

The Wednesday Reader

Rocktober 29, 2014

Remember to Fall Back on Saturday night, November 1, as Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend.

Teaching Computer Coding, Computer Programming, & Robotics Survey Closes Friday

Kerri Cobb with the Bozeman High School Business Education Department is working with CodeMontana to get free curriculum materials for teachers and needs some information. Kerri needs to know what schools in the state are teaching computer coding, computer programming, and/or robotics.

If you, or another teacher in your school district, are teaching computer coding, computer programming, and/or robotics please complete the following survey by Friday, October 31.

Survey link: <http://goo.gl/forms/FQ88eHgGcH>.

For questions or additional information, please contact Kerri at kerri.cobb@bsd7.org.

Friday is Deadline for 2014-2015 Perkins Grants – Don't Be Spooked and Forget

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

Three 'Microsoft in the Classroom' Seminars Around Montana Announced

Microsoft in the Classroom is a 90 minute seminar explores the tools, technologies, and resources available for educators to bring 21st century teaching and learning to your classrooms and improve student outcomes.

The seminar focuses on transforming the education experience through the intersection of trends, technology, and teaching, and is a great starting point for any school considering new investments in digital education programs.

During this seminar, you and your team will:

- * See rich curriculum samples and global examples of best practices that demonstrate how technology can enhance teaching and learning
- * Understand how technology and devices enable new levels of creativity and facilitate better collaboration among students, educators, and parents
- * See how students can continue learning where they left off—from any place, at any time, across all of their devices

- * Discover how students can organize their learning, take notes, and become highly efficient in the way they study
- * Learn where to get free tools that spark imagination and inspire learning
- * Access professional development resources to help educators transform their teaching

Guided by a qualified instructor, three 90–120 minute sessions have been scheduled for three Montana locations—Missoula, Great Falls, and Billings.

Option 1: Missoula

Date: Tuesday, November 11

Location: Missoula County Public Schools Administration Building, Room 21
215 South 6th Street
Missoula, MT 59801

Time: 3:30-5:30 pm

Option 2: Great Falls

Date: Wednesday, November 12

Location: Great Falls Public Schools District Office Building, Aspen Conference Room
1100 4th Street South
Great Falls, MT 59405

Times: Session 1: 8-10 am
(Pick one) Session 2: 2:15-3:30 pm
Session 3: 3:45-5 pm

Option 3: Billings

Date: Thursday, November 13

Location: Billings Library, Community Room
510 North Broadway
Billings, MT 59101

Times: Session 1: 10-11:30 am
(Pick one) Session 2: 3:30-5 pm

If you questions regarding the above sessions, please contact Monica Reynolds, Education Mobility Specialist US-EDU, at MoReynol@Microsoft.com or by phone at 503.936.1311.

To register for one of the sessions please visit <https://msevents.microsoft.com/CUI/EventDetail.aspx?EventID=1032602795&Culture=en-US&community=0> and for more information on Educator Training, please visit www.pil-network.com.

Invitation to META Tech Talk with Microsoft – Three Montana Locations Available

You are invited to join the [Montana Educational Technologist Association \(META\)](#) for a roundtable discussion on your technology roadmap and how Microsoft can support your districts to bring 21st century teaching and learning to your classrooms and improve student outcomes.

This open discussion with Jonny Chambers, Microsoft's Education Mobility Director for West/Central Region and Monica Reynolds, Mobility Specialist for Montana will focus on the challenges facing IT in implementing device initiatives, Office 365, training the trainers, and transforming the education experience through a new focus on preparing students for a technology driven workforce.

This a great starting point for any school considering new investments in digital education programs.

Option 1: Missoula

Date: Tuesday, November 11

Location: Missoula County Public Schools Administration Building, Room 21
215 South 6th Street
Missoula, MT 59801

Time: 12:30-2:30 pm

Option 2: Great Falls

Date: Wednesday, November 12

Location: Great Falls Public Schools District Office Building, Aspen Conference Room
1100 4th Street South
Great Falls, MT 59405

Times: 12:30-2:30 pm

Option 3: Billings

Date: Thursday, November 13

Location: Billings Library, Community Room
510 North Broadway
Billings, MT 59101

Times: 1-3 pm

If you questions regarding the above sessions, please contact Monica Reynolds, Education Mobility Specialist US-EDU, at MoReynol@Microsoft.com or by phone at 503.936.1311.

