

Proposed "Programming for Teachers" Course at UofM Next Fall

The University of Montana in Missoula is proposing a course for fall 2015 titled "Programming for Teachers."

The instructor for the course will be Michael Cassens with instruction being held online with web-based face-to-face times to be determined.

The course will be offered for three (3) credits through Continuing Education. The total cost for the credits has yet to be determined.

The course will focus on either [Python](#) or [Java](#); whichever is the consensus. The goal of the course is to teach the language and pedagogy for teaching programming. Programming education in Montana is expanding. The number of students requesting a programming course or considering a computer science direction at the university level is increasing. At the moment there is no course in Montana to teach teachers programming and this course is an attempt to fill that need.

"Programming for Teachers" is intended for anyone interested in teaching programming. Prior knowledge of some programming language would be useful but considering the lack of experience in the state beginners can be accommodated. There should be more than enough experienced programming teachers enrolled to help those totally new to the subject.

Since this is a first-time offering the first-time takers will be involved in writing the course. If you have particular things you would like to see in the course be sure to suggest them to either Garth Flint (gflint@mcsmt.org) or Michael Cassesn (michael.cassens@mso.umt.edu). They have a concept of what they want in the course, a "Java for Teachers", but the course direction is open for discussion.

If you are interested in the course, have suggestions for course content, please contact Garth Flint, Technology Coordinator for Missoula Catholic Schools, at gflint@mcsmt.org by April 1.

Lesson Plans Needed for Creative Teaching Ideas for International Business

The U.S. Chapter of SIEC-ISBE (The International Society for Business Education) is seeking quality lesson plans to be published in the book *Creative Teaching Ideas for International Business*.

The lesson plans need to use the [Lesson Plan Format](#) provided in this call. All levels of education, ages 5 through university, are being targeted in this project.

Subject areas needed:

- International Business (general topics)
- International Marketing
- International Finance
- International Law
- International Ethics
- International/Intercultural Communications
- International Management
- Language Integrations

--Global Logistics
--Others

Deadline for submission: March 9, 2015.

Please submit lesson plans to:

Tamra Davis, Ph.D.
Illinois State University
Campus Box 5590
Normal, IL 61790-5590
tdavis2@ilstu.edu

All submissions must be in electronic format; if sent via mail, please send a flash drive or CD.

Submissions must include any supplemental materials (handouts, presentations, files) in their native format (i.e. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, etc.).

The main author must be a member of NBEA-ISBE or a member of his/her respective SIEC Chapter. All authors will receive one free copy of the book—no other gratuity or payment will be provided.

This Friday is the Deadline for Students to Complete the Montana Saves Scavenger Hunts

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/

Early-Bird Registration for 2015 NBEA Convention Ending Soon

The [2015 National Business Education Association Convention](#) will take place March 31-April 4 in Chicago.

The 2015 NBEA Convention offers exciting, innovative, and progressive educational sessions that will enhance and refresh you as a business educator. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for professional growth.

Make the decision today to join us in Chicago. Below are the links for convention registration and hotel reservations at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

2015 Convention Registration: <http://www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/registration.html>

2015 Convention Hotel Reservations: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/12124981/owner/1361/home>

The Early-Bird registration deadline is Wednesday, March 11.

If you have already registered for the 2015 NBEA Convention, we thank you and look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Register Today for the ACTE Region V Leadership Conference

The Western region of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) will be holding its 2015 Leadership Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, April 15-18.

Hosted by the Kansas Association for Career and Technical Education, registration for [2015 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#) is now open. Links to all the information regarding the [2015 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#), including lodging and registration details, can be found at <http://www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015>.

The early-bird registration deadline is March 15 with hotel reservations at the Overland Park Marriott needing to be finalized by March 25.

Printed Copies of Your Guide Available for Your Classroom for FREE

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education has about 2,000 copies of the 2014-2015 edition of the *Your Guide* available for schools, teachers, counselors, students, and parents.

The *Your Guide* is a comprehensive listing of certificate and degree programs available at Montana's two-year, four-year, tribal and community colleges organized by Career Cluster.

The *Your Guide* is a great instructional tool and visual aid for inclusion within any career development/career counselling program.

Teachers interested in placing an order should contact Katie Spalinger at kspalinger@montana.edu and provide your name, school, and mailing address.

To checkout an electronic version of the 2014-2015 *Your Guide* please visit <http://mus.edu/2yr/YourGuide.pdf>.

Roberts High School Business Teacher in Search of MS Office & Adobe Resources

Jeanette (Mitzy) Carter at Roberts High School is looking for some additional instructional resources for teaching Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop and InDesign.

Below is a listing of the textbooks titles she is seeking.

--10 copies of Introductory Microsoft Office 2007 by Pasewark and Pasewark, published by Course Technology Cengage Learning

--6 copies of Adobe Photoshop CS4 Comprehensive Concepts and Techniques

--2 copies of Adobe InDesign CS4

If you can help Mizty out or need more details regarding her request, please contact Mitzy directly at carter@roberts.k12.mt.us.

Introduce Your students to Coding and Earn \$1000 or More for Your Classroom

All the technology you and your students love and use—mobile games, medical devices, YouTube videos -- are all made with code. Imagine what your students could invent!

From [Khan Academy](http://KhanAcademy.org) and thanks to a partnership with DonorsChoose.org and Google, you can **earn \$1,000 or more for your classroom** by helping your students complete an online, self-guided, introductory coding course.

Any public high school teacher can participate! Whether you're teaching English, math, or art history -- if your students can type, they can get started with this tutorial. You can offer extra credit, start an after-school coding club, or spend a week on programming in your classroom. Your students can discover the magic of coding in a 12-hour course at their own pace.

Here's how it works:

Step 1: Register your class at <https://www.khanacademy.org/donors-choose> and invite your students to join it. Help them complete the Intro to JS course by **March 17, 2015**.

Step 2: In April, you'll receive a DonorsChoose.org gift code equal to \$100 per student (e.g. if you help 15 students, you'll receive a \$1,500 gift code).

Step 3: You'll receive a wrap-up survey for your students. If 10 or more of your students self-identify as part of groups traditionally under-represented in computer science, we'll send you an additional **\$1,000 gift code** as a thank you.

Questions? See the [full details](#), which also explain how to get help if any coding questions come up. Together we can help more students learn to code and bring more funding into the classroom. Let's do it!

[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.

[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_ww@oracle.com.

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

Fun Facts and Trivia

In Utah, birds have the right of way on any public highway

In Ohio, one must have a license to keep a bear

In Tennessee, a law exists which prohibits the sale of bologna (sandwich meat) on Sunday

In Virginia, the Code of 1930 has a statute which prohibits corrupt practices or bribery by any person other than political candidates

In Providence, Rhode Island, it is against the law to jump off a bridge

In the State of Kansas, you're not allowed to drive a buffalo through a street

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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