

The Wednesday Reader **December 18, 2013**

This will be the last Wednesday Reader for 2013. The first Wednesday Reader of 2014 will be sent Wednesday, January 8.

FYI: I will be out of the office for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays beginning Thursday, December 19 and returning on Monday, January 6. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Seeking Feedback on the Montana Career Information System – Just Click the Link Below

Dear Montana Educator

The Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education Career and Technical Education Divisions are inviting you and your staff members to participate in a very important online survey to provide valuable information and feedback on the Montana Career Information System.

Your survey responses will help shape state policy and guide practice in serving Montana's secondary students transitioning to postsecondary education and training. The survey results will aid in the continued development of the Montana Career Information System as it seeks to formalize career guidance for all Montana students.

It will take about 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire online. Names of those who respond will be kept confidential and will not be associated with their survey responses in published reports.

Please encourage your staff members to complete this online survey, as the value of the resulting information will increase with every response received.

Thank you for your time, expertise, and commitment to serving Montana's students.

Survey Link: <http://www.keysurvey.com/f/569401/158a/>

Sincerely,

T. J. Eyer, OPI, Division Administrator,
Career, Technology, and Adult Education
teyer@mt.gov

Fall 2013 High School Business Challenge Winners Announced

Congratulations are in order to the following teams for their accomplishments during this semester's High School Business Challenge:

First Place—Team 6, Industry F, Skyview High School, Billings, with a final stock price of \$99.45. For their efforts each team member will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Second Place—Team 9, Industry B, Whitefish High School, with a final stock price \$82.15. Their efforts earn each member a \$500 college scholarship.

Third Place (tie)—Team 7, Industry H, North Toole County High School, Sunburst, and Team 12, Industry H, Libby High School, with a final stock price of \$78.95. Each team member will receive a \$250 college scholarship.

The award for the highest dollar stock price gain between quarters 4 and 8 goes to Team 6, Industry F—Skyview High School, Billings, who had a stock price gain of \$57.20. By rule any team that finishes with the top three stock prices is not eligible for any additional prize consideration, and the award goes to the team having the next highest stock price increase. Congratulations to Team 9, Industry C—Capital High School, Helena, with a gain of \$42.67, an outstanding effort!

The final prize is becoming known as the ‘Business Challenge Lottery’ award. Any team whose stock price is in the top 25% is eligible to win a \$250 per team member scholarship. Teams whose stock price was \$74.59 (\$99.45x.75) or higher was entered, and that lucky team is Team 3 Industry D, Corvallis High School, with a final stock price of \$74.88.

On behalf of the Montana Chamber Foundation and the Montana Council on Economic Education I thank you for participating and hope you’ll join us again next semester. The competition begins with the first input due on Wednesday, February 19. I believe this provides a great learning experience for the students, one they won’t soon forget. If there is anything which can be done to improve the simulation please let Tim Alzheimer know, timalz@montana.edu.

Top Stock Market Game Teams Announces for Fall 2013 Sessions

During October 2013, 423 students and 21 teachers from 18 high schools across Montana began the fall competition of the Stock Market Game. This simulation provides a hands-on approach to the world of investing, allowing students to research and select stocks and mutual funds. Each team is given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest, and must do necessary research to select stocks and mutual funds they think will outperform the market. Students cannot place all of their money in any one stock they think will be ‘hot’, but instead must diversify their portfolio by holding at least five separate stocks and/or mutual funds. The simulation winners are determined by portfolio value at the conclusion of the game on December 13.

Sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education, this online simulation is conducted each semester during the school year. The fall semester winners are:

First Place with a team prize of \$200: Billings West High School, Fred Petek, Instructor.

Second Place, \$150. Great Falls High School, Scott Donisthorpe, Instructor.

Third Place, \$100: Bozeman High School, Kerri Cobb, Instructor.

A special mention to Laurel High School, Lisa Condon, Instructor. who finished very close behind the 3rd place team.

During this 2 ½ month time period the Standard and Poor’s 500 index increased approximately 5.0%. The average of the top three teams returns were 14.87%. It should also be noted that 29% of the teams participating this fall outperformed the S & P 500 over the time period. This comes by no accident. The students enjoy learning about the functions of the market, a life skill they will benefit from in the years to come.

Spring 2014 competition dates are February 18-April 24. For more information please contact Tim Alzheimer, Simulations Coordinator for the Montana Council on Economic Education via email at timalz@montana.edu, or by phone, 994-2263.

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>.

NBEA 2014 Annual Convention First-Time Attendee Stipend Applications Due January 2

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>.

Perkins Concentrators Fall Reporting 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.

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

Glacier National Park was established on May 11, 1910.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was established in 1932.

Glacier National Park's Going-to-the-Sun Road was completed in 1932.

Glacier National Park contains 762 lakes; only 131 of them are officially named.

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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