

The Wednesday Reader

April 22, 2015

For your planning and reading pleasure, after this week's Wednesday Reader there will only be two more editions as the 2014-2015 school year starts to wrap up—April 29 and May 13. There will not be a Wednesday Reader on May 6 as I will be at the 2015 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference.

New STEM Course Coming from EverFi

EverFi has a new STEM course coming for the 2015-2016 school year. To learn more about the new STEM course, please consider attending one of the following ½ hour webinars.

[April 23, 3pm EST](#)

[April 23, 6pm EST](#)

[May 7, 3pm EST](#)

[May 7, 6pm EST](#)

This course, sponsored by the National Hockey League/NHLPA and available to schools at no-cost, brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts to life through the exciting, fast-paced game of hockey. Using immersive hockey simulations, content enables students to explore real-life applications of fundamental STEM concepts.

This online learning course combines the power of cutting-edge instructional design, standards based alignment, and game-based simulations to build student's confidence, mastery, and excitement around critical STEM topics. To learn more, please visit <http://info.everfi.com/HockeyScholar.html>.

For further information, contact Mick Karls of EverFi, in Helena, at 204-1148 or at mick@everfi.com.

Deadline for Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND State CTE/VoEd Application is Friday

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.

CTE Spring Data Collection For Perkins Funding Due Next Week, April 30

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 opiainhelp@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.

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.

Workshops 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. General admission is \$100.

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

The Key to CTE is VISION 2015! Registration for ACTE CareerTech VISION 2015 Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2015 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) [CAREERTECH VISION](#) national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 19-22.

ACTE invites you to join the largest annual gathering of Career and Technical Education professionals in an exciting, informative and inspirational educational agenda packed with hundreds of CTE sessions, a comprehensive Expo, and a rich array of networking opportunities.

New this year, ACTE is proud to join forces with the National Association of State Directors of Career & Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) to offer a Career Cluster-focused strand of concurrent sessions featuring this critical framework for organizing high-quality CTE programs of study and the collaboration between secondary and postsecondary CTE. In short, the National Career Clusters Conference is now a part of [CareerTech VISION](#).

The early-bird deadline is July 10. [Register today](#) to secure the most affordable rate for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2015.

For complete registration and lodging information, as well as all other [CareerTech VISION](#) details, please visit <http://www.careertechvision.com/attendees.cfm>.

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 – Early Bird Registration Ends May 22

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/EkMY1I>.

Fun Facts and Trivia

In Phoenix, Arizona, you can't walk through a hotel lobby with spurs on.

In California, a law created in 1925 makes it illegal to wiggle while dancing.

In Utah, daylight must be visible between dancing couples.

In Michigan, it is against the law for a lady to lift her skirt more than 6 inches while walking through a mud puddle.

In North Carolina, it is against the law for a rabbit to race down the street.

In Georgia, it's against the law to spread a false rumor.

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