

Just in Time for Valentine's Day – 3-D Printing using Chocolate

The aptly named CocoJet, a partnership between printer maker 3D Systems and the [Hershey](#) Company, is designed to help bakers and chocolatiers craft confections that might otherwise be too difficult or too time consuming to make by hand.

CocoJet heats and squeezes out tiny rows of chocolate paste into elaborate structures, much like traditional 3-D printers produce plastic objects. One difference: The chemical composition of chocolate requires a quick cooling process to make sure you don't end up with a deliciously messy chocolate puddle. The last thing you want is a chocolate jam in your printer.

A CocoJet at [the 2015 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas] produced a bonbon in about 15 minutes that looked straight out of an Escher etching.

3D Systems doesn't yet have a timeline for when the printer will be ready for purchase, or how much it will cost. The company also makes another 3-D food printer called the ChefJet that specializes in printing ingredients like sugar.

Rival firm XYZPrinting also showed at CES a food printer that could expertly decorate jam or chocolate on toast, or produce elaborately shaped cookies that you then bake in the oven.

Want to see CocoJet in action? Check out this YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gyKmb6RK-4>.

Just think of what your students could produce—and sell. Maybe the next best fundraiser or school store idea.

Published in the Wall Street Journal Online edition, January 6, 2015. <http://blogs.wsj.com/personal-technology/2015/01/06/now-you-can-print-chocolate/>.

Registration is Open for the Spring 2015 Edition of the Virtual Team Challenge

The [Spring 2015 Virtual Team Challenge competition](#) begins in six weeks. Now is the time to register and engage your students in a Virtual 3D Business World.

The [Virtual Team Challenge](#) is an entirely free online, multiplayer business simulation that takes place in the animated 3D world of New City. The team objective in the simulation is to help the mayor (pictured to the right) stage the most efficient oil spill recovery effort. Top-performing teams are eligible for prizes for themselves, their teachers, and local charities!

Virtual Team Challenge will run this Spring from February 18 to April 1.

See an article in [The New York Times](#) to read about one NJ teacher's success with the program.

[Virtual Team Challenge](#) comes complete with lesson plans and in-class exercises which form a curriculum that highlights general business acumen, business ethics, negotiation skills, decision-making processes and accounting while placing a special emphasis on important life/career skills such as teamwork, communication, professionalism and research methods.

Register now at www.virtualteamchallenge.com.

Happy New Year from Start Here, Go Places® and the AICPA

Happy 2015 from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and [Start Here. Go Places.](#)

The folks at [Start Here, Go Places.](#)® think a new year is a pretty great thing. They send their well wishes your way with the start of 2015.

They are glad you're with them because they have a big year coming up. There is a lot of newness on the horizon. Think: a newly designed homepage and an educators-only website. Big stuff

And, in case you missed it, AICPA launched the new [Bank On It® Bracket Battle](#) functionality last month. You can now create your own tournaments for your students. Check it out!

May 2015 be the best year yet!

For more information and opportunities visit Start Here, Go Places.® at <http://www.startheregoplaces.com/>.

The National Career Clusters Institute is Merging With ACTE's CareerTech Vision Conference

The [National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium](#) (NASDCTEc) is verity excited to announce that the National Career Clusters® Institute is merging with [CareerTech VISION](#), hosted by the [Association for Career and Technical Educators](#) (ACTE)!

For the first time ever, [CareerTech VISION](#) will offer a Career Cluster-focused conference track with 10 concurrent sessions featuring this critical framework for organizing CTE programs of study. [CareerTech VISION](#) is the largest annual gathering of over 3,000 CTE educators and administrators from across the country, and this partnership will allow participants to access an even more powerful professional development experience. The conference will be held in New Orleans on November 19-22, 2015.

NASDCTEc hopes all former attendees of the National Career Clusters Institute will attend [CareerTech VISION](#). NASDCTEc also invites you to submit session proposals and learn more about the conference at careertechvision.com.

Registration for CareerTech Vision 2015 opens on March 2 so save the date today!

New at VISION 2015 –NASDCTEc's Career Clusters®

ACTE is pleased to announce we're partnering with the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) to host Career Cluster® programming at VISION 2015. Together we will feature this important CTE organizational framework for programs of study for all attendees to benefit from. Details on the Career Cluster® content and the full VISION 2015 agenda will be available this March.

Here is just a glimpse of what will happen in the 2015:

--The 2015 CareerTech VISION will offer a Career Cluster-focused strand of 10 concurrent sessions featuring this critical framework for organizing high-quality CTE programs of study.

