

## **The Wednesday Reader**

*November 5, 2014*

### **2014-2015 State CTE (State VoEd) Allocations Now Deposited**

The FY2015 State Career and Technical Education allocation payments (i.e. State VoEd Allocations) have been finalized and were automatically deposited with your county treasurer on November 1, 2014.

The Payment Report is posted on the Payments to School & Co-Ops AND Secondary CTE pages of the OPI web site. The following link will take you directly to the FY2015 State CTE (VoEd) Payment Report:  
[http://www.opi.mt.gov/Finance&Grants/Index.html?gpm=1\\_4](http://www.opi.mt.gov/Finance&Grants/Index.html?gpm=1_4).

State CTE funds are intended to supplement existing district budgets in the area of career and technical education. Examples of approved uses of state CTE funds are: CTE teacher salaries for extended contracts, stipends to CTE teachers for supervision of CTSOs, instructional supplies and/or instructional equipment used in an approved program, instruction-related travel expenses for an approved CTE program or CTSO, repair, maintenance and leasing of instructional equipment for an approved CTE program.

### **Scholarship Opportunity – Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Blog Contest**

Students from high schools around the state engaged in the financial literacy curriculum through EverFi and their local sponsoring bank now have an opportunity to win a scholarship with the Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Blog Contest.

Montana Bankers Association and its members are committed to supporting a new generation of young people who take control of their finances and their future. A strong financial education empowers each and every one of us to make better decisions. And it may even help us to positively influence friends and family around us. We want to hear YOUR story and help contribute to your success.

Your students can enter here to win one of five \$500 scholarships:

<http://info.everfi.com/MontanaBlogContest.html>



Not using EverFi Financial Literacy in your school yet? Contact Mick Karls of EverFi at [mick@everfi.com](mailto:mick@everfi.com) or 406-204-1148.

Learn more by watching this video: <http://vimeo.com/102552391>. This easy to implement, engaging curriculum is standard driven and is used by thousands of schools across the country and here in Montana.

### **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 have questions regarding the above sessions, please contact Monica Reynolds, Education Mobility Specialist US-EDU, at [MoReynol@Microsoft.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/index.html#gpm1_5).

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

### **2015 WBEA Conference – Scottsdale, Arizona – Registration Info**

The [2015 Western Business Education Association \(WBEA\) Conference](#), *The HEAT is On—Highlighting Education and Technology*, will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, May 20-25, at the [Scottsdale Plaza Resort](#). Please note the conference will be held over Memorial Day Weekend and the date is different than the traditional President's Day Weekend.

Early-Bird Registration for the [2015 WBEA Conference](#) must be submitted by January 1, 2015. The Early-bird registration rate is \$180. Registration can be completed using the 2015 WBEA Conference registration form (<http://www.wbea.info/new/conferences/2015/Registration%20Form%20WBEA%202015.pdf>) or online at <http://fblaarizona.wufoo.com/forms/2015-wbeaabea-regional-conference-registration/>.

The [2015 WBEA Conference](#) will include many breakout sessions, hands-on computer workshops, and many educational and entertaining tours.

Lodging reservations at the [Scottsdale Plaza Resort](#) must be made by April 20. Room rates are \$109 single/double and \$139 for a Villa/Patio Suite. Reservations can be made online at [www.scottsdaleplaza.com](http://www.scottsdaleplaza.com) or by phone at 800.832.2025 using the WBEA 2015 reservation code.

For more information about the [2015 WBEA Conference](#), please visit the [2015 WBEA Conference](#) page on the [WBEA](#) website at <http://www.wbea.info/new/conferences/2015/2015Conference.html>.

### **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](http://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.

### **Fun Facts and Trivia**

Lightning strikes about 6,000 times per minute on this planet

Owls are one of the only birds who can see the color blue

The average American drinks about 600 sodas a year

It was once against the law to slam your car door in a city in Switzerland

There wasn't a single pony in the Pony Express, just horses

Honeybees have a type of hair on their eyes!

The starfish is one of the few animals who can turn it's stomach inside-out

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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