

The Wednesday Reader

February 5, 2014

Please note: There will not be a Wednesday Reader next week, February 12, as I will be traveling to Portland, Oregon, for the 2014 Western Business Education Association Conference.

Big Sky Pathways & Dual Enrollment Workshop

A day-long workshop will be offered in two options April 29, 2014 and April 30, 2014 (your choice of day) at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman. The workshop will be the same on both days so you only need to attend one day.

The workshop will include

- Facilitation and Presentations by Deb Mills, National Career Pathways Director and Vice President of CORD, & Libby Livings-Eassa of the National Career Pathways Network
- Montana's Big Sky Pathways & Programs of Study
- Dual Enrollment Resources & Information
- Counseling for Careers

Carl D. Perkins grant funds will be available to schools who would like to apply for a grant to cover/offset staff's attendance costs. The deadline to apply for a grant is March 17, 2014. Grant application forms and additional information are available at <http://mus.edu/BigSkyPathways/default.asp>.

For questions about the workshop and/or the grant application process, please contact David Hall at 406.444.0608 or via e-mail at davidhall@montana.edu.

Alice 3 Self-Study Course Available on Oracle Academy Website

The "Getting Started with Java Using Alice 3" self-study course is available on the Oracle Academy Website at the link below. Learn how to create 3D animated stories, movies, and games using basic Java programming in this self-paced, online course.

No programming experience required. No login is needed to access this course. It is open to anyone.

<https://academy.oracle.com/self-study/alice/index.html>

Spring Session of the Stock Market Game Training Webinar Next Tuesday, February 11

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.

Registrations for the 19th Annual Montana Economics Challenge Due February 12

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.

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.

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) 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 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](#).

[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](#)

Water impoundment began at Fort Peck Lake in 1937; however, the dam was not finished until 1940.

Fort Peck Lake was first filled to capacity in 1947.

Fort Peck Lake is the largest lake in Montana, by surface area, covering 245,000 acres.

Dry Creek forms the longest side arm of Fort Peck Lake, Dry Arm, reaching 30 miles to the south.

Fort Peck Lake has over 1,520 miles of shoreline, longer than the California coast.

Fort Peck Lake has a maximum depth of 220 feet when full.

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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