

The Wednesday Reader

January 15, 2014

Time to Prepare for the Spring Session of the Stock Market Game

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students?

Ask Sonja Mangel from Westby, Fred Petek from Billings West, or other teachers you know that have participated about the benefits of involving their classes in The Stock Market Game™ sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education.

The program is easy to administer, and teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts: Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Cooperation and Communication, Primary Research, and Saving and investing. Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive gameplay creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. Cash prizes are also awarded for the top three teams.

Training Webinar: A training webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. It is designed for those that have never participated in the Stock Market Game, or for those wanting to better understand the game functions. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Seating is limited. To register for the webinar, go to:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/654155721>

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on February 17, 2014, and runs for 10 weeks. To find out more information and register teams for competition, go to www.stockmarketgame.org, and click on the registration link in the upper right-hand corner.

What students gain from The Stock Market Game™ program is a remarkable experience—and even more important, an education for life. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer, Montana Stock Market Game Coordinator, at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, (406) 994-2263.

High School Business Challenge Prepares for Spring Edition

The key to getting your students to understand key business concepts is through hands-on activity. If you've not yet done so, consider this simulation designed to develop management, financial, marketing and critical thinking skills in a competitive, learning enhanced environment.

The Montana High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education lets your students actively participate in a state-wide simulation as real entrepreneurs. The students manage the business of a Digital Music Player manufacturer, and many daily decisions face the students, including financial, ethical, legal, and competitive issues. It is a dynamic simulation that can be incorporated into many different class disciplines.

The state-wide competition runs eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, February 19 and concluding Wednesday, April 16. College scholarships are awarded to the top three teams. The cost of participation is \$15.00 per team.

FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS: First-time participants need to be trained prior to involvement in the Business Challenge via a two part webinar training session. Attendance is mandatory on both days. Teachers will be introduced to the concepts and procedures the simulation. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday,

February 3 and 4 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. There is no charge for the training. If you are a first-time participant, or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of the Business Challenge, please register online at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/755586880>

REFRESHER WEBINAR FOR PAST PARTICIPANTS: A webinar is scheduled on Monday, February 10 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for teachers that have previously participated in the Challenge who want to refresh their skills and learn more about the simulation. This webinar is voluntary and free of charge, and is open only to teachers that have previous HSBC involvement. Space is limited. The web address to register for this webinar is:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/511854265>

REGISTERING TEAMS FOR SPRING SEMESTER? QUESTIONS?: To register teams for the fall Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263 for further information. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, February 12.

ACTE Region V Conference: Energizing America's Workforce

The 2014 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) [Region V Conference](#) will take place April 23-26 in Bismarck, North Dakota. Registration is now open with Early-Bird registration ending March 1.

Details about the ACTE Region V Conference can be found at <http://www.acteonline.org/eventcalendar.aspx?id=4726> including Call for Presentations (due February 1), registration, and hotel reservations at the [Radisson Hotel Bismarck](#).

Region V is the western region of ACTE and includes state associations in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Register Now for the 2014 NBEA Annual Convention and Trade Show

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>.

The First of the Year Marks the Beginning of Tax Season – IRS Offers Tax Tools for Teachers

Does teaching about taxes seem as intimidating as completing your yearly tax forms? Don't worry! The Internal Revenue Service has introduced the [IRS Understanding Taxes](#) program, a free online tool designed for classroom use by teachers.

[Understanding Taxes](#) is the quick and simple way to understand your taxes. For Educators, every [Understanding Taxes](#) lesson includes the correlations to national and state educational standards. Each lesson plan includes a link to the applicable national and state standards, making it simple to integrate [Understanding Taxes](#) into your existing classroom curricula.

[Understanding Taxes](#) can be customized to fit your own personal teaching style. You have the freedom to choose which activities and methods of instruction work best to meet the needs of your students.

The online [Understanding Taxes](#) site includes both a Teacher and Student site. Teaching taxes can take a traditional approach as students complete downloaded worksheets, classroom activities, and assessment pages. Or, students can complete work online and take part in interactive activities and simulations.

To learn more and to explore resources and material available, begin your journey to [Understanding Taxes](#) at <http://apps.irs.gov/app/understandingTaxes/index.jsp>.

Fun Facts and Trivia

From Three Forks, Montana, to St. Louis, the Missouri River is 2,300 miles long.

Construction of the first major dam, Fort Peck, on the Missouri River's main stem begins in Montana in 1933.

The Missouri has the most diverse list of fish species in Montana. In the river there are rainbows, browns, cutthroats, lake trout, Chinook salmon, black and white crappie, large and smallmouth bass, channel catfish, burbot, lake and mountain whitefish, carp, northern pike, walleye, sturgeon, paddlefish, yellow perch, gar and more.

The Missouri River drainage area is 529,350 square miles, one-sixth of the entire United States. The basin is home to about 10 million people from 28 Native American tribes, 10 states, and a small part of Canada.

The first steamboat ascended the Missouri River in 1819.

The Missouri River flows from 9,100 feet above sea level at Brower's Springs, Montana, down to 466 feet above sea level at St. Louis, Missouri.

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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