

The Wednesday Reader

November 13, 2013

Friday is the Last Day for the 2014 WBEA Conference Early Bird Registration

Friday, November 15 is the deadline to register 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.

Literacy-in-CTE Resources Now Available for Your Download and Use

During the 2013 Montana ACTE Institute, there were several sessions featured around the Common Core and Career and Technical Education detailing the work done by the schools and teachers who have been a part of Montana's Rigorous Programs of Study grant.

Many of the resources presented related to math-in-CTE and literacy-in-CTE. The following is a link to a Box.com folder with all the resources presented as well as many others which have been developed: <https://app.box.com/s/nwqu4x6da4c5k24muco0>.

Student Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers

Teachers who are willing to make a five-year commitment to a school in need can get some much-needed help with their student loans. The richest rewards are reserved for science, math, and special education teachers.

Science and math teachers who work in low-income high schools may be able to cancel as much as \$17,500 of their federal Stafford loans. This money gets eliminated from a teacher's loan balance after he or she completes five years of teaching at a designated low-income school.

Special education teachers who work in designated low-income schools for five years may be eligible for as much as \$17,500 in loan forgiveness for their federal Stafford loans.

Other full-time teachers working in a designated low-income elementary or high school for five years may be able to cancel as much as \$5,000 of their federal Stafford loans.

For more information on teacher loan forgiveness programs, visit the [U.S. Department of Education's website](http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/teacher) (<http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/teacher>).

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 created a new loan forgiveness program for public service employees. This program requires quite a commitment - 10 years working as a public service professional. But the payoff - the cancellation of all remaining federal direct loans after 10 years of service --- may be just the incentive a heavily-indebted college grad needs to choose a lower-paying, service-oriented career path.

Eligible public service jobs include everything from emergency management, public health and safety and law enforcement to social work, child care, library sciences, public interest law services, and jobs serving people with disabilities and the elderly.

To be eligible for this program, you must make 10 years of consecutive, on-time repayments of your federal direct loans. This program also includes federal direct consolidation loans, so it would be possible to consolidate federal Stafford loans into the direct loan program and therefore be eligible for the cancellation of your remaining loan debt after 10 years of service. Keep in mind that the standard repayment period for federal student loans is 10 years. If you choose standard repayment for your student loans and keep up with your payments, your student loans will be paid in full in 10 years. You won't qualify for loan forgiveness because you'll have no remaining debt left to forgive! Only grads that are eligible for reduced student loan payments, because of very high debt levels or consistently low salaries, would be eligible for this loan forgiveness program. To qualify, they would still need to make 10 years of on-time payments through an income-based or income-contingent repayment plan and work full-time for 10 years in a public-service job.

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](http://stemtransitions.org) website at 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 today.

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. The deadline for applications is January 10, 2014.

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

Fun Facts and Trivia

The Going to the Sun Road in Glacier Park is considered one of the most scenic drives in America.

Glacier National Park has 250 lakes within its boundaries.

Competing with the D River in Lincoln City, Oregon for the title of the world's shortest river, the Roe River flows near Great Falls. Both rivers lengths vary from 58 feet to 200 feet. The source for this small river is Giant Springs, the largest freshwater spring in the United States.

Hill County has the largest county park in the United States. Beaver Creek Park measures 10 miles long and 1 mile wide.

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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