

## The Wednesday Reader

March 11, 2015

### [Google Apps Festival–Missoula Style—Yes, a Google Event in Missoula](#)

[Google Apps Festival, Missoula Style](#) is a day-long event focused on the implementation and integration of Google Tools into an educational setting. This one-day event promises to be a high energy, fun-filled experience with plenty of opportunities for participants to learn, share, and connect with others.

[Google Apps Festival, Missoula Style](#) will take place Saturday, May 2 and will be held at Sentinel High School beginning at 8:30 am and concluding at 3:30 pm.

Workshop presenters include Google Certified Teachers, Certified Google Educators, administrators, and local teacher rock stars. Sessions will cover all levels of expertise, so whether you are a Google newbie or tech ninja, there will be workshops to meet your needs. Do not wait, get signed up today.

The Early Bird registration rate is \$80 with general admission \$100; hurry fast as the Early Bird registration rate ends this Friday, March 13.

To learn more about [Google Apps Festival, Missoula Style](#) visit [http://www.beyondthechalk.net/?page\\_id=765](http://www.beyondthechalk.net/?page_id=765).

### [Financial Education Resources Available from the American Bankers Association](#)

The [American Bankers Association](#) ([www.aba.com](http://www.aba.com)), ABA, provides teachers, students, and parents resources for teaching and gaining financial literacy skills. Through the [ABA Community Engagement Foundation](#), the ABA offers materials for three different financial education programs: [Teach Children to Save](#); [Lights Camera Save](#); and [Get Smart About Credit](#).

Visit the ABA Community Engagement Foundation site at [www.aba.com/Engagement/Pages/financialed.aspx](http://www.aba.com/Engagement/Pages/financialed.aspx) to learn more about the programs as well as to download a copy of [The Road to Financial Responsibility](#).

### [Check Out the New Montana Career Resources Website & Explore the Info & Resources Available](#)

The newly redesigned [Montana Career Resources](#) website ([www.careers.mt.gov](http://www.careers.mt.gov)) is up and running. Just click on the symbol that matches your user type to find the career information you're looking for.

The newly designed [Montana Career Resources](#) website includes new menus for Montana labor market information including Industry, Wage, Occupation, Employment, Career Resources, Publications, and Data Search Help.

The newly designed [Montana Career Resources](#) website also provides career resources organized by age group/target audience—grade school, middle school, high school, college/adult, and even teacher/counselor.

Of course, the site provides a quick link to directly log into the Montana Career Information System (MCIS).

Check out the new site at [www.careers.mt.gov](http://www.careers.mt.gov).

### **Learn about Google Tools & Google Apps for Education at the EdTechTeam Wyoming Summit**

The [EdTechTeam Wyoming Summit](#) will be held in Cody, Wyoming, June 9 and 10 at Cody High School. The two-day professional development event will focus on deploying, integrating, and using Google Apps for Education (and other Google tools) to promote student learning in pre-K-12 and higher education.

All presenters are Google Certified Teachers, Google Education Trainers, Google Employees, or teachers with local successful stories.

The early bird registration rate is \$275 per person, ending April 9. Group rates are also available.

To check out the schedule, workshop offering, and to get more registration details visit

<https://wy.gafesummit.com/2015/>.

Should you opt to attend, be sure to submit the OPI [Pre-Approval Form](#) at least one week prior to the Summit to be able to earn Montana OPI renewal units.

### **Registration for 2015 NBEA Convention Ends Today, March 11**

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 registration deadline is today, Wednesday, March 11.

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

### **March 13 is Due Date for 20th Annual Montana Economics Challenge Registration**

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 \(www.econedmontana.org/\)](http://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](mailto: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/rv4bjeqoexib1vzy4otyixr4an5bllmv>. If you have questions, please contact Rhonda Krieger at 406.447.3864 or 1.800.823.4233, ext. 73864.

### **Registration Deadline for ACTE Region V Leadership Conference is Sunday, March 15**

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](http://www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015), 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.

### **Grant Funding Available from CodeMontana – Submissions Due March 15**

CodeMontana has funding available for teachers who are working directly with young women in classes or projects involving STEM education. There are 10 grants of up to \$500 each.

Interested teachers must submit the following information via email:

1. Name of Teacher
2. Name of School
3. Number of female students enrolled/involved in project
4. Short description of project(s)

Please send your submissions to [getcoding@codemontana.org](mailto:getcoding@codemontana.org) with the subject line STEM grant project.

Deadline for submissions is Sunday, March 15.

### **March 17 is Registration Deadline to Earn \$1000 or More for Your Classroom thru Khan Academy**

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) 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 you 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!