To register for one of the sessions please visit

<https://msevents.microsoft.com/CUI/EventDetail.aspx?EventID=1032602843&Culture=en-US&community=0>
and for more information on Educator Training, please visit www.pil-network.com.

MCEE to Host Current Issues in Economics course at MSU

The [Montana Council on Economic Education \(MCEE\)](#) is planning for the annual ECNS 594 Current Issues in Economics course at Montana State University to be held December 10-12, 2014.

Updated information will be posted on the MCEE website (www.econedmontana.org) next week. If you or another educator have some interest in signing up for the course this December please feel free to contact us via email or phone (406) 994-5618.

Here is the link to the information from last summer's offering.

<http://www.econedmontana.org/programs/workshops/ECNS594/ecns594.html>.

MCEE would like to have an estimate of participants by November 24, 2014. If you are interested in attending, please provide notice to MCEE at mcee@montana.edu.

School Wellness in Action Mini Grants

In November, Montana Team Nutrition will be releasing a *2015 School Wellness In Action Mini-Grant Program* for school districts participating in the National School Meals Program.

This competitive grant program will fund eight - \$2,000 mini grants to support school districts in taking sustainable action steps for implementing the district's school wellness policy. Student wellness strategies may focus on meeting nutrition guidelines for all foods sold in schools; strengthening nutrition education (including kid's cooking programs); enhancing nutrition promotion; initiating or expanding farm to school programs; strengthening physical activity opportunities (include professional development); or applying for a healthy schools award (i.e. HealthierUS School Challenge or Montana Menu Challenge).

Funds can support staff time, professional development opportunities, and procurement of educational or promotional resources. The mini-grant application will be posted (by the middle of November) at this web site: http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/index.html#gpm1_5.

For more information, contact [Katie Bark](#), 406-994-5641.

Montana Girls STEM Collaborative - Helena conference

Looking to learn more about women working in STEM fields and how you can be involved? Building a prepared workforce begins with our youth in K-12 excited and engaged in learning about science, technology, engineering and math both in the classroom and after school.

This one day conference convenes leaders from government, business and organizations at the Helena College on Friday, November 7. The afternoon includes a session on mentoring, a critical tool for professionals in the field to help build a pipeline of future workers and leaders.

The morning session will take place at the Helena College main campus (1115 North Roberts Street) and include opening remarks by First Lady Lisa Bullock and breakout sessions on STEM collaborations, opportunities and hands-on activities.

The afternoon session takes place at the Helena College airport campus (2300 Airport Road) with opening remarks by Lieutenant Governor Angela McLean; Role Models Matter training, an initiative that prepares STEM professionals and college students for outreach, and helps STEM providers think more about how to incorporate role models and mentors into their programming; and networking, professional development and a tour of the Helena Aviation Campus, including the aviation mechanics program.

The \$45 fee includes registration and lunch. Transportation between the two locations is not included.

Register online at <http://www.ngcproject.org/montana-girls-stem-fall-collaboration-conference>. For more information, contact Jan Lombardi at jan.lombardimt@gmail.com or by phone at 406.431.0625.

Scholarship Opportunity from the National Business Education Association

Each year, the [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) awards two \$1,000 scholarships to individuals pursuing continuing education or graduate study in business education. The scholarships recognize and support educators who give evidence of leadership and scholarship potential in the field of business education.

The NBEA Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to outstanding individuals for the purpose of continuing their study and professional development in business education.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for an NBEA scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be enrolled in a college or university post-baccalaureate or graduate-level program and submit proof of enrollment;
- Be enrolled in a business education program and/or other related areas in business;
- Submit proof of completion of at least two graduate courses (six semester hours);
- Submit a one-page letter describing (a) past contributions to the field of business education, (b) plans to utilize the degree in the future, (c) two or three significant issues in business education, and (d) why the applicant should be the recipient of the award;
- Submit a current resume;
- Submit two letters of recommendation attesting to the scholarship/leadership potential of the applicant;
- Be currently teaching and plan to continue to teach, or plan to teach upon completion of the program, in the field of business education;
- Be a current professional member of NBEA for a minimum of one full year at the time of application.

