

The Wednesday Reader
September 24, 2014

2014-15 Virtual Business Scholarship Opportunity

Knowledge Matters, the maker of Virtual Business simulations, is pleased to announce the annual Virtual Business Scholarship for high school business, marketing and personal finance students currently enrolled in their junior and senior years of high school throughout the United States.

This scholarship is intended to help eligible applicants defray the costs of their continuing education. The scholarship applications will be judged nationally and the winner will receive \$2,000.

The application is accessible at: www.KnowledgeMatters.com/scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Ginley via email at Ginley@KnowledgeMatters.com or toll-free at (877)965-3276.

Recognize an Outstanding Montana Business Educator – Nominations Due Friday

Do you have an outstanding business teacher on your staff or know a business teacher who deserves to be recognized for their contributions to the business education profession?

The Montana Business Education Association is seeking nominations for its 2014 Awards Program. Please consider nominating an awesome business educator for recognition in October during the Montana ACTE Fall Institute in Missoula.

Categories include Young Business Teacher of the Year (5 years or less) and Secondary Business Teacher of the Year (the winner for Young Business Teacher of the Year and Secondary Business Teacher of the Year will compete to move on to the Montana ACTE awards competition). Also consider nominating an outstanding contributor to Business Educators which can be an individual or a business.

We would like to congratulate our 2013 winners:

- Business Teacher of the Year - Elaine Stedman, Sidney High School
- Young Business Teacher of the Year - Beth Lawrence, Garfield County High School
- Outstanding Contributor to Business Education – Bank of Baker, Dean Wang, President

Letters of nomination can be sent to Scott Anderson, MBEA Past President, at andersons@baker.k12.mt.us, scott@bakerahcs.com or faxed to 406.778.2785.

All nominations are due by September 26, 2014.

2014 Montana ACTE Institute Early-Bird Registration Ends Next Week, October 1

Registration is now available for the [2014 Montana ACTE Institute](http://www.montanaacte.org) on the Montana ACTE website at www.montanaacte.org. This year's Institute, *The Common Core Advantage 2.0: Strategies That Work in CTE*, will be held at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown, October 16-17. Early bird registration ends October 1.

The Montana ACTE Institute is Montana's premier professional development opportunity for Career and Technical Education professionals and Montana's business and marketing educators.

Registration Closes October 6 for the 2014 New CTE Professionals Workshop

The Office of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting a **New CTE Professionals Workshop** on Wednesday, October 15, in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Downtown, prior to the start of the 2014 Montana ACTE Fall Institute. The New CTE Professionals Workshop is a **FREE** professional development opportunity designed specifically for Career & Technical Education professionals in their first, second, or third year in the classroom.

This professional development opportunity will provide teachers who are new to the classroom, as well as those with less than four years of experience, with information on a variety of topics essential for success in the career and technical education classroom including

- Perkins funding,
- State CTE funding,
- Advisory boards,
- Professional development,
- Professional organizations,
- Montana's Big Sky Pathways Initiative and the Development of Programs of Study,
- CTE and program-area standards and guidelines, and
- Career & Technical Student Organizations.

The workshop will be held at the Missoula Holiday Inn Downtown (200 South Pattee Street) from 8 am to 4 pm. The training is free of charge and lunch will be provided for attendees. Up to six (6) OPI Renewal Units will be offered.

Additional details about the New CTE Professionals Workshop, including a schedule of events, are currently posted on the Secondary CTE page of the OPI website (<http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html>) under the **In The News** heading and can be downloaded via the following link:

<http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/14OctNewProfessionalsWrkshp.pdf>.

Registration for the 2014 New CTE Professionals Workshop can be completed and submitted online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FKDN7ZH>. The deadline to register is Monday, October 6.

Montana High School Business Challenge Trainings to be Held Next Week – Sign Up Today

The key to getting your students to understand key business concepts is through hands-on activity. If you've not yet done so, consider this simulation designed to develop management, financial, marketing and critical thinking skills in a competitive, learning enhanced environment.

The Montana High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education lets your students actively participate in a state-wide simulation as real entrepreneurs. The students manage the business of a Digital Music Player manufacturer, and many daily decisions face the students, including financial, ethical, legal, and competitive issues. It is a dynamic simulation that can be incorporated into many different class disciplines.

The state-wide competition runs eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, October 8 and concluding Wednesday, December 10. College scholarships are awarded to the top three teams. The cost is \$15.00 per team.

REGISTERING TEAMS FOR FALL SEMESTER? QUESTIONS?: To register teams for the fall Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263 for further information. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, October 1.

FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS: First-time participants need to be trained prior to involvement in the Business Challenge by webinar training sessions which introduces the teacher to the concepts and procedures the simulation. It will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 30 and October 1, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. If you are a first-time participant, or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of the Business Challenge, please register online at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/221176496>.

