

The Wednesday Reader

September 9, 2015

Welcome Back and to the 2015-2016 School Year

Today marks the beginning of the Wednesday Reader—your weekly informational email containing details about professional development opportunities, events for students, curriculum resources, funding opportunities, and other interesting items for your use.

Preliminary 2014-2015 Montana CTE Student Participation Reports Data Available for Verification

The Montana Career and Technical Education (CTE) student participation report data collected during the 2014-2015 school using the OPI Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule (TEAMS) OPI School Staff System has been posted for schools and CTE program area teachers to review, verify, and submit updates or corrections.

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

A comprehensive report listing of all CTE programs by school district is available on the Data Collections page of the Secondary CTE section of the OPI website, www.opi.mt.gov. The report, titled PRELIMINARY 2014-2015 CTE Student Participation Reports, can also be accessed directly at http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_6.

The CTE Student Participation Reports are listed in alphabetical order by school district. The reports list all data currently entered into TEAMS for teachers identified by teaching endorsement as being a Career & Technical Educator. The reports show data entered into TEAMS by local/district TEAMS representatives—usually a district clerk or school staffing official.

The Course Codes and NCES Course Names listed correspond to the code from the TEAMS Current Listing of All Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions to categorize the District Course Name of the class(es) listed taught by the identified CTE teacher.

During the 2014-2015, all CTE student participation data was submitted via TEAMS instead of through a separate data collecting administered by the Career, Technical, and Adult Education Divisions of the Office of Public Instruction. New participation report data gained from TEAMS not previously collected includes data for the Course Code, NCES Course Name, and Section.

All local school officials and Career and Technical Education program area teachers are asked to review the report and submit any necessary updates/corrections to the OPI by **September 25, 2015**.

All corrections and updates must be communicated to local school/district TEAMS representative who will then need to contact the CTE Division staff. Please note, documentation or proof of district approval will be needed in order for corrections/updates to be accepted.

Contact one of the following people if you have questions regarding the data on the PDF:

- Agriculture Education: Brad King, 406.444.4451; bking2@mt.gov
- Business Education: Eric Swenson, 406.444.7991; eswenson@mt.gov
- Family & Consumer Sciences Education: Megan Vincent, 406.444.3599; mvincent2@mt.gov
- Health Sciences Education: Renee Harris, 406.994.6986; rharris3@mt.gov
- Industrial Trades & Technology Education: Don Michalsky, 406.444.4452; dmichalsky@mt.gov
- CTE Data Specialist: Christy Hendricks, 406.444.9019; chendricks@mt.gov
- TEAMS Project Manager: Danielle Murphy, 406.444.1625; opiteams@mt.gov

Professional Development Designed Specifically for those New to the CTE Classroom

The Office of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting a **New CTE Professionals Workshop** on Wednesday, October 14, in Billings at the Billings Career Center, prior to the start of the 2015 Montana ACTE Institute.

The New CTE Professionals Workshop is a **FREE** professional development opportunity designed specifically for Career & Technical Education professionals in their first, second, or third year in the classroom or for those teachers new to Career & Technical Education in Montana.

This professional development opportunity will provide teachers who are new to the classroom, as well as those with less than four years of experience, with information on a variety of topics essential for success in the career and technical education classroom including

- Perkins funding,
- State CTE funding,
- Advisory boards,
- Professional development,
- Professional organizations,
- Montana's Big Sky Pathways Initiative and the Development of Programs of Study,
- CTE and program-area standards and guidelines, and
- Career & Technical Student Organizations.

The workshop will be held at the Billings Career Center (3723 Central Avenue) from 8 am to 4 pm. The training is free of charge and lunch will be provided for attendees. Up to six (6) OPI Renewal Units will be offered. Attendees are responsible for their own travel and substitutes.

Additional details about the New CTE Professionals Workshop, including a schedule of events, are currently posted on the Secondary CTE page of the OPI website (<http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html>) under the **In The News** heading and can be downloaded via the following link:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/15CTEprofessionalsWorkshopFlyer.pdf>.

Registration for the 2015 New CTE Professionals Workshop can be completed and submitted online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRM35Z9>. The deadline to register is Monday, October 5.

2015 Montana ACTE Fall Institute Information and Registration

The Montana Association for Career & Technical Education (Montana ACTE) is hosting the premier CTE professional development in Montana October 15-16 in Billings.

The Institute will be held at the Billings Career Center and City College (map included in the Registration Packet). Please review the *Agenda-at-a-Glance* within the [Registration Packet](#) for changes to this year's program.

The Early-Brid registration ends October 1 and discounted hotel rates are available for reservations made prior to September 14.

To get all the Montana ACTE Fall Institute details, please visit <http://montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml>.

