

The Wednesday Reader

March 12, 2014

Please note there will not be a Wednesday Reader March 19 & 26. I will be on vacation beginning Wednesday, March 19 and returning to the office on Wednesday, April 2. During this time I will not have access to email or phone messages.

Student Loan Repayment Assistance for Educators

Teachers in critical teacher shortage areas are eligible for student loan repayment assistance of up to \$3,000 a year for four years—for a total of up to \$12,000.

To qualify for loan assistance, an educator must be a full-time educator teaching in an impacted academic area. These areas are: special education, career and technical education, mathematics, music, English, science, speech-language pathologist, world languages, social studies, library and art, respectively.

Additionally, they must be teaching in an impacted school. These schools tend to be rural and isolated, have a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students, and/or have greater challenges in closing the achievement gap. A list of qualifying schools is available [here](#).

Questions regarding the program, eligibility and the application process should be directed to the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program at 800-537-7508. For the application, go to: www.mgslp.org.

Saturday is Deadline 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.

Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND State VoEd Application NOW OPEN--due April 21

The Office of Public Instruction has again combined both the federal Carl D. Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND the state CTE/State VoEd Funding Application for school districts' convenience. You can apply for one or both funding programs using this one electronic form. This is an application the district's Authorized Representatives (AR) complete, not individual teachers; ARs are typically the district superintendent or someone given authority by the district regarding money.

The online link to access the complete the combined federal and state funding application is now available and listed below. It is also available on the *Secondary CTE* webpage of the OPI website inside the *Perkins Federal Funding* tab.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief Perkins 'Intent to Apply' electronic form and the State CTE/State VoEd funding application for the 2014-2015 E-Grants cycle. All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are eligible to apply for funding. Elementary districts are not eligible for Perkins or State CTE/State VoEd monies. Districts will NOT receive a 2014-2015 Perkins allocation unless this electronic form is completed and submitted online at the OPI on or before the deadline. These designations are binding and cannot be changed once allocations have been downloaded into the E-Grants system.

The online link is located here: <http://www.keysurvey.com/f/343718/10f4/>

The combined Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND State CTE/State VoEd funding application is DUE to the OPI on or before April 21, 2014.

If you have questions, please contact Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist, at dfiedler@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.9019.

Big Sky Pathways & Dual Enrollment Workshop – Applications for Funding Due Monday

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.

Montana Career Information System Survey from OPI Results

You may recall in December the Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education Career and Technical Education Divisions invited education professionals to participate in a very important online survey to provide valuable information and feedback on the Montana Career Information System.

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.

The data and responses gathered from the survey have been compiled and the results can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.keysurvey.com/report/569401/550662/298aa48e?afterVoting=ea66b5172795>.

Thank you to all who participated in the survey.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2014 Edition of MIET

The [2014 Montana Institute on Educational Technology](#) is schedule for June 17-20, with a pre-conference session on Monday, June 16, in Great Falls at Great Falls College MSU.

Over the past 10 years, MIET has welcomed teachers, librarians and technologists from 147 Montana cities and towns. This event continues to grow in registration and expand in its offerings each year with hands-on workshops on the most current classroom technologies, best practices, equipment and the newest software applications. Over 80 classes planned for this year, many of them new including Windows 8.1, Office 2013, Google and Common Core Curriculum. The particulars are still being worked on and more as details will be posted on the [MIET website](#) as they become available.

As you start planning your attendance at the 2014 MIET, below are some details to get you started.

--Cost: \$225/4-day institute (Tuesday-Friday) plus \$25 for lunches (4 days), if desired **OR** \$70/day for 3 or fewer days, plus \$7/day for lunch, if desired.

--The Monday, Pre-conference fees are \$50/half-day or \$80/full-day plus \$7 for lunch if desired. There will be a lunch option for you to select when you register. The fee for lunches is due with the registration fee.

--The fee for EARLY BIRDS is \$185/week (Tuesday-Friday) or \$55/day **for registrations received before May 16!** (Early Bird discount does not apply to pre-conference courses.) If desired, you may select the lunch option for \$25 more for the four days.

Note: The Institute registration fees do not include the tuition for the two (2) graduate credits which is to be paid separately to MSU-Northern. [Click here for more details](#).

As always, the courses you attend during MIET will be eligible for either OPI Renewal Units, (one hour of class time = one renewal unit) or two (2) graduate credits through MSU-Northern with a minimum of 24 hours of face-to-face class time during the conference, plus six additional hours online.

Be Sure to Identify CTE Concentrators for SY 2013-2014 for Perkins-Funding Related Reporting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection began 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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The United States Congress designated the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area as part of the original Wilderness Act of 1964 and it now encompasses over 1.5 million acres.

The “Bob” is named after early forester, wilderness preservation pioneer, and Wilderness Society co-founder Bob Marshall.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness, along with the adjoining Scapegoat and Great Bear wildernesses, make up the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness runs for 60 miles along the Continental Divide, with elevations ranging from 4,000 feet to more than 9,000 feet.

The “Bob” contains both the North and South Forks of the Sun River on the eastern side and the Middle and South Forks of the Flathead River on the western side.

A huge escarpment called the Chinese Wall, a part of the Divide, highlights the Bob's vast untrammled beauty, with an average height of more than 1,000 feet and a length of 22 miles.

The Bob is the fifth-largest wilderness in the lower 48 states.

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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