

The Wednesday Reader
December 3, 2014

CTE Fall Data Collection Continues for Spring 2014 Graduated CTE Concentrators

The CTE Fall Data Collection began on October 1 and ends on December 31, 2014. The CTE Fall Data Collection is a follow-up to last year's Spring CTE data collection. Students identified last year (2013-2014) as CTE Concentrators and who also 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 should 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 data collection to maintain their eligibility to receive Perkins funding.

Instructions for completing the CTE Fall Data Collection—called the '*Quick Reference Guide*'—is located on the AIM web page listed inside the Reports and Data tab.

Technical AIM questions regarding the CTE Fall Data Collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 (toll-free) or email opaiimhelp@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.

A Thank You and an Invitation from WBEA President Ken Kuhn

I'd like to wish my Business Education colleagues in Montana a happy and restful, but not stressful, Christmas holiday season. Enjoy the Christmas lights and music and spending time with your family and friends. This is the time for giving—and sharing—and helping out those who have less than we do. "Pay it forward" for we never know when and if we will need some help one day.

I recently had the pleasure of attending your Montana ACTE Common Core Fall Institute in Missoula on October 16-17. I want to especially thank Mark Branger, Executive Director of ACTE, Elaine Stedman, MBEA President, and Eric Swenson, Business Education Specialist at the Montana Office of Public Instruction, for their efforts to help me attend your conference. I enjoyed learning about the various pathways programs offered to the Montana students to ready them for the careers of their choice and the workshops where strategies for integrating the Common Core were shared. Three outstanding workshops that I attended included "Programming with Alice" by Dennis LaBonty, "Instructional Strategies for Engaging Learners" by Eric Swenson, and "Technology Splash" by Mark Branger.

I am also writing to encourage you to do two things: First of all, if you are not an NBEA/WBEA member, then I encourage you to visit this link to become a Friend of WBEA Contributor <http://www.wbea.info/new/friends/friendsofwbea.html>. You will then be able to receive our WBEA Newsletter and also attend the WBEA 2015 Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona from May 23-25 at WBEA member prices. More information for this conference can be found at <http://www.wbea.info/new/conferences/conferences.html>. At that link you will also find information about the NBEA Conference in Chicago, March 31 to April 4, where you can make an application for a \$200 stipend as a first-time attendee.

I encourage you to get involved with the MBEA by serving on a committee, writing an article for the newsletter, or offering to present a workshop to share your expertise and teaching strategies. Please contact me if you have questions, need support, or need resources for your classroom at kenkuhn@shaw.ca.

Ken Kuhn, WBEA President

Early-Bird Registration for 2015 WBEA Conference in Arizona Ends January 1

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 <https://fbllaarizona.wufoo.com/forms/2015-wbeabea-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>.

Microsoft Educator Network – Resources for Teachers and Students

The [Microsoft Educator Network](#) (www.pil-network.com) provides resources, tutorials, professional development opportunities and special offers for teachers and/or students.

To check out the resources and instructional tools available visit www.pil-network.com.

Get Office 365 FREE for You and Your Classroom

If your school provides Office at work, you and your students could be eligible to get Office 365 Education for free! Install the latest version of Office on up to five (5) PCs or Macs and on other mobile devices, including Windows tablets and iPad®. Includes 1 TB of storage from OneDrive so you and your students can easily work together and stay connected.

To find out if you are eligible visit <https://portal.office.com/start?sku=78e66a63-337a-4a9a-8959-41c6654dfb56>.

If you're eligible, so are your students. Have them sign up at www.office.com/getOffice365.

Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt

Montana State University Extension is offering two Montana Saves Scavenger Hunts as a part of the America Saves program during 2014-2015. The hunts are specifically designed for two age groups: 11-14 and 15-19. Youth will learn about the benefits saving and investing, how credit can be a friend for foe, and how to be in control of their money.

[Click here](#) to learn more about enrollment instructions, marketing materials, and much more . . .

Do You Know FRED?

The [Montana Financial Resource Education Database \(FREDMontana\)](#) links you to financial education resources in your community.

[FREDMT.org](#) (Financial Resource Education Database in Montana) is the result of a three-year effort by the Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) and the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA - www.mscca.org), to bring reliable, comprehensive financial education resources together in one place for Montanans.

Personal finance is often complicated, and the mistakes people make by managing their finances through trial and error can be costly for both themselves and the economy. Financial education can help. There are many financial education providers, curricula, games, and other tools, making it both a directory and library of financial education resources.

Visit fredmt.org today to see what [FREDMontana](#) has to offer you, your students, and your classroom.

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

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."

For more information, resources, and to register, please visit <http://hourofcode.com/us>.
How to teach the Hour of Code?

Hour of Code to Feature 'Frozen' Characters

Educational nonprofit [Code.org](#) this year is collaborating with Disney to open its week-long "[Hour of Code](#)" event during Computer Science Education Week, which takes place December 8-14. This year's hour-long coding tutorial will feature the lead female characters from Disney's animated film "Frozen."

[Hour of Code](#) (<http://hourofcode.com/us>) is an online event that features hour-long coding tutorials tailored for difference grade levels, from kindergarten to high school, and lectures from technology industry leaders. [Hour](#)

[of Code](#) was inaugurated last year with tutorials featuring characters from the popular video games Angry Birds and Plants vs. Zombies and video lectures from Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates.

This year's "Frozen" tutorials will feature the film's princesses, Anna and Elsa, and ask students to use a drag-and-drop interface to create commands that move the characters around on the ice and draw snowflakes, snowmen, and fractals. This year's event will focus on getting girls interested in computer science and will feature lectures from female tech leaders, including Polyvore CEO Jess Lee, Microsoft engineer Paola Mejia, and app developer Lyndsey Scott. Code.org founder Hadi Partovi says helping to increase female participation in computer science is one of the organization's chief goals.

The Washington Post (11/19/14) Lyndsey Layton

[Resources to Participate in Computer Science Education Week – CSEdWeek – December 8-14](#)

The [Computer Science Teachers Association \(CSTA\)](#)—[csta.acm.org](#)—wants to hear from all teachers teaching computer science within their courses. CS teachers! CTSO is inviting you to participate in [CSEdWeek](#) activities December 8-14, 2014, and to let them know what you are doing to celebrate.

For ideas and resources, take a look at the Participation Kit for CS teachers developed by a team of CS teachers and supportive community folks at [www.csedweek.org/csteacher](#). You can also get to the Participation Kit page from the main page, [www.csedweek.org](#), and clicking on the big red button “Are You a CS Teacher?” These resources are here for teachers looking for various and different ways to celebrate CSEdWeek in addition to [Hour of Code](#).

In addition to resources, there is an event calendar and map for teachers to post what they are doing for CSEdWeek; participate by going to the event calendar and submitting your activity or event to share with the CS Education community. Click [here](#) or on the [Tell Us](#) button from the website to add your event. There is a searchable calendar of all events across the country. You can search by grade level, type of event, or even geographically. There is an event map where you can see what is going on in your area. Please show your support for CS Education by submitting your event or activity today.

For more information about the [Computer Science Teachers Association](#), or to sign up as a member, please visit [csta.acm.org](#). Membership in the [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) is free.

[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.

CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant Applications Due January 2, 2015

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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying

Bats always turn left when exiting a cave

The praying mantis is the only insect that can turn its head

In Tokyo, they sell toupees for dogs

Dogs and cats consume over \$11 billion worth of pet food a year

Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails

Humans blink over 10,000,000 times a year

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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