

The Wednesday Reader

April 8, 2015

It's No Bull – Google Rocks Training July 20-21 in Scenic Northwest Montana

[It's No Bull—Google Rocks](#) training will be held this summer in Troy, Montana, July 20-21. The Google training will be led by Montana business educator Shelley Stanton.

The [Google Rocks](#) training will incorporate material and information from Google Teacher Academies, Google Summits, national conferences, other tools for technology integration.

More training details, registration, and an invitation to be a part of the program as a presenter can be found at www.406tech.net.

MSU's Computer Science in the Classroom: An Introduction to Computational Thinking

During the Montana State University summer session, MSU computer science professor Dr. John Paxton will be offering [CSCI 591 Computer Science in the Classroom: An Introduction to Computational Thinking](#) on the Bozeman campus June 15-19.

[CSCI 591](#) examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition. Exciting ideas and influential people are introduced. A gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language is provided. The course also introduces participants to robotic platforms.

This course parallels Dr. Paxton's CSCI 107 Joy and Beauty of Computing.

For more information about the course, summer session enrollment, and course fees please visit www.montana.edu/msse/students/summer-2015.html.

FVCC Teacher Camp – Designed by Teachers, for Teachers

Flathead Valley Community College is hosting [Teacher Camp](#) on the FVCC campus in Kalispell over a two-week period June 15-19 and June 22-26.

The compressed two-week schedule allows participants to mix and match classes to earn one (1) to four (4) college credits in just two weeks. The four college credits satisfies all 60 required OPI renewal units for teacher certification; one (1) college credit is the equivalent to 15 OPI renewal units.

Course offerings include strategies for engaging students, technology integration, CNC, CAM, and electronics to name a few.

A complete listing of offering as well as the [Teacher Camp](#) schedule and registration information can be found at www.fvcc.edu/teachercamp.html.

2015 MIET Tech Days Registration is Now Open

The [2015 Montana Institute on Educational Technology](#) (MIET) Tech Days will again be offered this June for the 11th year in a row on the Great Falls College Montana State University campus Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24.

Although continuing the tradition, the conference does have some important changes which should be beneficial for everyone.

Changes and highlights for 2015 include

1. MIET will now be a concentrated two-day conference. There will be over 50 session options from which to choose along with two keynote speakers.
2. Classes will be open enrollment, similar to MEA, and will be on a first-come, first-serve in rooms with a cap at 30 attendees per session
3. An Open Session will be offered—if you missed a session or an offering you needed was not offered, the last sessions on Wednesday will provide it. The talented instructors will survey attendee needs and then offer what you asked for!
4. BYOD—Bring Your Own Device so you have the opportunity to have more practical, hands-on learning with your own device and access will not be limited to 18 computers per lab.
5. College credit of your choice will be offered for an additional fee—one (1) or two (2) masters-level continuing education credits. Participants must attend both full days to be able to earn college credit. The one-credit course includes full attendance and a reflection assignment or project. The two-credit course includes full attendance, a two-hour evening session, a 13-hour online course after MIET, and a reflective paper.
6. Lunch is included both days.

Early-bird registration is \$100 and ends May 22—save \$25 when you register by the deadline. Registration details can be found and completed at miettechdays.weebly.com/register.html.

For more information or to get questions answered, please visit the 2015 MIET website at www.miettechdays.weebly.com.

An informational flyer can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/EkMYII>.

WBEA Seeking Nominations for the Office of Treasurer

The [Western Business Education Association](http://www.wbea.org) (WBEA) is seeking nominations for the office of Treasurer. The successful candidate will serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2015.

To be eligible to seek the nomination of a WBEA officer, individuals must be a member in good standing of National Business Education Association/Western Business Education Association and have attended a WBEA Executive Board meeting and served as a member of the WBEA Executive for one (1) full year within the last ten (10) years. Additionally, individuals seeking WBEA office must be in good standing with the State/Territory/Province (S/T/P) that nominates him/her.

Additional details about seeking nomination for the office of WBEA Treasurer can be found on the [WBEA](http://www.wbea.org) website at wbea.info/new/leadership/join-board.html.

To view the Program of Work for the WBEA Treasurer, a copy of the 2013-2014 POW for the WBEA Treasurer can be downloaded at <http://wbea.info/new/leadership/POWS/pows%20after%20june%202013/Treasurer%20POW%202013-2014.pdf>.

Elections to select the new WBEA officers will be held during the 2015 WBEA Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, May 22-24, 2015.

For additional information or questions, please contact WBEA Past President Christy Ekroth at ekroth@msn.com.

Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND State CTE/VoEd Application NOW OPEN – Due April 24

The Office of Public Instruction has again this year combined both the Federal Carl D. Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND the State CTE/VoEd Funding application for school districts' convenience. You can apply for one or both funding programs using this one electronic form.

Please note: this is an application Authorized Representatives (AR) complete, not teachers. ARs are typically the district superintendent or someone given authority by the district regarding money.

The online link to access and complete the combined Federal and State funding application is now available and listed below. It is also available on the Secondary CTE web page of the OPI website inside the *Perkins Federal Funding* tab.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief electronic application for the 2015-2016 E-Grants cycle.

All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are eligible to apply for funding. Elementary districts are not eligible for Perkins or State CTE/VoEd monies.

Districts will NOT receive a 2015-2016 Perkins allocation unless this electronic form is completed and submitted online at the OPI on or before the deadline. These designations are binding and cannot be changed once allocations have been downloaded into the E-Grants system.

The application link is located at <http://app.keysurvey.com/f/343718/10f4/>.

The deadline for submission of the combined application is **April 24, 2015**.

If you have questions, please contact Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist, at dfiedler@mt.gov.

Nominations Due Monday, April 13 for Superintendent's 2015-2016 Student Advisory Board

Superintendent Juneau is starting her search for new 2015-2016 Student Advisory Board members. Students who are selected for the board will attend two annual board meetings, serve a two-year maximum appointment, have the opportunity to network with state leaders, and experience professional and leadership development.

All students who are nominated should be highly interested in the purpose of the Student Advisory Board.

Students must complete an online application and have an adult who has completed the nomination form to be eligible.

To access the nomination form and the student application form, go to the [Graduation Matters website](#).

The deadline for Student Advisory Board applications process is Monday, April 13. Both nomination forms and student applications must be completed by midnight.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bezanson at jbezanson@mt.gov or 406.444.3526.

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.

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.

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

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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

In Florida, it is against the law to put livestock on a school bus.

In New Jersey, cabbage can't be sold on Sunday.

In Galveston, Texas, it is illegal to have a camel run loose in the street.

In North Carolina, it is against the law for dogs and cats to fight.

In Singapore, it is illegal to chew gum.

In Cleveland, Ohio, it is unlawful to leave chewing gum in public places.

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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"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