Perkins Grant Approval Reminder**

To All High School Districts Applying For Perkins Federal Funding—

If your Perkins E-Grant Application has already been approved by the OPI for 2013-2014, please disregard this reminder.

The CTE Division of the OPI is providing this brief, but friendly reminder to all districts intending to submit a 2013-2014 Perkins grant application to please obtain final OPI approval of your Perkins application through the E-Grants system no later than **Tuesday, December 31, 2013**.

Only the initial/original application is subject to this deadline. Amendments to your approved Perkins application can occur after the December date. If you have questions regarding the status of your Perkins grant application, please contact one of the following CTE Division staff:

Brad King: phone: 406.444.4451; email: [bking2@mt.gov](mailto:bking2@mt.gov)

Renee Harris: phone: 406.994.6986; email: [rharris3@mt.gov](mailto:rharris3@mt.gov)

Diana Fiedler: phone: 406.444.9019; email: [dfiedler@mt.gov](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov)

### **Be Sure to Report on Graduate for Fall 2013 Perkins Data Collection**

The Fall 2013 CTE Data Collection began on October 1 and ends on December 31, 2013. The Fall CTE Data Collection is a follow up to last year's Spring CTE Data Collection. Students identified as Perkins CTE Concentrators last year (2012-2013) and graduated in the spring of 2013 should be contacted between October 1 and December 31 and asked their current post-graduation status.

After contact, the appropriate post-graduation status code must be entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system for each CTE Concentrator. All high schools that received funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program in 2012-2013 are required to complete this fall follow up collection to maintain their eligibility to receive Perkins funding.

Instructions for completing the Fall CTE Data Collection—called the '*Quick Reference Guide*' for the Fall CTE Data Collection—are located in two places on the OPI website: on the AIM web page listed in Reports and Data and also on the **Secondary CTE** web page under the '*Data Collections*' tab located at this link: [http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1\\_6](http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_6).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Be sure to verify the list of CTE Concentrators from what your district submitted last spring. Any additions, corrections, or changes to the list of CTE Concentrators must be made no later than November 15, 2013, to be accurately reflected in federal reporting and used to compute Perkins Performance Indicators for your school.

Technical AIM questions regarding the Fall CTE Data Collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1.877.424.6681 (toll-free) or email [opiainhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiainhelp@mt.gov). Questions regarding the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program data requirements should be directed to Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist at 406.444.9019 or email [dfiedler@mt.gov](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov).

### **Fun Facts and Trivia**

The Charles M. Russell Museum Complex in Great Falls contains the world's largest collection of Russell's work.

The Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman gained fame through the work of its chief paleontologist, Jack Horner. Horner was the prototype for the character Dr. Alan Grant in the best-selling novel/movie, "Jurassic Park."

Montana's rivers and streams provide water for three oceans (Arctic, Atlantic, and Pacific) and three of the North American continent's major river basins (Columbia, Missouri, and Saskatchewan).

Every spring nearly 10,000 white pelicans with a wingspan of nine feet migrate from the Gulf of Mexico to Medicine Lake in northeastern Montana.

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.

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