

The Wednesday Reader

February 26, 2014

Montana Business Educators Attend Western Region Conference

A number of Montana business educators attended the 2014 Western Business Education Association Conference in Portland, Oregon. The 2014 WBEA Conference, titled Relevant Opportunities & Strategies for Excellence, was held February 13-17.

In addition to a number of breakout sessions and hands-on computer workshops, the conference also included keynote address by Kenneth “Cat Daddy” Pogson and Tres Shannon, founders of Voodoo Doughnuts, as well as Ken Trasher, former President and CEO of Fred Meyer Stores.

Two Montana business educators, Kerri Cobb (Bozeman) and Beth Lawrence (Garfield County District High School, Jordan), participated in the 2014 Professional Development Institute. The topics of the Professional Development Institute included leadership qualities, communication styles, organizational structures of the regional and national Executive Boards, Programs of Work, Bylaws, team building, goal setting, meeting management, convention planning, and personal visits from regional and national association officers.

Members of the Montana Business Education Association leadership team represented the state association during the 2014 WBEA Board Meeting. MBEA President Elaine Stedman (Sidney) and President Elect Doug Andersen (Billings Senior) are Montana’s two representatives on the Board and during the meeting shared information about the state of business education in Montana as well as presented details for the 2017 Western Business Education Association Conference, *Elevating Business Education*, which will be hosted by the Montana Business Education Association and held in Bozeman. Also during the WBEA Board Meeting, Conrad High School business educator Janie McFarland was elected to serve a two-year term as secretary for the Western Business Education Association.

During the awards banquet held Sunday evening, Montana Business Education Association Membership Director Linda Cotton (Cascade) was awarded the Robert J. Thompson WBEA Membership Award. This award is presented to the membership director who has achieved, or surpassed, the membership goal set by the National Business Education Association for their State/Territory/Province. In addition to Linda being presented with this award, the Montana Business Education Association also receives \$50.00 to help support membership recruitment efforts. Congratulations Linda and all the Montana members of the National Business Education Association.

Mark your calendars now for the [2015 Western Business Education Association Conference](#) which will be in Scottsdale, Arizona, May 20-25, 2015.

Financial Football – Teaching Financial Literacy in an Interactive Environment – Don’t Pass it Up

Visa and the National Football League have teamed up to help teach financial concepts with [Financial Football](#), a fast-paced, interactive game that engages students while teaching them money management skills. Teams compete by answering financial questions to earn yardage and score touchdowns.

In addition to the game, the [Financial Football](#) site also contains a variety of [lesson modules](#) for use at different grade levels/ages (ages 11-14, 14-18, and 18+) as well as a complete [resource section](#) which includes materials for creating a classroom curriculum and building a financial literacy program.

To learn more about [Financial Football](#) and check out how Financial Football can be a player in your financial literacy program, visit <http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games/trainingcamp/>.

CTE Spring Data Collection OPENS March 1 – Time to ID Concentrators for SY 2013-2014

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection begins March 1, 2014, and ends April 30, 2014. This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who were enrolled at any point during the current 2013-2014 school year who meet the definition of a CTE Concentrator.

CTE Concentrators are 12th graders who have earned three (3) or more credits in any CTE program in any combination during their years of high school. Currently enrolled courses count towards credits earned. CTE Concentrators must have the 'Concentrator' box checked and an 'Area of Concentration' entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system. If the student has a child or shares the parenting of a child, the 'Single Parent' box should also be marked.

High schools who receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program must complete this Spring Data Collection.

Instructions for completing the CTE Spring Data Collection can be found on the AIM webpage as well as inside the 'Data Collections' tab on the Secondary CTE webpage located here:

http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_6

Questions regarding this data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 or email opiainhelp@mt.gov. Questions regarding CTE programs and/or the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program should be directed to Diana Fiedler.

For more information, contact [Diana Fiedler, Accountability Specialist](#), 406.444.9019.

Montana BPA Newsletter Now Available

The [Spring 2014 edition](#) of the Montana BPA Newsletter is now posted on the [Montana BPA website](#) (www.bpamt.org) and can be downloaded for reading and sharing.

The newsletter can be downloaded from the Newsletter tab on the [Montana BPA website](#) as well as on [Advisor Manual page](#).

Money Smart: A Financial Education Program from the FDIC

The newly enhanced Money Smart Computer-Based Instruction (CBI) is an easy-to-use tool to learn more about basic personal financial management. The CBI can complement formal classes by providing learning assignments that users can complete at their own pace.

The CBI (English language version) was enhanced as of April 2012. The CBI features a game-based learning design and separate learning tracks for adults and young adults. The adult learning track features the 11 modules in the instructor-led Money Smart curriculum for adults. The young adult learning track (for those age 13 and older) features the eight modules in the Money Smart for Young Adults curriculum.

Each module can generally be completed within 30 minutes. Successful completion of a module will earn the user a certificate of completion for the module.

FDIC staff is available to provide technical assistance and to help facilitate partnerships among interested parties.

Access the Computer-Based Instruction version of Money Smart at <http://moneysmart.drc.com/>.

To learn more about Money Smart, visit

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/mscbi/mscbi.html>.

Be Sure to Complete Your CTE Student Participation Reports Via the Online Link

The 2013-2014 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Reports are available for completion via an online link. The link is currently posted on the 'Secondary CTE' web page and directly at <http://www.keysurvey.com/f/345142/20c3/>.

Any high school district planning to apply for Carl Perkins and/or State CTE (State VoEd) funding for the 2014-2015 school year must submit Participation Reports by all CTE teachers for all CTE programs at your high school. Please make sure that each CTE teacher completes their report and electronically submits it to the OPI by the due date **Saturday, March 15, 2014**.

As in the past, current course descriptions and a master schedule (such as an electronic 'registration booklet') are required from each CTE high school program as part of program approval. The OPI recommends ONE person from each district or high school be asked to submit ALL CTE course descriptions and one master schedule for everyone. This will fulfill the requirement, make it much easier and faster, eliminate duplicated information, and avoid uploading problems within the report.

The data collected from these Participation Reports is used for Carl Perkins accountability reporting and factors that determine the State CTE (State VoEd) allocations for the 2014-2015 school year. Therefore, it is imperative that the information submitted on these reports is complete and accurate. Incomplete, missing, or inaccurate data will affect your district's FY14 State CTE/Perkins allocations.

For more information or assistance with this online report, please contact Diana Fiedler, Accountability Specialist, either by phone, 406.444.9019, or by email at dfiedler@mt.gov.

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, including the [workshop's agenda](#), 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.

ACTE Region V Conference Early-Bird Registration Deadline March 1

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 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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The Milk River was given its name by Captain Meriwether Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who described the river in his journal: "*the water of this river possesses a peculiar whiteness, being about the colour of a cup of tea with the admixture of a tablespoonfull of milk. from the colour of its water we called it Milk river.*" This appearance results from clays and silts suspended in its waters.

The Milk River is the northernmost major tributary of the Missouri and runs for 729 miles.

The Milk River begins within Montana's Glacier County, flows north into Alberta, back into Montana to form Fresno Reservoir west of Havre, and then flows along the Hi-Line before emptying into the Missouri River just below Fort Peck Dam.

Fresno Dam was completed in 1939 and the reservoir contains 65 miles of shoreline.

The Milk sustains at least 42 species of fish, including walleye, sauger, catfish, and northern pike.

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

