

The Wednesday Reader

April 2, 2014

Montana Approved for the Microsoft Shape the Future Program

Late January, the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) announced it had been working with Microsoft and received notice that Montana has been approved to be eligible to participate in the Microsoft Shape the Future program for the next 12 months (now 10 months).

The short version of what this means for Montana public schools is that you will receive a \$70 discount for every new computer you purchase with Windows 7 Professional, Windows 8 Pro, and Windows 8.1 Pro from a participating vendor.

The vendor list linked below has been updated since the original communication in January and there are now six (6) participating vendors.

If you are interested in participating in this program please check the vendor list linked below. If your usual vendor is not in the list and you are interested in taking advantage of this program, you need to email Dennis Parman (dparman@mt.gov) at OPI and provide him the vendor name you want to work with and the sales person contact information with that vendor. OPI will then contact the vendor to inquire if they are interested in participating in the Shape the Future program and communicate this information back to you.

Please note that vendors are not required to participate in this program.

To access the vendor list, please go to

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Superintendent/VendorsParticipatinginShapeTheFutureProgram.pdf>.

ACTE Region V Committee Openings

The following is a list of ACTE Region V committees with vacancies for the 2014-2015 membership year. If you are interested in being considered for one or more committees, please contact either MBEA President Elaine Stedman, estedman@sidney.k12.mt.us, or Montana ACTE Executive Director Mark Branger, mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us, for more information.

Policy Committee: 2 openings – cannot be from Montana or South Dakota

The following individuals have their terms ending in 2014

--Mark Branger – Montana

--Dodie Bemis – South Dakota

Awards Committee: 1 opening – cannot be from Utah – Possible 3 total openings

The following individuals have their term ending in 2014

--Jan Jardine – Utah

The following individuals have their term ending in 2015

--Speranta Klees – AZ

--Pam Stroklund – ND

The reason we put the 2015 individuals on this list is because of a change to terms on the Awards Committee. The term is changing to two years instead of the three year term they have been serving.

Region V Legislative and Resolutions Committee: 3 open positions – possible 6 open positions

The following individuals have their term ending in 2014

- Lyn Velle – WY
- Susan Smith – UT
- Carla Langseth – WY

The following individuals have their terms ending in 2015

- Tim Knue – WA
- Kathlynn Andrews – AK
- Sherilyn Seneff – WY

The reason we put the 2015 individuals on this list is because of a change to terms on the Legislative and Resolutions Committee. The term is changing to two years instead of the three year term they have been serving.

Nominating Committee: 2 openings positions – possible 4 open positions

The following individuals have their term ending in 2014

- Ann Decker – UT – this term ended in 2013 was not filled
- Stefanie Crawford – WY

The following individuals have their term ending in 2015

- Larry Stephenson – UT
- Richard Ross – ND

The reason we put the 2015 individuals on this list is because of a change to terms on the Nominating Committee. The term is changing to two years instead of the three year term they have been serving.

Marketing/Membership/New Ideas Committee: 1 position open – possible 6 open positions

The following individuals have their term ending in 2014

- Deb Moore – AZ – term ended in 2012 went unfilled

The following individuals have their term ending in 2015

- Christine Nelson – AZ
- Sarah McCoy – WA
- Ronita Jacobsen – NE
- Christian Godfrey – ID
- Raymond Stan Hall – NV

The reason we put the 2015 individuals on this list is because of a change to terms on the Marketing/Membership/New Ideas Committee. The term is changing to two years instead of the three year term they have been serving.

Two Career Clusters-Related Grant Opportunities Available through OCHE

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Office of Public Instruction announce the release of two (2) grants related to the ongoing development of enhancement of Career Clusters in Montana and the Big Sky Pathways Initiative. Both grants are funded from the Montana Perkins Rural Reserve funds.

Below are the details for both grants. For questions about the submission process, please contact OCHE staff at 406.444.0608 or davidhall@montana.edu.

Perkins Reserve Strengthening Big Sky Pathways Grant

Purpose: To strengthen and build upon the work of the Big Sky Pathways Initiative – providing a smooth transition from high school to college and career by increasing relationships between secondary and postsecondary institutions; enhancing and developing new programs of study and pathways for student participation; expanding career counseling; and growing the availability of dual enrollment, high school for college credit, industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning experiences and internships for students.

