

The Wednesday Reader

November 12, 2014

Oscar-Winning Actor was Inspired by His Typewriter Collection

Tom Hanks will soon be able to add “author” to his résumé, having secured a publisher for a collection of short stories inspired by his beloved typewriter collection.

Hanks, who recently published a story in the [New Yorker](#), said his hobby of collecting antique writing machines had motivated him to take to the typewriter keys himself.

“I’ve been collecting typewriters for no particular reason since 1978 – both manual and portable machines dating from the thirties to the nineties,” the Oscar-winning actor said in a statement. “The stories are not about the typewriters themselves, but rather, the stories are something that might have been written on one of them.”

The collection, to be published by Knopf-Doubleday, doesn’t yet have a release date or a title.

Article originally published November 3, 2014 on time.com: <http://time.com/3555006/tom-hanks-short-story-collection/>.

Destination Accounting – An All-Inclusive Virtual Field Trip

Register now for a virtual field trip from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

We're going on yet [another adventure into the wonderful world of accounting](#). And we hope your classroom will join us.

On November 19, you're invited into the offices of Mary Yeager, Senior Auditor at Plattenburg & Associates. The firm performs audits of school districts, counties and cities throughout the State of Ohio. And just last week, Mary was a candidate for the 31st House District in Ohio.

With CPA & CFE & CIA & CGMA after her name, Mary's a surefire expert on all-things accounting and the world of career opportunities that await. We'll hear about her journey from a graduate (Summa Cum Laude, in fact) of the University of Akron to a 2014 political candidate and everything in-between. Get ready to take notes.

We will once again have live Q&A, giving your students the chance to ask their questions of Mary throughout the trip.

Here's the scoop:

--WHERE: Your classroom

--VIRTUAL DESTINATION: Plattenburg & Associates via video broadcast

--WHO: Mary Yeager, CPA, CFE, CIA, CGMA, Senior Auditor, Plattenburg & Associates

--WHEN: Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 1:00-2:00 PM EST

[Register online now](#) to save a spot for your classroom.

And don't worry - If you can't join us on November 19, we'll be posting the video of the trip on our [Previous Destinations](#) page on the Start Here, Go Places. website (<http://www.startheregoplaces.com/>).

2014 Hour of Code: December 8-14. Over 50 Montana Schools Registered – AreYyou?

The [Hour of Code](#) is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event. One-hour tutorials are available in over 30 languages. No experience needed. Ages 4 to 104.

[Hour of Code](#) is an opportunity for every student to try computer science for one hour.

You can also teach the [Hour of Code](#) all year-round. Tutorials will work on browsers, tablets, smartphones, or "unplugged."

How to teach the Hour of Code?

1. Watch this how-to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQeSke4hIds>.

2. Try the tutorials: <http://code.org/learn>.

--We'll host a variety of fun, hour-long tutorials for students of all ages, created by a variety of partners. New tutorials are coming to kick off the [Hour of Code](#) before December 8-14.

--[Hour of Code](#) tutorials require minimal prep-time for teachers and are self-guided—allowing students to work at their own pace and skill-level.

3. Plan your hardware needs - computers are optional. The best Hour of Code experience will be with Internet-connected computers; but you don't need a computer for every child, and can even do the Hour of Code without a computer at all.

--Test tutorials on student computers or devices. Make sure they work properly (with sound and video).

--Preview the congrats page to see what students will see when they finish.

--Provide headphones for your class, or ask students to bring their own, if the tutorial you choose works best with sound.

4. Plan ahead based on your technology available

--Don't have enough devices? Use [pair programming](#). When students partner up, they help each other and rely less on the teacher. They'll also see that computer science is social and collaborative.

--Have low bandwidth? Plan to show videos at the front of the class, so each student isn't downloading their own videos. Or try the unplugged/offline tutorials.

