

## The Wednesday Reader

April 23, 2014

*Please note there will not be a Wednesday Reader next Wednesday, April 30, and the following week, May 7, as I will be in Indianapolis for the 2014 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference. The last edition of the Wednesday Reader for the 2013-2014 school year will be sent Wednesday, May 14.*

### Students & Advisors Preparing for National Conferences

Good luck to the members and advisors of Montana BPA and Montana DECA at next week's national conferences.

The 2014 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference will be held in Indianapolis, April 30-May 4, and the 2014 DECA International Career Development Conference will be held in Atlanta, May 3-6.

Congratulations to all members and advisors on your accomplishments and achievements this year.

### Get Pre-Approval to Receive OPI Renewal Units for Summer Workshops and Conferences

If you are planning to attend a professional development event, workshop, or conference this over the summer either in-state or out-of-state and they are not offering OPI Renewal Units, be sure to get OPI Renewal Units for these events.

The Educator Licensure division of the Office of Public Instruction will grant renewal units for certificate renewal when a Montana educator wishes to receive renewal units for attending an event not either delivered by an approved OPI provider or approved by OPI as a single event. To gain the renewal units, you must complete the [Educator's Application for Prior Approval of Professional Development Activities for Renewal Units](#) form.

The fillable PDF [Pre-Approval form](#) can be downloaded from the [Renewal Applications—Educators page](#) of the [Educator Licensure section](#) of the OPI website, [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov). The completed form and a copy of the documentation, brochure, or promotional materials about the event need to be mailed to the address indicated on the form and be received at least seven (7) days prior to the event's start.

After you download the form, complete the required educator information and information about the course, conference, workshop, event or seminar. To determine the number of number of renewal units requested, most event documentation states the number of contact hours, the number of credits granted (1 semester credit=15 hours/units and 1 quarter credit-10 hours/units); or the number of credit hours granted by another education-related agency. Remember, units are awarded in whole hours—1 hour=1 unit; 1.5 hours=1 unit; 1.75 hours=2 units.

When the event is completed, submit documentation of your participation (most likely a certificate of completion including the number of contact hours) and a copy of your approval letter from the OPI and OPI will send you an official certificate. The certificate should be filed with your renewal unit certificates and college transcripts to be used as evidence when you apply for renewal of your Educator License.

Please keep in mind, if you have applied to receive college credit for the event, you cannot request approval for renewal units.

Should you have questions about the preapproval process, you may contact the Educator Licensure office at 406.444.3150.

### **Looking for a Semester Project? Try a WebQuest for Free with Zunal WebQuest Maker**

[Zunal WebQuest Maker](#) is the easiest way to create a WebQuest with more than 272 thousand users. It is a web-based software for creating WebQuests in a short time without writing any HTML codes. [Zunal WebQuest Maker](#) is free to use and offers nearly 200,000 WebQuests you can implement into your curriculum today.

With [Zunal WebQuest Maker](#), students can work in teams to create a WebQuest and students can use their smartphones to complete a WebQuest as [Zunal](#) is mobile-friendly.

For more details about [Zunal](#), or to create your free account and develop a WebQuest, visit [www.zunal.com](http://www.zunal.com).

You do not need to have an account to access the already-developed WebQuests. Checkout the hundreds of WebQuests related to Business/Economics, Life Skills/Careers, and Technology.

### **Recognize Your Students--Establish Your Own National Business Honor Society Chapter**

Want to give your students nationwide recognition for their achievements in your business education program? Start a chapter of the [National Business Honor Society](#).

This is a way to enhance an interest in the study of business and is an opportunity to increase visibility of the business curriculum.

Students are eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- must be a high school junior or senior
- must have completed or be currently enrolled in his/her third business education course
- must have an overall 3.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- must have a 3.5 GPA in business courses (on a 4.0 scale)

Visit <http://www.nbea.org/newsite/about/NBHS.html> for more information and to obtain a chapter start-up kit.

### **Register Today for the 2014 MIET**

The 11th annual [Montana Institute on Educational Technology](#) (MIET) is coming this June 16-20, 2014 to Great Falls College MSU. Registration opened 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 complete 2014 MIET catalog with descriptions is currently available on the website at [http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET\\_web/index.html](http://outreach.gfcmsu.edu/MIET_web/index.html).

### **CTE Concentrators for Perkins-Funding Related Reporting Due Next Week, 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 [opiainhelp@mt.gov](mailto: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**

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge is a 31,533-acre National Wildlife Refuge located in the northeastern region of the state in Sheridan and Roosevelt counties, between Culbertson and Plentywood.

The 28,438-acre north tract includes the 8,218-acre Medicine Lake as well as 17 smaller water units.

The Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex includes Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the Northeast Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) and the Lamesteer National Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge was established in 1935 to protect the wildlife heritage of the United States and provides important breeding and stopover habitats for a diverse array of migratory birds.

A 99-foot-high observation tower is located at the refuge headquarters and it provides visitors a unique vista to the western half of the refuge.

283 distinct bird species have been documented and of these 125 are known to nest on the refuge.

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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