

LC 1672: Revise Funding for Career and Vocational/Technical Education

LC 1672: Revise Funding for Career and Vocational/Technical Education is current legislation seeking to increase funding for Montana's secondary Career and Vocational/Technical Education funding (more commonly known as your State CTE dollars) from the current \$1 million per year in each year of the biennium to \$10 million per year.

The legislation also calls for the additional funds to be used to expand and enhance career and vocational/technical education in Montana and not for use to reduce previous district spending on career and vocational/technical education.

You can read the current draft of the bill and track the bills progress via the Montana Legislature's [Look Up Bill Information](#) site at [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w\\$.startup?P_SESS=20151](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w$.startup?P_SESS=20151). Once on the page, key "LC1672" in the textbox for Bill Draft Number and click the "Find" button. Both a Word and PDF version of the bill can be downloaded.

For information regarding the 64th session of the Montana Legislature, please visit <http://leg.mt.gov/css/sessions/64th/default.asp>.

Students Can Blog & Win Some \$\$\$\$ in the Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Blog Contest

The [Montana Bankers Association](#) and their member banks are encouraging students across Montana to speak up and share their stories about how financial education has and will impact their lives by launching the [Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Student Blog Contest](#).

Students are encouraged to tap into their creativity and get involved for a chance to win one of three **\$500 prizes** to be used toward their education.

Visit the [blog contest guidelines](#) to learn more about the contest and promote it to your students.

[Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Student Blog Contest](#) entries are a great opportunity for extra credit, for generating ideas for a class or group project, or can even be a homework assignment.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on May 11, 2015.

For further information about EverFi and the critical skills courses offered to schools at no cost or the blog contest, contact Mick Karls at mick@everfi.com or 406.204.1148.

Get the Complete Details About the MSU Billings 3-Graduate Credit CTE Course for Educators

History and Philosophy of Career Technical Education in Montana is a three-graduate credit online course being offered by Montana State University Billings and taught by Dr. Lyle Courtnage.

Complete course details and registration links can be found at <https://extendedcampus.msubillings.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=E153PDCTEG1>.

The goal of *History and Philosophy of Career Technical Education in Montana* is to explore Career Technical education by first learning about the early roots of vocational education and its relationship to work followed by then seeing how the Federal government has influenced CTE, primarily through Carl D. Perkins legislation. The class looks at Perkins from both a historical, current and future perspective. Perkins funds are also the primary source of funding for Montana CTE, including secondary schools, postsecondary two-year education and state agencies. The class looks at CTE of each group from both a funding and strategic point of view. The emphasis of the class through each of its components is to analyze CTE issues in light of how CTE affects you, your classroom and your students.

The course will be held over a nine week period with two sections currently planned. The first section will begin February 16 and end April 17 and the second section begins April 20 and ends June 19. The course will be facilitated using the Desire2Learn, or D2L, learning management system. The course is a professional development course and credits cannot be used for undergraduate or graduate degrees. The total course fee is \$657.00.

An introductory video about the course can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE1pBU35_6I.

To get more information visit <https://extendedcampus.msubillings.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=E153PDCTEG1> or contact Lyle directly at lyle.courtnage1@msubillings.edu.

Free Professional Development Offered by Oracle Academy

Oracle Academy virtual instructor led courses specifically aim to simulate an interactive live classroom learning experience, while offering you the flexibility to participate from anywhere that is convenient for you—eliminating the time and expense of travel.

The courses are offered on a variety of dates and times. Please visit the Oracle Academy [Events Calendar](#) to see the upcoming spring schedule.

[Register](#) today for any of the following courses:

- * Java Fundamentals
- * Java Programming
- * Database Design and Programming with SQL
- * Programming with PL/SQL

Oracle Academy courses align to Oracle certification, regional, national, and state standards. Courses are available to Oracle Academy members as part of our suite of free resources in support of CS education. There is no cost to join the Oracle Academy Introduction to Computer Science program or to attend professional development.

