

The Wednesday Reader

December 17, 2014

Today is the Wednesday Reader of 2014. The first Wednesday Reader of the New Year will be January 7. Additionally, I will be out of the office for the holidays beginning Thursday afternoon, December 18 and returning on Monday, January 5. Have a great and relaxing break.

Career & Technical Education Day in Helena – 2015 Legislative Rotunda Activity

The Montana Association for Career and Technical Education (Montana ACTE) has scheduled an opportunity for Career and Technical Education programs to present to our state legislators in the State Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 from 8 am to 5 pm.

Montana ACTE would like to have all Career and Technical Education organizations and program areas represented at this event. Students will set up booths and displays to interact with state legislators and share the variety of skills that they are being offered in their local schools enriching their own and others' lives. They will have an opportunity to encourage our citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the career and technical education programs in Montana communities.

Career and Technical education is facing some profound economic and technological changes thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system. Students will be able to positively reinforce how career and technical education provides Montana with that school-to-careers connection and can be the foundation for a strong, well-educated workforce that fosters productivity in business, industry, technology and health care and contributes to our state's leadership in the global marketplace.

Career and technical education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn new skills promoting better career choices; and experience in practical, meaningful applications of basic skills such as reading, writing, science, technology and mathematics; thus improving the quality of their education; motivating students to stay in school and giving all students leadership opportunities in career fields and in their communities.

Please contact your local legislators informing them that you will be in Helena for this event, and ask them if they would be willing to introduce you and your students on the legislative floor. You can find your legislative contact information at <http://leg.mt.gov/css/find%20a%20legislator.asp>.

This year, Fergus High School Agriculture Education teacher Jared Long is coordinating the Rotunda Activity. Please feel free to call Jared Long at 406.380.0878 or email him at jlong@lewistown.k12.mt.us if you have additional questions and to confirm your participation.

Planning to Attend the 2015 NBEA Convention? You May Qualify for a \$200 Stipend!

If you are a professional member of NBEA and have never attended the annual national convention, you are eligible to apply for a professional development stipend. Applicants must be current NBEA professional members at the time of application.

The \$200 stipends will be presented during the Awards Luncheon at the NBEA 2015 Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, April 3. Winners must purchase a ticket and attend the luncheon where they will receive the stipend from NBEA President, Maurice S. Henderson.

If you would like to apply for a [Professional Development Partnership Program Stipend](#), complete the [Professional Development Stipend Application Form](#) (<http://www.nbea.org/newsite/opportunities/documents/2015ConventionStipendApplicationForm.pdf>), and mail the form to NBEA PDP Program, 1914 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1596 (or fax it to (703) 620-4483).

The application form must be received at NBEA Headquarters by January 2, 2015. No applications will be accepted after the deadline. Winners will be notified by February 6, 2015. If you have any questions, please call (703) 860-8300.

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. 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.

December 31 is Deadline to Apply to be a Take Charge Today Master Educator

[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.

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

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://fblaarizona.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>.

Applications for CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant 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.

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.

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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

More money is spent on gardening than on any other hobby

In 32 years, there are about 1 billion seconds

Rice paper does not have any rice in it

Baby robins eat 14 feet of earthworms every day

In England, in the 1880's, "Pants" was considered a dirty word

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin

The blesbok, a South African antelope, is almost the same color as grape juice

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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