### **CTE Spring Data Collection For Perkins Funding Now Open – Time to Identify Concentrators**

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection began March 1, 2015 and ends April 30, 2015. This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who were enrolled at any point during the current 2014-2015 school year who meet the definition of a CTE Concentrator.

CTE Concentrators are 12th graders who have earned three (3) or more credits in any CTE program in any combination during their years of high school. Currently enrolled CTE courses count toward credits earned.

CTE Concentrators must have the '*CTE Concentrator*' box checked and an '*Area of Concentration*' entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system. If the student has a child or shares the parenting of a child, the '*Single Parent*' box should also be marked.

High schools who receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program must complete this CTE Spring Data Collection.

Instructions for completing the CTE Spring Data Collection can be found on the AIM webpage located at this link: <http://opi.mt.gov/Reports&Data/AIM> entitled Spring CTE Collection.

Questions regarding this data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 877.424.6681 or send an email to [opiaimhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiaimhelp@mt.gov).

Questions regarding CTE programs and/or the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program should be directed to Diana Fiedler at [dfiedler@mt.gov](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov) or 406.444.9019.

### **EverFi - Critical Skills Curriculum Available at No Cost to Schools**

You may have heard of EverFi and their financial literacy platform being used throughout the state. EverFi also has a number of STEM, Civic Engagement, Digital Literacy, Career Success, and Health/Wellness courses also available at no cost to schools.

Through unique private-public partnerships, EverFi brings critical skills curriculum to schools at *no cost*. This online platform is easy to implement, engaging for students, and EverFi has a staff member based in Helena dedicated to supporting Montana schools.

To see the various courses, visit [info.everfi.com/K12LearningPlatform.html](http://info.everfi.com/K12LearningPlatform.html). You may also contact Mick Karls, of EverFi, at [mick@everfi.com](mailto:mick@everfi.com) or 406.204.1148.

Do you have students interested in a \$500 scholarship? Enter the Montana Bankers Association Blog Contest at <http://info.everfi.com/MontanaBlogContest.html>.

## **2015 Computer Science Teachers Association Annual Conference Registration Now Open**

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) will be holding the [2015 CSTA Annual Conference](#) July 12-14 in Grapevine, Texas.

The [CSTA Annual Conference](#) provides professional development opportunities for K–12 computer science and information technology teachers who need practical, relevant information to help them prepare their students for the future.

Use the following links for additional information and details.

--Registration: [www.softconf.com/f/csta2015/](http://www.softconf.com/f/csta2015/)

--Conference Schedule: [csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/2015\\_Agenda\\_DRAFTv5.pdf](http://csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/2015_Agenda_DRAFTv5.pdf)

--Concurrent Session Descriptions:

[csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/CSTA2015Sessions.pdf](http://csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/CSTA2015Sessions.pdf)

--Three-Hour Workshop Descriptions:

[csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/CSTA2015Workshops.pdf](http://csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/CSTA2015Workshops.pdf)

--Conference Lodging: [csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/Housing.html](http://csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTA15/Housing.html)

Online registration opened February 16 and closes June 26.

Conference registration (which includes an afternoon community session on Sunday, July 12, Monday night's event (TBD), and all general and plenary sessions on Tuesday, July 14) is \$100 if you register by April 15.

From April 16-June 26 the price is \$150 and after that the price goes up to \$225.

Workshops are a separate price, and this year we have expanded our offering to include some on Sunday, as well as Monday. The price for workshops is \$100 for the first one, and then \$50 for each additional workshop (maximum number of three).

\*Please note that CSTA does not cover the cost of registration, travel or accommodations for speakers or attendees.

Please email any questions to [t.nash@csta-hq.org](mailto:t.nash@csta-hq.org).

## **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](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](mailto: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](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:bking2@mt.gov)

Renee Harris—phone: 406.994.6986; email: [rharris3@mt.gov](mailto:rharris3@mt.gov)

### 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](mailto:gflint@mcsmt.org)) or Michael Cassens ([michael.cassens@mso.umt.edu](mailto: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](mailto:gflint@mcsmt.org) by April 1.

### 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](mailto:mick@everfi.com) or 406.204.1148.



## Fun Facts and Trivia

In Virginia, chickens cannot lay eggs before 8:00 a.m., and must be done before 4:00 p.m.

In New York, it is against the law for children to pick up or collect cigarette and cigar butts.

In Massachusetts, it is against the law to put tomatoes in clam chowder.

In Washington State, you can't carry a concealed weapon that is over 6 feet in length.

In San Francisco, there is an ordinance, which bans the picking up and throwing of used confetti.

In Kentucky, it is illegal for a merchant to force a person into his place of business for the purpose of making a sale.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at [www.mbea.info](http://www.mbea.info). The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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*"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh*