

CTE Student Participation Reports – Now Collected from TEAMS

The 2014-2015 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Report information used for CTE program approval and CTE State funding allocations will be extracted from the TEAMS (*Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule*) information already submitted and on file at the OPI. This change means that CTE teachers and/or other district personnel will NOT be submitting participation report information via an online link as they have in the past. Good news!

Because the CTE tab in the TEAMS data system had not been activated prior to the November deadline, **a few items on the new CTE tab will require each districts' attention now.** The CTE tab has just been made available and is ready for input from high school districts.

The items needed are: CTE programs offered, CTE teachers with an extended contract, and identifying the number of males enrolled in each CTE course (only enrollment totals were reported). Next fall, all CTE information will be added at the same time as the rest of the TEAMS fall data input.

To add the additional CTE information into TEAMS, a password is required to log in. Authorized Representatives (AR's) will either ask those personnel in their district who already have access to TEAMS to add the additional CTE information, or they will assign someone new to add it. For any new TEAMS users, AR's must submit a signed *TEAMS Security Form* to the OPI requesting School Level access for those new TEAMS users.

Once access is granted, follow the instructions found at http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolStaffing/15CTE_Help_Guide.pdf to find and fill out the CTE screen in TEAMS. The link to the TEAMS login is shown below and also posted on the OPI website under the 'Reports & Data' tab on the 'School Staffing Project/TEAMS' page, as a purple button labeled, 'TEAMS Login'.

TEAMS LINK: <https://apps3.opi.mt.gov/SSO/Login?Login.aspx>

The CTE information collected in TEAMS is used for Carl Perkins accountability reporting and factors that determine the State CTE (State VoEd) allocations. Therefore, it is imperative that the information submitted is complete and accurate. Any high school district planning to apply for Carl Perkins and/or State CTE (State VoEd) funding for next year (2015-2016) should submit the additional data in TEAMS for all current CTE programs at their high school.

Technical TEAMS questions should be directed to Danielle Murphy, TEAMS Project Manager, by phone at 406.444.1625 or send her an email at dmurphy@mt.gov.

Questions regarding the Perkins Federal Grant Program data requirements or CTE-related questions should be directed to Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist, by phone at 406.444.9019 or send her an email at dfiedler@mt.gov.

20th Annual Montana Economics Challenge Registration Now Open

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis is now accepting registrations for the 20th Annual Montana Economics Challenge. This year's Montana Economics Challenge will take place March 30, 2015, in Helena.

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 or 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.

The Federal Reserve Bank will cover costs associated with the Montana Challenge, including refreshments, breakfast, a luncheon, awards, and test facilitation. The Montana Bankers Association will cover lodging expenses on Sunday, March 29 for teams who wish to travel to Helena the day before the Challenge and the [Montana Council on Economic Education](http://www.econedmontana.org/) (www.econedmontana.org/) will cover costs for a substitute teacher on March 30. Winners of the state competition will go on to compete in the National Semifinals which will be proctored exams taken at the state champions' schools on April 14. The National Economics Challenge Finals will be held in New York City, May 16-18.

Registrations are due by March 13, 2015 and the [registration form](#) can be downloaded at <https://app.box.com/s/lzkgezap6snbwjh16878y49sjfs1aawt>. Registrations can be submitted by one of the following methods:

- 1) Email completed forms to: Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org (you may reply to this email)
- 2) Fax completed forms to 612-629-4233
- 3) Mail completed forms to
Federal Reserve Bank
Attn: Rhonda Krieger
100 Neill Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

You are welcome to bring more than one team. Teams may consist of 3 or 4 students each. Please fill out one registration form for each team. Space is limited, so register early!

For more information, a brochure detailing the Montana Economics Challenge can be downloaded at <https://app.box.com/s/rv4bjeqoexib1vzy4otyixr4an5bllmy>. If you have questions, please contact Rhonda Krieger at 406.447.3864 or 1.800.823.4233, ext. 73864.

Reminder to All High School Districts with Remaining Perkins Funds

The CTE Division of the OPI is providing this friendly reminder to all high school districts with an outstanding 2014-2015 Perkins allocation to please obligate your remaining funds before the end of the current school year.

If you have questions regarding your Perkins balance or any submitted cash requests, please contact Leisa Blanton, Perkins Accountant, at 406-444-4403 or email her at lblanton@mt.gov.

If you have questions about obligating your Perkins funds, please contact either Brad King or Renee Harris.

Brad King—phone: 406.444.4451; email: bking2@mt.gov

Renee Harris—phone: 406.994.6986; email: rharris3@mt.gov

Student Assistance Foundation-Graduation Matters Montana Scholarship

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, contact [Darbie Hess](#) at dhess@safmt.org or 406.495.7393.

Looking for Ideas & Resources to Teach Coding? Stop Scratching Your Head & Try This for Free

Coding is another term for software programming. One option to get students interested in and starting to code is by using [Scratch](#).