Oracle Academy Introduction to Computer Science members receive:

- * Free professional development
- * Modular curriculum including lesson plans, projects, and assessments
- * Discounts on Oracle Certification resources

For more information or questions about Oracle Academy please visit www.oracle.com/academy or contact Oracle at academy_wv@oracle.com.

Registration ends soon so [sign up](#) today.

Spring Stock Market Game Competition Begins Soon – Prepare Today

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students? There are many benefits of involving your students in The Stock Market Game™, sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education.

The program is easy to administer, and teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts: Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Cooperation and Communication, Primary Research, and Saving and investing. Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive gameplay creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. Cash prizes are also awarded for the top three teams.

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on February 16, 2015, and runs for 10 weeks. To find out more information and register teams for competition, go to www.stockmarketgame.org, and click on the registration link in the upper right-hand corner.

Training Webinar: A training webinar is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. It is designed for those that have never participated in the Stock Market Game, or for those wanting to better understand the game functions. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Seating is limited. To register for the webinar, go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/802292072>.

What students gain from The Stock Market Game™ program is a remarkable experience—and even more important, an education for life. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer, Montana Stock Market Game Coordinator, at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, (406) 994-2263.

Montana High School Business Challenge Spring 2015 Edition Begins in Just 3 Weeks

The key to getting your students to understand key business concepts is through hands-on activity. If you've not yet done so, consider this simulation designed to develop management, financial, marketing and critical thinking skills in a competitive, learning enhanced environment.

The Montana High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education lets your students actively participate in a state-wide simulation as real entrepreneurs. The students manage the business of a Digital Music Player manufacturer, and many daily decisions face the students, including financial, ethical, legal, and competitive issues. It is a dynamic simulation that can be incorporated into many different class disciplines.

The state-wide competition runs eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, February 18 and concluding Wednesday, April 22. College scholarships are awarded to the top three teams. The cost is \$15.00 per team.

Registering Teams For Spring Semester? Questions?: To register teams for the fall Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263 for further information. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, February 11.

First Time Participants: First-time participants need to be trained prior to involvement in the Business Challenge by webinar training sessions which introduces the teacher to the concepts and procedures the simulation. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 9-10, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. If you are a first-time participant, or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of the Business Challenge, please register online at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/213118489>.

Refresher Webinar For Past Participants: A webinar is scheduled on Wednesday, February 11th, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for teachers that have previously participated in the Challenge who want to refresh their skills and learn more about the simulation. This webinar is voluntary, and is open only to teachers that have previous HSBC involvement. Space is limited. The web address to register for this webinar is <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/657796225>.

Montana Saves Scavenger Hunts Offer Students Opportunities to Learn and Earn

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. Students 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.

Students who complete the **Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt** are eligible for a drawing for one of 33 cash awards of \$100 in each age group during America Saves week February 23-27, 2015. The 66 cash awards for Montana students are courtesy of:

- First Interstate BancSystem Foundation
- Montana Credit Unions for Community Development
- Montana Consumer Protection Division, Office of Attorney General
- Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
- Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) Legacy Foundation
- Montana Bankers Association Education Endowment Fund of the Montana Community Foundation
- Montana 4-H Foundation

The *Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt* can be used by teachers who want to incorporate learning about finances into their. The Scavenger Hunt could also be utilized as an *extra credit* opportunity for students to complete “after hours” at home or the local library.

Students have until February 20, 2015 to complete the nine quizzes for the *Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt*. The hunts do not have to be completed all at one time.

The Montana Saves Website has links to all the *Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt* materials: Invitation to Students, Posters for each age group, and a list of websites for all quizzes.

Teachers whose students participated last year indicated a list of the websites for the school Computer Technician would be helpful. You can print out the list or refer your Computer Technician to the site. www.montanasaves.org/

Fun Facts and Trivia

In Texas, it's against the law for anyone to have a pair of pliers in his or her possession

In Philadelphia, you can't put pretzels in bags based on an Act of 176

Alaska law says that you can't look at a moose from an airplane

In Corpus Christie, Texas, it is illegal to raise alligators in your home

In Miami, it is forbidden to imitate an animal

It is against the law to mispronounce the name of the State of Arkansas in that State

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