REFRESHER WEBINAR FOR PAST PARTICIPANTS: A webinar is scheduled on Monday, September 29, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for teachers that have previously participated in the Challenge who want to refresh their skills and learn more about the simulation. This webinar is voluntary, and is open only to teachers that have previous HSBC involvement. Space is limited. The web address to register for this webinar is <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/657796225>.

2014-2015 Grant Approval Reminder to High School Districts Who Apply For Perkins Funding

The CTE Division of the OPI is sending this reminder to all districts intending to submit a 2014-2015 Perkins grant application to please obtain final OPI approval of your initial Perkins application through the E-Grants system no later than **Friday, October 31, 2014**.

Only the initial/original application is subject to this deadline. Amendments to your approved Perkins application can occur after the October date. If you have questions regarding the status of your Perkins grant application, please contact one of the following CTE Division staff:

Brad King: phone: 406.444.4451; email: bking2@mt.gov

Renee Harris: phone: 406.994.6986; email: rharris3@mt.gov

Diana Fiedler: phone: 406.444.9019; email dfiedler@mt.gov

Experian Teacher Conference Scholarships for JumpStart National Educator Conference

Experian is pleased to offer **20 scholarships** for PreK-12th grade classroom teachers to attend the [JumpStart National Educator Conference](#) in Los Angeles, November 8-10, 2014.

The scholarship covers your registration fee of \$425, which includes **full participation** in the conference, all **conference meals** and receptions, and **two nights in a private room** at the Omni Hotel at California Plaza. Visit JumpStart's website, www.jumpstartcoalition.org/teacher-conference.html, for more information about the conference and what you get with registration.

Please note that teachers (or their schools) are responsible for transportation, incidental, and optional costs.

How to Apply

--Send an **e-mail** to: experianscholarship@jumpstart.org

--Subject line: "Experian Scholarship Request"

--E-mail may not exceed 500 words total and may not contain attachments.

--Include the following information:

1. Teacher's full name.
2. Employer's (school or school district) full name and address.
3. A sentence stating that you (or your school or district) will be fully responsible for all transportation and incidental costs and will refund the scholarship if you fail to attend.
4. A short description of the course, unit, activities, etc. in which you teach personal finance or your specific plan to introduce it.

Please, no phone calls. Jump\$Start will administer the requests on behalf of Experian.

Criteria

Applicants must be:

--Full-time, licensed/certified, PreK-12 teachers, currently employed by a school or school district.

--First-time attendees of the Jump\$Start National Educator Conference.

--Teaching personal finance (as a course or integrated into other subject matter) currently or must have a specific plan to introduce it.

Priority will be given to teachers from areas under-represented in conference registration as of October 3.

Apply right away! Deadline to apply is September 25. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the criteria and priorities shown above.

Notification

--Scholarship recipients will be notified by Jump\$Start and given instructions for registration.

--All applicants will be notified by e-mail no later than October 1.

Thank you for understanding that Jump\$Start will be unable to take phone calls, give status updates, or entertain requests for exceptions.

Code.org Adds Free App Builder for Kids, Teacher Training

Seattle-based Code.org is expanding way beyond online programming tutorials for students.

The nonprofit announced a computer-science education platform called [Code Studio](#). It includes an online learning tool that students can use to create apps and send simple apps to phones.

Also announced are in-person, professional development workshops for teachers wanting to use Code Studio in their classrooms. Code.org taught 700 teachers this summer and hopes to reach 10,000 more this year, according to Code.org co-founder Hadi Partovi, a former Microsoft manager turned startup investor. Workshops are planned in [more than 60 cities](#).

Code Studio also includes computer-science curriculum that is being used in thousands of classrooms and the ["Hour of Code" tutorial that last year introduced more than 10 million students](#) to computer science.

All the offerings are free and supported by donations that Code.org has received from leading tech companies and industry leaders.

MCEE-Sponsored Stock Market Game Competition Begins October 8—Training October 2

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students? Ask Sonja Mangel from Westby, Fred Petek from Billings West, or other teachers you know that have participated about the benefits of involving their classes in The Stock Market Game™ sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education.

The program is easy to administer, and teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts: Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Cooperation and Communication, Primary Research, and Saving and investing. Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive gameplay creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. Cash prizes are also awarded for the top three teams.

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on October 8, 2014, and runs for 10 weeks. To find out more information and register teams for competition, go to www.stockmarketgame.org, and click on the registration link in the upper right-hand corner.

Training Webinar: A training webinar is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. It is designed for those that have never participated in the Stock Market Game, or for those wanting to better understand the game functions. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Seating is limited. To register for the webinar, go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/788138112>.

What students gain from The Stock Market Game™ program is a remarkable experience—and even more important, an education for life. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 406.994.2263.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Almost half the newspapers in the world are published in the United States and Canada.

The two-foot long bird called a Kea that lives in New Zealand likes to eat the strips of rubber around car windows.

Most lipstick contains fish scales.

Skepticisms is the longest word that alternates hands when typing.

One ragweed plant can release as many as one billion grains of pollen.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigleys gum

A group of geese on the ground is a gaggle, a group of geese in the air is a skein.

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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