Secondary and Postsecondary Involvement: A main focus of the Strengthening Big Sky Pathways Initiative is to build upon and develop new relationships between secondary and postsecondary institutions, effectively bridging the gap between high school and college and career.

Awards: One year grant awards of up to \$75,000 each will be available to Perkins eligible: tribal colleges, two-year programs, community colleges or consortia for Strengthening Big Sky Pathways projects. The number of grants awarded will be determined by the quality of the applications and the availability of funds. Depending on the availability of funding, it is the intention of the Perkins State Executive Leadership Team (SELT) to make Big Sky Pathway Grants available on a competitive basis through the 2017-2018 grant years. If an entity is approved for successive grants, salary portions of grant awards will be tiered down annually in the following manner: 100% funding for year one, 100% funding for year two, 66% funding for year three, 33% funding for year four, and 0% funding for year five. *Applicants are encouraged to apply for both the Strengthening Big Sky Pathway Grant and the Big Sky Pathway Career Cluster Grant; however, applicants receiving the Strengthening Big Sky Pathway Grant will not also be awarded the Career Cluster Grant.*

To access the grant application and to get more details about the grant, please visit http://mus.edu/BigSkyPathways/SBSP%20RFP/SBSP_rfp_2014-15_Final.doc. The deadline for applications has been updated to May 9.

Perkins Reserve Big Sky Pathways Career Clusters Seminar Grant

Purpose: To strengthen and build upon the work of the Big Sky Pathways Initiative – providing a smooth transition from high school to college and career by increasing relationships between secondary and postsecondary institutions; enhancing and developing new programs of study with value-added components like dual enrollment, high school for college credit, industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning experiences, and internships, and increasing business and industry involvement educational programming.

Awards: One-year grant awards of up to \$10,000 each will be available to Perkins eligible: school districts, tribal colleges, two-year programs, community colleges or consortia for Big Sky Pathway Career Cluster Seminar projects. The number of grants awarded will be determined by the quality of the applications and the availability of funds. *Applicants are encouraged to apply for both the Strengthening Big Sky Pathway Grant and the Big Sky Pathway Career Cluster Grant; however, applicants receiving the Strengthening Big Sky Pathway Grant will not also be awarded the Career Cluster Grant.*

To access the grant application and to get more details about the grant, please visit http://mus.edu/BigSkyPathways/SBSP%20RFP/BSP_Cluster_rfp_2014-15_Final.doc. The deadline for applications has been updated to May 30.

Perkins Special Populations Grants Available

The State Executive Leadership Team, comprised of administration at both the Office of Public Instruction and Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, has committed to expend up to \$60,000 during the 2014-2015 grant cycle to serve special populations.

General Information

The purpose of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 is develop more fully the academic and career and technical skills of secondary and post-secondary students who elect to enroll in career and technical education (CTE) programs, including special populations. Funds made available under this Act for career and technical education activities are provide to supplement and supplant non-federal funds expended to carry out career and technical education activities.

Purpose

As outlined in the State's 2008-2012 Plan for the Administration of the Carl D. Perkins Improvement Act, up Carl D. Perkins Reserve funds may be allocated to serve special populations. The uses of these funds will meet the requirements of the Perkins Act.

Targeted Population

Carl Perkins law defines Special Populations as:

- Individuals with disabilities;
- Individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children;
- Individuals preparing for non-traditional fields;
- Single parents, including single pregnant women;
- Displaced homemakers;
- Individuals with limited English proficiency.

Eligibility

Eligible entities include Perkins eligible: secondary school districts, tribal colleges, two-year programs, community colleges and Perkins consortiums. This funding is also available to Community Based Organizations and State of Montana Job Services who partner with eligible Perkins School Districts and Postsecondary Programs.

For questions about the Perkins Special Populations Grant and/or submission process, please contact OCHE staff at 406.444.0608 or davidhall@montana.edu. Grants must be submitted by Monday, April 21 at 5 pm.

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.

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.

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.

CTE Concentrators for SY 2013-2014 for Perkins-Funding Related Reporting Due This Month

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 Tongue River flows for 265 miles from the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming to the Yellowstone River at Miles City.

The Tongue River serves as the eastern boundary of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

The Tongue River Reservoir stretches 12miles behind the Tongue River Dam and covers 642 acres.

The Tongue River Dam was completed in 1939 and is 91 feet high and 1824 feet in length.

The Tongue River Reservoir is home to a variety of fish including bass, crappie, walleye 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.

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