5. Inspire students—show them a video. Show students an inspirational video to kick off the Hour of Code.

Examples:

--The original Code.org launch video, featuring Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and NBA star Chris Bosh (There are [1 minute](#), [5 minute](#), and [9 minute](#) versions)

--The [Hour of Code 2013 launch video](#), or the [Hour of Code 2014 video](#).

--[President Obama calling on all students to learn computer science](#).

6. Start your Hour of Code. Direct students to the activity.

-- Write the tutorial link on a whiteboard. Find the link listed on the [information for your selected tutorial](#) under the number of participants.

--Tell students to visit the URL and start the tutorial.

The Hour of Code is just the first step on a journey to learn more about how technology works and how to create software applications. To continue this journey, find additional resources for educators at <http://code.org/educate> Or encourage your children to learn [online](#).

[Google Launches Computer Science Custom Search](#)

Google announces the launch of [Computer Science Custom Search](#), a customized search engine for finding K-12 computer science education (CS) resources.

Developed using a collection of over 550 CS education websites, such as [Khan Academy](#), [Google CS First](#), [Girl Develop It](#), [Bootstrap](#), [ScratchEd](#), [Code.org](#) and [Made with Code](#) to name a few, CS Custom Search connects you to computer science education materials and programs.

By focusing on a list of websites that provide primarily free and open K-12 CS education resources, the customized search engine ensures that you will find materials that can be readily adopted for your class, after school program, or enrichment for your child.

CS Custom Search has been designed to support a range of users with varying degrees of experience with CS. For those with extensive experience, CS Custom Search has been optimized to support queries for unique CS topics across a wide range of languages and platforms. For those with less experience, the custom search solution provides recommendations on a range of search topics to ensure that [a lack of CS vocabulary](#) doesn't negatively impact your results.

Start searching by visiting www.cs4hs.com/resources/cscs.html.

For more on Education programs at Google, visit www.google.com/edu.

[Register Now for Dual Credit Blasts – Get the “4-1-1-” on Dual Credit](#)

Get your Dual Credit answers this Wednesday via the [Wednesday Dual Credit 411](#) Blast series. These blasts will be held on Wednesday s at 4:11 pm, November thru January.

What are blasts? Blasts are short, fun, informative webinars featuring a 10 minute guest presentation and a 10 minute Q&A.

When does the blast series start? The kickoff is November 12 with Commissioner of Higher Education, Clayton Christian, discussing changes to incentivize dual credit instruction, obtain credentials, make dual credit classes affordable for Montana students, and support student success.

To register, go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1031917313706999810>. OCHE is anticipating high demand and are holding spots for the first 500 participants.

Share this with any high school teacher, counselor, or administrator who wants to know more about increasing rates of high school graduation, postsecondary enrollment, successful transition to college, and increasing Montana student opportunity. For more information or contact Amy Williams at dualcredit@montana.edu or [\(406\) 994-3991](tel:4069943991).

This interactive series includes a range of dual credit topics with a variety of guest presenters including

- Montana Dual Credit 101-MUS Dual Credit Coordinator, Amy Williams*
- Teacher qualifications-MUS Deputy Commissioner of Two-Year Education, John Cech*
- An educator and Lt. Governor's experience-Lt. Governor, Angela McLean*
- Dual Credit and College Readiness-Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau*
- Supporting and advising students for success-Guests TBA*
- Online dual credit-Great Falls College Dena Wagner-Fossen and a high school dual enrollment partner*
- Emerging dual credit research-Dr. Thomas Bailey, Teachers College-Columbia University*
- Concurrent enrollment instructors and college faculty-Guests TBA*

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 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.

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.

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 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 year's 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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

A jellyfish is 95 percent water

In Bangladesh, kids as young as 15 can be jailed for cheating on their finals

The katydid bug hears through holes in its hind legs

A company in Taiwan makes dinnerware out of wheat, so you can eat your plate

More Monopoly money is printed in a year, than real money printed throughout the world

The elephant is one of the few mammals that can't jump

The penguin is the only bird who can swim, but not fly

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