--These sessions will be selected and organized by NASDCTEc/NCTEF and will be structured as a sequential set of sessions – almost a conference-within-a-conference - allowing sessions to build upon one another in a thoughtful manner. Over the period of three years, the role of Career Clusters will be less segregated and more integrated into the totality of VISION.

--The sessions will underscore the 10 components of a high-quality CTE program of study, especially underscoring the collaboration between secondary and postsecondary CTE through the session content.

--NASDCTEc/NCTEF staff are also participating in the broader planning process for the entire conference. In future years, the collaboration will deepen, with even more opportunities for the integration of Career Clusters into the conference sessions, pre-sessions and overall theme.

The 2015 CareerTech VISION conference will be held in New Orleans from November 19-22, 2015, with registration opening on March 2. More information can be found at www.careertechvision.com.

New Montana Labor Market Information Website Launched

The Montana Department of Labor & Industry has launched a new Labor Market Information website in response to private sector demands for resources to drive evidence-based business planning. The new website can be accessed at www.lmi.mt.gov.

"Through the Main Street Montana Project, we have heard the call from business leaders for better labor market information that they can use to make decisions about business relocation, expansion, and diversification," said Governor Steve Bullock. "This new tool is just one solution that we have developed to modernize government and respond to the needs of businesses on Montana's Main Streets."

The Labor Market Information website utilizes responsive design to provide users with an interactive and dynamic online experience. This tool provides real-time data analysis functions allowing end users to customize reports that meet their unique needs.

"The development of Montana's new Labor Market Information website has been driven by the needs of the private sector, and the final product represents the high quality public services Montanans deserve from their state government," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "A skilled workforce is essential fuel to drive our growing economy, and this resource will help businesses access these workers and improve their productivity."

The data engine developed through the Governor's open data initiative (www.data.mt.gov) powers the new Labor Market Information data tool; through cross-agency collaboration, this project saved money by capitalizing on statewide efforts to modernize and bring more transparency to state government.

Graduation Matters Scholarship Opportunity

As of January 1, 2015, students who attend a Graduation Matters Montana (GMM) school or are a current senior on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board are eligible for a \$1,000 Circle of Succe\$\$ college scholarship. The scholarships will be distributed by the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) in cooperation with GMM.

Twenty-five students will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to be used at any Montana college or university. Students must be a Montana resident and must attend a Montana college or university at least half time in the academic year. Applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

Applications for the SAF-GMM Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarship are available at the SmartAboutCollege.org website. Click on the "[Apply Now](#)" button under the photos of the Circle of Succe\$\$ Class of 2014 to access the application forms. The application deadline is Sunday, March 1, 2015.

For more information about the Circle of Succe\$\$ Scholarship program, visit SmartAboutCollege.org or contact Darbie Hess at dhess@safmt.org or 406.495.7393.

ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2015 in New Orleans Call For Presentations

ACTE invites you to submit a program session proposal for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2015, November 19-22, 2015 at New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

ACTE is seeking high-quality proposals that address a full range of issues facing CTE educators. Proposals should include "how to" strategies and/or evidence-based research. Please read ALL of this information before submitting a proposal.

Call for Proposal System

You must submit your proposal using our [online system](#). Emailed, faxed, and mailed proposals will not be accepted. You must register through eShow in order to submit your proposal. If you submitted a proposal for VISION 2014, please use the user name and password that was given to you then. If you are new, when you register please write down your username and password as this will give you access to your information to make changes up until the deadline.

What is the deadline to submit a proposal?

All proposals must be submitted by 5:00 PM EST, on Friday, March 13, 2015.

How are proposals selected?

All proposals are peer-reviewed. In an effort to promote new and diverse groups of presenters, reviewers will give strong preference to presenters who submit sessions not previously presented at an ACTE conference. High quality proposals that include best practices and "how-to" strategies are of particular interest.

How will I know if my presentation has been accepted?

Submitters will be notified about the status of their proposal via email in April 2015.

What do I need to know to submit a proposal?

- ALL accepted presenters MUST pay a VISION 2015 Speaker Registration fee. The Speaker Registration fee is \$295 for ACTE members and \$475 for nonmembers. This fee must be paid by August 31, 2015.
- Accepted speakers and co-speakers are responsible for ALL VISION 2015 related expenses, including registration, travel, lodging and meals.
- Please provide contact information that you check regularly. A lot of correspondence goes out during the summer months, so if you do not check your work email over the summer, please provide a personal email address that you can be reached at.

- If you are submitting a proposal on someone's behalf, please do not use your contact information. The information entered will appear on our website and in our program book. Please use the information for the actual speaker(s). Please make sure you do not use all caps when entering in speaker information.
- Each person may submit a maximum of two proposals, either as a main presenter or co-presenter. If you submit more than one proposal, please be sure to submit them both under one username and password. Please do not create a second username and password when submitting subsequent proposals.
- Please limit your description to 100 words or less. Please do not include bullets or other similar formatting. Please be sure to proof your description prior to submitting. Grammatical errors will count against you.
- Please make sure your title is formatted correctly, i.e. First letter of every word capitalized.
- By submitting a proposal you agree to present at any time during the meeting. Please note that this year's meeting dates are Friday, November 20, Saturday, November 21, and Sunday, November 22.
- If a presentation uses ANY kind of vendor materials, that information and the name of the vendor must be revealed in the program presentation information.
- Do not use acronyms or all CAPS (or all lower case) in your name, affiliation, address, title or description. If you do, your proposal will automatically be rejected.
- The lead speaker is responsible for sharing VISION 2015 information with co-speakers.
- Selling or promoting products or services is not allowed in program sessions.

Limits on Number of Presenters and Submitted Presentations

There is a limit of four presenters (including a moderator, if needed) allowed for each program session. Presenters may not be involved in more than two sessions.

Resumes or CVs

Speakers are required to include a resume or curriculum vita (CV). It should include previous speaking engagements.

Exhibitor Presentations

Proposals promoting products, materials or services will not be considered for program sessions. Individuals who wish to present at an exhibitor workshop should contact Jim Waterhouse at jwaterhouse@actonline.org.

VISION 2015 Program Session Category

You will be required to choose which division your presentation falls under. The divisions are as follows:

Categories

Administration

Business Education

Career Clusters

Engineering and Technology Education

Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Funding

Guidance and Career Development

Health Science Education

Interdisciplinary

Marketing Education

New and Related Services - Career Academy

New and Related Services - Cooperative Work Experience

New and Related Services - Information Technology Education

New and Related Services - Integration of Academics and Career and Technical Education**
New and Related Services - Instructional Materials
New and Related Services - International
New and Related Services - Makers of Policy
New and Related Services - Professional Development
New and Related Services - Public Information
New and Related Services - Research
New and Related Services - ROTC
New and Related Services - Safe School
New and Related Services - Special Populations
New and Related Services - Support Staff
New and Related Services - Teacher Educators
New and Related Services - Tech Prep
Postsecondary, Adult and Career Education
Trade and Industrial Education Industry

Program Session Logistics

All meeting rooms will include a podium and mic, screen and LCD projector. ACTE does NOT provide laptop computers.

What are the presentation formats?

Lecture - Your room will be seat in theater style.

Round Table Discussion - Your room will be set in round tables meant for the attendees to have a chance to engage with one another during the presentation.

Speaker Agreement

By submitting a proposal for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2015, you agree to the following:

1. To pay the Speaker Registration Fee by the specified deadline
2. Have your session presented on Friday, November 20, Saturday, November 21, or Sunday, November 22.
3. Permit ACTE to edit presentation titles and descriptions for length and content.
4. Agree to allow ACTE to use your session and contact information for promotion. Further, by submitting this information, you permit ACTE to record and redistribute your session for marketing purposes.

Complete information can be found at https://s1.goeshow.com/acte/vision/2015/abstract_submission1.cfm. If you have questions, please contact Jaime M. Alston, CMP at jalston@acteonline.org.

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.

[Thinking About Attending the ACTE Region V Conference? Why not Present a Workshop?](#)

The [2015 ACTE Region V Conference](#) will be hosted by the Kansas Association for Career & Technical Education (K-ACTE) and held April 15-18 just outside Kansas City in Overland Park, Kansas.

[2015 ACTE Region V Conference](#) planners are currently accepting [Calls for Presentations](#) for individual who are interested in being a part of the [2015 ACTE Region V Conference](#) program. If you are interested in presenting at the 2015 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference, please download the call for presentations form from either the [2015 ACTE Region V Conference](#) website (<http://www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015>) or directly at <http://www.k-acte.org/Resources/Documents/RegionV-Call%20for%20Presentations.pdf>. Forms must be submitted by January 30, 2015,

For more information about the [2015 ACTE Region V Conference](#), including hotel, travel, conference schedule, and the pre-conference session—Leadership 101: Putting the Pieces Together—please visit <http://www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015>.

Fun Facts and Trivia

There are more than 50,000 earthquakes throughout the world every year

The original name for the butterfly was 'flutterby

Dogs and cats, like humans, are either right or left handed... or is that paws?

The opposite sides of a dice cube always add up to seven

Nose prints are used to identify dogs, just like humans use fingerprints

Bulls are colorblind, therefore will usually charge at a matador's waving cape no matter what color it is—be it red or neon yellow

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

