

## **The Wednesday Reader**

**April 9, 2014**

### **Business Educator Looking for Feedback Regarding Change in Course Scheduling**

Bainville High School Business Educator Cheryl Graham is seeking information and input from the field. Please read her note below and provide any helpful information directly to Cheryl at [graham@bainvilleschool.k12.mt.us](mailto:graham@bainvilleschool.k12.mt.us).

Bainville is a Class C district currently operating on an 8 period day but considering a change to a 7 period day for next school year. CTE teachers are concerned about reducing the availability of electives. Can anyone weigh in on this?

### **Superintendent's Student Advisory Board Nominations**

The deadline for Student Advisory Board nominations and applications is Friday, April 11. Both nominations from adults and student applications must be completed by close of business on April 11. The mission of the Student Advisory Board is to include student voice and perspectives in statewide policy decisions. Additionally, including student voice at the local level is a critical component of the mission of Graduation Matters Montana. Twenty-six communities currently have Graduation Matters initiatives, and several additional communities are expected to launch initiatives this year.

Students who are selected for this board will attend two annual board meetings, serve a two year maximum appointment, have the opportunity to network with state leaders, and experience professional and leadership development.

All students who are nominated should be highly interested in the purpose of the Student Advisory Board and able to actively participate as a board member.

To nominate a student, please visit the OPI's [Graduation Matters](#) website and click on the [Nominate a Student for SAB](#) button.

For the student's application to be complete, they must have an adult nominator who has completed the online nomination form. Nominees will then be asked to fill out a brief application, which should take about 30 minutes to complete.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bezanson at [jbezanson@mt.gov](mailto:jbezanson@mt.gov) or 406-444-3526.

### **Information Sought from CTE Teachers; Share Links with CTE Professionals in Your School**

Over the past six months, I have had the opportunity to visit a number of cutting-edge career and technical education public schools. I have been enormously impressed by these schools' innovative courses and instructional approaches—approaches that engage students with real-world applications of academic concepts. I have seen how high-quality career and technical education done in collaboration with businesses gives students the kind of in-demand skills they will need to build a productive future.

This is an exciting time for career and technical education (also known as CTE) as policymakers grapple with how to best prepare students for 21st-century careers. The AFT is advocating on behalf of our teachers in these programs, and we want to do it as effectively as possible, especially if Congress takes up the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act—the primary federal funding mechanism for CTE. We

realize that we need more information to identify the full range of exemplary CTE programs our members are engaged in and to create a network of CTE teachers to tell us their success stories.

<http://afl.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=UFxHGRZZYLqtyeNiii12IH2GUonyQb8n>

We are therefore seeking your help in disseminating an online survey to our K-12 career and technical education teachers to begin collecting this type of information. If you know of CTE teachers in your union, please urge them to complete this survey.

<http://afl.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=uTeJzWB0tTiNIr%2B5IbJDRn2GUonyQb8n>

Our communications team will send you more information about this survey for you to put on your website, in newsletters and in any other digital communications, so as to reach as many of our members as possible. After we tabulate and analyze the survey responses, we will be happy to share the results with you.

If you have any questions about the survey or the research project, please contact Marie-Louise Caravatti in the AFT's educational issues department at [mcaravat@aft.org](mailto:mcaravat@aft.org) or 202-585-4381.

In unity,  
Randi Weingarten  
AFT President

### **[Interested in a Summer MCIS Bootcamp? Complete the MCIS Bootcamp Survey](#)**

The [Montana Career Resource Network \(MCRN\)](#) is considering whether or not to offer a [Montana Career Information System \(MCIS\)](#) Bootcamp this summer.

Please take this brief survey letting MCRN know if you would attend an MCIS Bootcamp if offered. [MCIS Bootcamp Survey](#).

### **[2014 MIET Registration Opens Monday, April 14 – Take Advantage of the Early-Bird Rates](#)**

The 11th annual [Montana Institute on Educational Technology \(MIET\)](#) is coming this June 16-20, 2014 to Great Falls College MSU. Registration opens next Monday, April 14, with discounted fees for early-bird registration until May 16. For fees and registration information, please visit the MIET 2014 website at [http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET\\_web/Registration.html](http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET_web/Registration.html).

Special Early Bird Registration Offer - \$185/week (5 days; MON-Fri) or \$55/day! For registrations received by May 16, 2014 *ONLY*. This does not include the lunch fee of \$35 (for five days), or \$7 per day for four or fewer days. *You must select the lunch option and pay the extra fee at the time of registration.*

The MIET brochures are being mailed out this week.

If you do not want to wait for your copy or you are not on the MIET mailing list and want to get a head start on choosing your classes, the complete list with descriptions is currently available on the website in addition to the brochure: [http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET\\_web/index.html](http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET_web/index.html).

## **Announcing Microsoft Office Now Available on Your iPad & iPhone**

Microsoft recently announced the availability of Microsoft Office for the iPad as well as an Office application for the iPhone. For more details and for links to get Office for your iPad and iPhone please click the link below.

<http://blogs.office.com/2014/03/27/announcing-the-office-you-love-now-on-the-ipad/?loc=zTS3z&prod=zOff365z&tech=zOttechz&prog=zOTprogz&type=zBLz&media=zOTmediaz&country=zUSz>

## **Montana Approved for the Microsoft Shape the Future Program (the vendor list link has been restored)**

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](mailto: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>.

## **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](mailto: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](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](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 to 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](mailto:davidhall@montana.edu). Grants must be submitted by Monday, April 21 at 5 pm.

### **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](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov) or by phone at 406.444.9019.

### **CTE Concentrators for SY 2013-2014 for Perkins-Funding Related Reporting Due April 30**

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](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 [opiaimhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiaimhelp@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**

Canyon Ferry Lake is Montana's third largest body of water.

Construction of Canyon Ferry dam was completed in 1954.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir has 96 miles of shoreline.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir stretches for 25 miles

Canyon Ferry Reservoir is excellent for rainbow trout, perch, ling, and walleye fishing.

The former town of Canton lies beneath the lake, having been submerged following construction of the dam.

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.

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