

The Wednesday Reader

December 11, 2013

Next week, December 18, will be the last Wednesday Reader for 2013. The first Wednesday Reader of 2014 will be sent Wednesday, January 8.

Looking for Someplace Warm & Sunny? How about Southern California & the NBEA Convention
Lights, Camera, Action! The city of Los Angeles will be rolling out the red carpet for the [National Business Education Association 2014 Annual Convention, April 15-19](#). Los Angeles is a booming and vibrant city with a variety of attractions, each offering that unique LA experience.

NBEA is excited to be back in California and this year's convention will be held at the [JW Marriott Hotel](#) located in the LA Live complex—the leading entertainment district in Los Angeles. Home to the STAPLES Center, Nokia Theater, Regal Cinemas, an eclectic blend of restaurants, nightclubs, and other attractions, including the GRAMMY Museum, business educators from across the country will be energized and invigorated at this year's convention.

In addition to over 70 educational sessions, hands-on technology workshops will be offered to expand specific skills and introduce additional technology. In addition, keynote speakers, the trade show, exhibitor sessions, and networking functions provide business educators with an exceptional opportunity to learn new ideas and skills that can be utilized in the classroom and workplace.

Don't miss some of Los Angeles most famous and exciting attractions!

For more details about the [NBEA 2014 Annual Convention](#), including a preliminary [schedule of events](#) and hotel reservations, please visit <http://www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/convention.html>.

Is the NBEA 2014 Annual Convention Your First? Apply for the First-Time Attendee Stipend
The National Business Education Association invites business education professionals attending their first NBEA Annual Convention to apply for the [Professional Development Partnership Program For NBEA Convention First-Time Attendees](#).

The \$200 stipends will be presented at the NBEA awards luncheon on Friday, April 18, 2014, in Los Angeles, California. Recipients must attend the luncheon, where they will receive the stipend from NBEA President Marlene Stout on behalf of the regional or corporate sponsor. Recipients will be notified by February 15, 2014. If you would like to apply for a Professional Development Partnership Program stipend, please complete the [application form](#) and submit to NBEA Headquarters by January 2, 2014.

The [Professional Development Partnership Program For NBEA Convention First-Time Attendees](#) can be downloaded from the NBEA 2014 Annual Convention page of the NBEA website at <http://www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/convention.html>.

Reporting on Students Identified as Perkins Concentrators in 2012-2013 Due December 31

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.

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. 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.

Code.org Sponsoring an Hour of Code Event

This week is an Hour of Code event sponsored by [Code.org](http://code.org). President Obama has created a video to support computer science in schools and the Hour of Code. There are other videos on code.org featuring key players in computer programming and celebrities:

--President Obama: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XvmhE1J9PY>

--Code.org video (SUPER GOOD): <http://www.youtube.com/user/CodeOrg>

--Google's video (listed on their homepage this week): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC5FbmsH4fw>

This link, <http://csedweek.org/learn>, will take you to the [Code.org](http://code.org) website where you will see several, one hour, coding lessons designed to inspire students to learn computer programming. For example, the first lesson listed is with the game Angry Birds. In this one-hour lesson, Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, and others teach students to learn basic coding using the game Angry Birds. There are many other lessons you can choose from. If you are planning on, thinking about, or hoping to offer computer coding/programming in your school, it is strongly recommend to use the many tools on [Code.org](http://code.org) to help you with your endeavors.

Below are links to videos related to the Hour of Code

Submitted by Kerri Cobb, Bozeman High School

STEM Fuse Develops Free “Hour of Code” Game Project

According to the U.S. Department of Labor there will be more than 1 million open computer programming jobs in the U.S. by 2020. Meanwhile, less than 2.4% of college students graduate with a degree in computer science and that percentage has fallen steadily over the past decade.

To reverse this trend, and significantly grow the number of computer science students within the U.S. the Hour of Code initiative was created. The Hour of Code is supported by companies like Google, Microsoft and Facebook along with tech-minded celebrities like Ashton Kutcher, Shakira and NBA player Chris Bosh. This initiative seeks to engage students with the power of writing computer code. Today’s student friendly technology like games, apps and popular web sites like Facebook and Twitter are developed and powered by code (written program language).

STEM Fuse, the nation’s fastest growing developer of K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum is also a strong supporter of the Hour of Code and has developed a free coding tool for students to use during their hour. Using the programming language, Javascript, students can build and modify a real working game within an hour. STEM Fuse offers this tool free to everyone and hopes that it will act as a teaching resource for schools to offer their students as they look for Hour of Code programming projects.

To learn more about the Hour of Code visit the Computer Science Education website at <http://csedweek.org/promote>. To learn more about STEM Fuse’s free Hour of Code programming teaching tool called Flip The Robot Monkey visit the STEM Fuse Arcade website at <http://arcade.stemfuse.com/challenge/flip-robot-monkey/lesson/1>.

Applications for CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grants Due January 10

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 largest living things in the world are in National Parks—Sequoia Trees—and the world's largest carnivores—Alaskan brown bears.

Crater Lake National Park (Oregon) is home to the deepest lake in the United States at 1,932 feet.

Two National Parks are located north of the Arctic Circle: Gates of the Arctic National Park and the Kobuk Valley National Park, both in Alaska.

The largest National Park is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (Alaska) at more than 8.3 million acres

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.

Eric Swenson

Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov

