

## **The Wednesday Reader**

### ***December 10, 2014***

*Next week, December 17, will be the last Wednesday Reader of 2014. The first Wednesday Reader of the New Year will be January 7.*

### **Save the Date – 2015 Montana Economics Challenge**

The 20th Annual Montana Economics Challenge will be held on Monday, March 30, 2015, in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel.

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) are pleased to announce the 20th Annual Montana Economics Challenge will be held in Helena on Monday, March 30, 2015.

The Federal Reserve Bank invites Montana high school teachers who incorporate economic learning in their classrooms to assemble teams of students to compete in a challenging array of tests covering economic concepts, issues and reasoning.

The purpose of the Economics Challenge is to increase students' exposure to and interest in economics in an entertaining atmosphere. The Economics Challenge began in 1988 as a product of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis became involved in 1992 when it sponsored a playoff round for the winning schools from the state's various regional centers for economic education. The Helena Branch, along with the MCEE, participated for the first time in 1996 when it held the first Economics Challenge in Montana.

Teams are comprised of three to four students who compete individually and as a team. Essentially, each participant takes a 15-question, multiple-choice test in each of the following three areas: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and International Trade and Economics. To determine team scores, the top three individuals' scores in each category are combined. The top two teams after the first three rounds will compete against each other in a buzzer round on general economics and current events to determine the final winner. Awards for top scores are given to individuals and to teams. Please keep in mind that each school may have more than one team and that it is not necessary for a school to offer a general economics class to compete in the Challenge.

Winners of the state competitions will go on to compete in a semi-final round which will be proctored exams taken at the state champions' schools. The National Economics Challenge will be held in New York City May 16-18, 2015.

More details about the Economics Challenge can be found at <http://www.councilforeconed.org/events/national-economics-challenge/>.

More details about the Montana Economics Challenge will be sent to you after the first of the year.

### **From AICPA – Bank On It Bracket Battle Online Tournaments**

The people at [Start Here, Go Places®](#) are spreading a little holiday cheer via their newest [Bank On It®](#) game feature: Online Bracket Battles.

This means you now have the power to create online tournaments within [Bank On It!](#) How's that for spreading some holiday cheer?

Here's how to get started:

1. Share your Classroom Code with your students. (Hint: It's on your [Start Here, Go Places. profile page](#) and on the Student Activity page in Bank On It.)
2. Have them enter the code on their [Start Here, Go Places. profile page](#).
3. Go to [Bank On It](#) and choose Tournaments in your educator-only navigation.
4. Set your tournament specifics like the game level, focus area and winning balance.
5. Invite your students and watch those brains get going.

This is a new feature and we're super jazzed about it. Will you let Start Here, Go Places® know what you think? Send any and all feedback to them at [startheregoplaces@aicpa.org](mailto:startheregoplaces@aicpa.org).

To get started, visit <http://www.startheregoplaces.com/profile/?game=bankonitgame>. Happy playing.

### **[Register Now for the NBEA 2015 Annual Convention in Chicago!](#)**

Register now for the [National Business Education Association's](#) NBEA 2015 Annual Convention & Trade Show in Chicago from March 31-April 4, 2015.

The [NBEA 2015 Convention](#) will provide over 70 exciting and cutting-edge educational sessions, more than 20 technology workshops that will expand specific skills and introduce new technology, and general session speakers that will educate and inspire. In addition, over 30 sessions will be offered at the Business Education Research Conference, held in conjunction with the [NBEA 2015 Convention](#). Don't miss this amazing opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills as a business educator, take part in networking opportunities, and be challenged to return to your classroom ready to educate, empower, and energize the next generation.

Please [click here](#) to access the convention details, including general convention information, session descriptions, professional development seminars, etc. [Click here](#) to register for the convention. Early-bird registration is \$255 for Professional NBEA Members and must be submitted by March 11, 2015.

The [Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile](#) will serve as the official headquarters hotel for the NBEA 2015 Annual Convention. [Click here](#) to access the links to make your online reservations.

### **[December 31 is Deadline to Report on 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 [opiainhelp@mt.gov](mailto: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](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov).

**[Join Take Charge Today Master Educator Team – Apply to be a Member of the National Team](#)**  
[Take Charge Today](#) has a great opportunity if you are interested in implementing [Take Charge Today](#)'s national strategic goals.

[Take Charge Today](#) is looking for a few great teachers! The [Take Charge Today](#) Master Educator Team members have diverse backgrounds in the personal finance arena. While some of the Master Educators teach personal finance full-time, others are asked to integrate personal finance concepts and standards into other academic areas such as math and social studies.

Are you . . .

- An excellent communicator
- Willing to go above and beyond in order to complete a task
- Agile and flexible with ideas, people and curriculum application
- An effective facilitator
- Passionate about teaching, the kids you teach and the Take Charge Today curriculum you develop and use
- Knowledgeable about the fields of personal finance and economics
- Technologically savvy in bringing to life the Take Charge Today curriculum through devices and Web 2.0
- An independent and critical thinker who “thinks outside the box”
- A lifelong learner who follows the latest trends in personal finance, economics and technology in education

[Apply today](#) to be a part of the [Take Charge Today](#) Master Educator Team.

As a member of the [Take Charge Today](#) Master Educator Team, you will . . .

- Be a guest at the annual Master Educator Team Retreat
- Recommend ways to integrate Web 2.0 technologies into the curriculum
- Receive hard copies of the [Take Charge Today](#) curriculum
- Field-test [Take Charge Today](#) lessons
- . . . *And more!*

Join this innovative team of educators. [Applications](#) are due December 31, 2014 at 5 pm (MST). The [online application](#) can be completed at [https://takechargetoday.arizona.edu/2014\\_NME\\_Application](https://takechargetoday.arizona.edu/2014_NME_Application).

### **[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-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>.

### **[Microsoft Educator Network – Resources for Teachers and Students](#)**

The [Microsoft Educator Network](#) ([www.pil-network.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 . . .

## **Have You Met 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](http://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](http://fredmt.org) today to see what [FREDMontana](#) has to offer you, your students, and your classroom.

## **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](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.

## **Fun Facts and Trivia**

Every second, Americans collectively eat one hundred pounds of chocolate

A fetus develops fingerprints at eighteen weeks

The fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia

Every year, kids in North America spend close to half a billion dollars on chewing gum

An earthquake on Dec. 16, 1811 caused parts of the Mississippi River to flow backwards

A person uses approximately fifty-seven sheets of toilet paper each day

Honolulu is the only place in the United States that has a royal palace

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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