

## The Wednesday Reader

January 29, 2014

### Your Student Could Win \$50 in the ACTE Region V Pin Design Contest

ACTE Region V is seeking designs for their 2014 pin which will be used for the 2014 ACTE Region V Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota, April 23-26.

The winning designer will receive \$50.

The only requirements are to have the Region V and the year 2014. Additionally, for reproduction purposes, students are encouraged to keep the number of colors down.

Designs must be received by ACTE Region V Vice President Chuck Gallagher @ [Charles.gallagher@tusd1.org](mailto:Charles.gallagher@tusd1.org) no later than January 31.

### Resources & Materials to Prepare Students for College Life and Financial Fitness

Under the [Prepare and Pay section](#) of the Montana University System website ([www.mus.edu](http://www.mus.edu)) are a number of resources which can be used with students to help them prepare for life after high school including information about applying and paying for college as well as their financial management during college and after.

The site contains four different topics

- Prepare of College: Resources needed to get ready for college
- College 101: Information about Montana's colleges admission requirements, & succeeding on campus
- Financial Aid & Scholarships: Paying for tuition and related expenses
- Money Management & Budgeting: Managing finances in college and limiting loans and debt

One of the resources within the Money Management & Budgeting section is the [Dollars & Sense Workbook](#). This PDF publication is to help develop financial literacy skills in students and contains tips on money management, budgeting, and financial aid. [Dollars & Sense](#) is divided into four sections: Beginning Sound Money Management, Budgeting, Credit and Credit Cards, and Higher Education and Financial Aid.

The [Prepare and Pay](#) resources and materials would work great within a personal finance/financial literacy course or within the instruction of career development/career exploration.

### MCIS Seeking Input via Career Activities Survey

In an effort to provide teachers and counselors with career resources at the right time, the [Montana Career Information System \(MCIS\)](#) is asking for your help to answer this one-question survey. This survey is intended for anyone working with students from kindergarten through high school.

Please share this link with as many teachers and counselors has possible. MCIS is trying to determine how many publications they will need to print and when they will need to have them in their inventory.

To participate in the survey click this link: [Survey Link](#).

### MCIS Conducting Administrators Tools Webinar

The [Montana Career Information System \(MCIS\)](#) will be conducting a webinar on Tuesday, February 11 on the MCIS Administration Tools, which allow teachers, counselors, caseworkers, etc. to create portfolios for students, review site usage, assign student activities, and report on student results. The webinar will be held from 3-4 pm.

Click here to register for the [Administration Tools Webinar](#).

### 19th Annual Montana Economics Challenge

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) are pleased to announce the 19th Annual Montana Economics Challenge, in Helena, March 3, 2014.

The Federal Reserve Bank invites Montana high school teachers who incorporate economic learning in their classrooms to assemble teams of students to compete in a challenging array of tests covering economic concepts, issues and reasoning.

The purpose of the Economics Challenge is to increase students' exposure to and interest in economics in an entertaining atmosphere. The Economics Challenge began in 1988 as a product of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis became involved in 1992 when it sponsored a playoff round for the winning schools from the state's various regional centers for economic education. The Helena Branch, along with the MCEE, participated for the first time in 1996 when it held the first Economics Challenge in Montana.

Teams are comprised of three to four students who compete individually and as a team. Essentially, each participant takes a 15-question, multiple-choice test in each of the following three areas: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and International Trade and Economics. To determine team scores, the top three individuals' scores in each category are combined. The top two teams after the first three rounds will compete against each other in a buzzer round on general economics and current events to determine the final winner. Awards for top scores are given to individuals and to teams. Please keep in mind that each school may have more than one team and that it is not necessary for a school to offer a general economics class to compete in the Challenge.

The Federal Reserve Bank will cover costs associated with the Montana Challenge, including refreshments, breakfast, the luncheon, awards, and test facilitation. The Montana Bankers Association will cover lodging expenses on Sunday, March 2 for teams who wish to travel to Helena the day before the Challenge and the MCEE will cover costs for a substitute teacher on the March 3.

Winners of the state competitions will go on to compete in a semi-final round which will be proctored exams taken at the state champions' schools. The National Economics Challenge will be held in New York on 17-19.

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the Montana Council on Economic Education hope that you consider this opportunity for your students and look forward to seeing you in Helena on Monday, March 3.

An informational brochure about the 2014 Economics Challenge can be downloaded at <https://app.box.com/s/n1y62dmzvm384a0pt3vr>.

Registrations for this year's Montana Economics Challenge are now being accepted. The registration form can be download at <https://app.box.com/s/725tt6ycbdqh5je67zhu>. Registrations are due by February 12 and can be submitted via the information on the registration form.

If you have any questions regarding the 2014 Montana Economics Challenge please contact Rhonda Krieger at the Helena branch of the Federal Reserve at [Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org](mailto:Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org).

You are welcome to bring more than one team. Teams may consist of 3 or 4 students each. Please complete a registration form for each team. Space is limited, so register early.

### **Training and Registration 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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>.

### **Fun Facts and Trivia**

The Yellowstone River begins at the Continental Divide within the Absarokee Mountains in Wyoming.

The Yellowstone River flows northward through Yellowstone National Park, feeding and draining Yellowstone Lake, then dropping over the Upper and Lower Yellowstone Falls at the head of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

The Yellowstone River is the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states.

The Yellowstone River flows for 692 miles from the confluence of the North and South forks in Wyoming, through Montana, and connecting with the Missouri River in North Dakota south of Williston.

The first expeditions into present-day Yellowstone National Park followed the Yellowstone River.

The Yellowstone River is considered to be one of the greatest trout streams of the world and is officially classed as a blue ribbon stream in Montana from the park to the confluence with the Boulder river east of Livingston and from the mouth of Rosebud creek near Rosebud, Montana to the North Dakota border.

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.

**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](mailto:eswenson@mt.gov)