An anonymous selection committee will evaluate the applications and identify the winners. Scholarship winners will be announced during the Awards Luncheon at the NBEA 2015 Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, April 3.

To qualify for this years' Scholarship Program, the [Scholarship Application Form](#) must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2014 and returned to NBEA headquarters.

CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant Now Available

CenturyLink Foundation has allocated \$20,000 to the Montana Association for Career & Technical Education (Montana ACTE) through an education grant to be awarded to Montana K-12 educators who demonstrate

innovative uses of technology in the classroom. The funds will be disbursed to local school districts on a competitive basis.

The funds may be used to purchase the following for use in the classroom: supplies and materials, software and hardware, or professional development activities. Any supplies and materials, software and hardware purchased become the property of the school should the teacher leave the school.

The funds will be available May 2015 and must be spent during the 2015-2016 academic school year. The funds must be spent by June 30, 2016.

The complete CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant application is available on the Montana ACTE website at www.montanacte.org. The deadline for applications is January 2, 2015.

The grant application process will be administered by a partnership of Montana ACTE and CenturyLink.

Apply Today for 2014 WBEA Educational Improvement Scholarship Application

The Western Business Education Association (WBEA) announces the annual WBEA Educational Improvement Scholarship for business and computer science educators. This Scholarship is provided to help offset tuition costs for educators who are pursuing an ADVANCED degree to support teaching in the area of Business Education. It is available for tuition and is offered and managed by the WBEA Executive Board through the WBEA Professional Development Committee. Funding for the scholarship will be through donations from individuals, companies, and other sources.

The scholarship is for \$500 and to apply, applicants must

1. Be a current member of an S/T/P (State/Territory/Province Business Education Association and a member of NBEA/WBEA,
2. Be currently engaged as an instructor in business/computer education
3. Be currently accepted in a business/computer education degree (Proof of an unofficial transcript and/or grade sheet showing completion of at least one class) must be submitted with application),
4. Additional information submitted as stated on application.

For additional details and to complete the application, please visit the WBEA Scholarship page of the WBEA website at <http://www.wbea.info/new/profdev/eos.html>.

The application deadline is December 1, 2014.

Fall 2014 CTE Data Collection – Time to Find your 2014 Graduates

The Fall 2014 CTE Data Collection begins on October 1 and ends December 31, 2014.

The Fall CTE Data Collection is a follow up to last year's Spring CTE Data Collection. Students identified as CTE Concentrators last year (2013-2014) and graduated in the spring of 2014 should be contacted between October 1 and December 31 and asked their current post-graduation status. After contact, the appropriate post-graduation status code must be entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system for each CTE Concentrator.

All high schools that received funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program in 2013-2014 are required to complete this fall follow up collection to maintain their eligibility to receive Perkins funding.

Instructions for completing the Fall CTE Data Collection—called the 'Quick Reference Guide' for the Fall CTE Data Collection—are located in two places on the OPI website: on the AIM web page listed in Reports and Data and also on the Secondary CTE web page under the 'Data Collections' tab.

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to verify the list of CTE Concentrators from what your district submitted last spring. Any additions, corrections, or changes to the list of CTE Concentrators must be made no later than November 15, 2014, to be accurately reflected in federal reporting and used to compute Perkins Performance indicators for your school.

Technical AIM questions regarding the Fall CTE Data Collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1.877.424.6681 (toll-free) or email opiainhelp@mt.gov. Questions regarding the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program data requirements should be directed to Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist at 406.444.9019 or email dfiedler@mt.gov.

For more information, contact [Diana Fiedler](#), 406.444.9019.

Fun Facts and Trivia

You're born with 300 bones, but when you get to be an adult, you only have 206

Over 10,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows

Thomas Edison, light bulb inventor, was afraid of the dark

Dolphins sleep with one eye open

In space, astronauts cannot cry properly, because there is no gravity, so the tears can't flow down their faces

There are more plastic flamingos in the U.S, than real ones

Slugs have 4 noses

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.

Eric Swenson

Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)

eswenson@mt.gov