[Scratch](#) is a software tool that helps students learn software programming. It was designed for students who have never coded before. [Scratch](#) is free and open source software, developed by the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#) and can be used online or downloaded for free at scratch.mit.edu/.

With [Scratch](#), you and your students can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations — and share creations with others in the online community.

[Scratch](#) helps young people learn to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively — essential skills for life in the 21st century.

To get students learning and working with [Scratch](#), below are some websites introducing [Scratch](#) as well as warm-up exercise and video tutorials for creating a Frogger game using [Scratch](#).

--How to Use Scratch: <http://www.witty.ca/scratch-2---how-to.html>

--Scratch Warm-Up Exercises: <http://www.witty.ca/scratch-2---introduction.html>

--Using Scratch to Create a Frogger Game: <http://www.witty.ca/scratch-2---frogger-p1.html>

Computer Science Unplugged – Free Activities for Classroom or Home

[CS Unplugged](#) (csunplugged.org) is a collection of [free learning activities](#) that teach Computer Science through engaging games and puzzles that use cards, string, crayons and lots of running around.

The activities introduce students to underlying concepts such as [binary numbers](#), [algorithms](#) and [data compression](#), separated from the distractions and technical details we usually see with computers.

[CS Unplugged](#) is suitable for people of all ages, from elementary school to seniors, and from many countries and backgrounds. [Unplugged](#) has been used around the world for over twenty years, in classrooms, science centers, homes, and even for holiday events in a park.

[CS Unplugged](#) has a trailer available (on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#)) where you can see how [CS Unplugged](#) can be used.

[Bank On It: They'd Love to Hear Your Thoughts!](#)

[Start Here, Go Places.](#)® recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of Bank On It®, and wanted to thank you for helping make it a success!

[Start Here, Go Places.](#)® strives to ensure the game is a valuable resource you continue to use, and your students continue to enjoy. Feedback from teachers like you will help make that happen! In fact, they consider your feedback so valuable that they would like to send you a virtual high five and a **\$10 Amazon gift card** to thank you for your time!

[Start Here, Go Places.](#)® knows you're busy, which is why they've made the feedback survey super short and mostly multiple choice. The more honest you are, the more ammo they will have to make Bank On It a more engaging resource for you and your students.

You have to hurry though; the survey is short just like the open window to take it! You only have until next Wednesday, March 4. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

Here's a giant "thank you" from the Start Here, Go Places.® team for your support!

[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.rog by April 1.

[Building Your Future Financial Literacy Curriculum Resource](#)

The [Actuarial Foundation](#) has released to U.S. high school teachers [Building Your Future](#), an engaging and relevant financial literacy curriculum, to help teens master the foundational elements of personal finance and to prepare for life on their own.

[Building Your Future](#) helps students easily grasp the essentials of personal finance, gives them multiple opportunities to practice core skills and showcases the real-world impact of the financial decisions they make. All four of the [Building Your Future](#) books are classroom ready with a Teacher's Guide including handouts, answer keys, instruction and assessment suggestions, definitions and resources that align with National Council of Teacher of Mathematics and JumpStart.

The 2013 update addresses developing trends, such as the use of smart phones in banking and the increasing risk of identity theft, and to reflect the current tax and interest rate environment. Teachers were surveyed for content suggestions and based on their feedback, [Building Your Future: Book 4, Succeeding](#) was developed. This latest book focuses on the important decisions students make early on in their adult lives such as paying for college, choosing a career and making a living.

Get Your Free Individual Set of Materials - Just Ask! Thanks to a generous donation from the New York Life Foundation, the Foundation is providing free individual sets of materials to U.S. high school for a limited time. To get your free materials, e-mail your name, school name, and school mailing address to programs@actfnd.org.

Request a Donated Classroom Set of Materials To get on the list for a donated classroom set of materials (25 student books, 1 set of teacher guides), e-mail your name, school name, and school mailing address to programs@actfnd.org. You will be notified as soon as the Foundation finds a donor to provide you with a classroom set.

Download the Materials To help teachers incorporate these materials into their instruction, the Foundation is making [Building Your Future](#) available in PDF format at no cost. Both the Teachers Guide Book and Student Book can be downloaded for all four (4) books.

--Book 1 - Banking: Topics include savings accounts, checking accounts, credit cards, taxes

--Book 2 - Financing: Topics include loans and interest, home loans, auto loans, insurance

--Book 3 - Investing: Topics include bonds, stocks, mutual funds, risk and diversification, inflation

--Book 4 – Succeeding: Topics include paths to employment, paying for education, making a living, retirement

If you wish to purchase the materials, as a nonprofit organization the Foundation is able to provide printed copies of the booklets at a break-even cost of just \$2.50 per booklet. To order copies of the Building Your Future curriculum resources, use the order form at the link below. The Foundation accepts school purchase orders for your convenience.

Get complete details about the [Building Your Future](#) program and to download curriculum materials, visit www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/youth/buildingyourfuture.shtml#sthash.r4anhqHu.dpuf.

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.

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.

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](#) 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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