MBEA Seeking Nominations for 2015 Awards Program

The [Montana Business Education Association](#) (MBEA) is accepting nominations for their 2015 awards program. Awards will be presented during the MBEA Business Meeting held during the 2015 Montana ACTE Fall Institute. The MBEA Business Meeting will be held Thursday, October 15 beginning at 8:30 am.

Nomination letter are currently being sought for the following MBEA awards:

1. Outstanding Montana Business Education Teacher
2. Outstanding Young Business Teacher of the Year
3. Corporate Sponsor

Letters of nomination can be submitted to MBEA Past President Elaine Stedman at estedman@sidney.k12.mt.us. The deadline to submit nominations is October 1.

2015-2016 Federal Carl D. Perkins E-Grant Application Must Be Started by September 15

The 2015-2016 Federal Carl D. Perkins E-Grant application is open and available for public high school districts to open and complete. Notification to all Authorized Representatives was sent out by email on June 19, 2015, from Kate Vatter, E-Grants Program Manager. The allocations loaded into the E-Grants system are FINAL numbers. This means you can create a new application for 2015-2016 and begin working on it. The **due date** for opening/creating a Perkins grant application is **September 15, 2015**. The due date for initial application approval is October 31, 2015.

According to the Carl D. Perkins Act of 2006, allocation calculations are based on current U.S. Census poverty and population counts. Local Distribution of Funds to Secondary Education Programs are distributed by formula based on school district Poverty counts (70%) and Population counts (30%). In addition, any unobligated or unspent Perkins monies from the prior year are redistributed by formula to all high schools. The distribution explanation can be found in Part C Section 131(1) and (2) on pages 130 and 131 of the Perkins Act of 2006, The Official Guide.

For questions about the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant program, or about your application, please contact one of the following:

Brad King, Agriculture Education Specialist, email: bking2@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.4451

Renee Harris, Health Science Education Specialist, email: rharris3@mt.gov or by phone at 406.994.6986

Christy Hendricks, Perkins Data Control Specialist, email: chendricks@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.9019

For questions about the E-Grant program, contact **Kate Vatter** at kvatter@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.7842.

406 Tech Billings Summer – Featuring Google for Education

This Billings Summit, brought to you by 406 Tech, will feature Google Education Trainers and Certified Innovators, teachers who just "get it" when it comes to integrating technology, and administrators who support that innovation. The Billings Summer will be held October 31, 2015 on the MSU-Billings campus.

Participants can expect hands-on, fast-paced, fun learning and will walk away with easy ideas for integrating tools from the Google Apps Education Suite. Renewal units will also be provided.

[Register](#) now to receive the \$100 early bird rate. After September 20, the cost will be \$125.

Learn more about the event at www.406tech.net.

Invitation to Participate in the High School Business Challenge

The key to getting your students to understand key business concepts is through hands-on activity. If you've not yet done so, consider this simulation designed to develop management, financial, marketing and critical thinking skills in a competitive, learning enhanced environment.

The Montana High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education lets your students actively participate in a state-wide simulation as real entrepreneurs. The students manage the business of a Digital Music Player manufacturer, and many daily decisions face the students, including financial, ethical, legal, and competitive issues. It is a dynamic simulation that can be incorporated into many different class disciplines.

The state-wide competition runs eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, October 7 and concluding Wednesday, December 9. College scholarships are awarded to the top three teams. The cost is \$15.00 per team.

Registering Teams For Fall Semester? Questions?: To register teams for the fall Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994.2263 for further information. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, September 30.

First Time Participants: First-time participants need to be trained prior to involvement in the Business Challenge by webinar training sessions which introduces the teacher to the concepts and procedures the simulation. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday, September 28 and 29, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. If you are a first-time participant, or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of the Business Challenge, please register online at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8626554195690347266>.

Refresher Webinar For Past Participants: A webinar is scheduled on Wednesday, September 30, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for teachers that have previously participated in the Challenge who want to refresh their skills and learn more about the simulation. This webinar is voluntary, and is open only to teachers that have previous HSBC involvement. Space is limited. The web address to register for this webinar is: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8330214921283884034>.

For more information, please contact Tim Alzheimer at 406.994.2263 or timalz@montana.edu.

Stock Market Game Registration Information

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students? Ask teachers you know that have participated about the benefits of involving their classes in The Stock Market Game™ sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education.

The program is easy to administer, and teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts: Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Cooperation and Communication, Primary Research, and Saving and investing. Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive gameplay creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. Cash prizes are also awarded for the top three teams. Participation fees are \$15 per team (5 students maximum per team) and scholarships are available if funds are limited.

Training Webinar: Several training webinars are being offered over the next few weeks by the SIFMA (Securities and Financial Markets Association) Foundation, sponsors of the Stock Market Game. There is no fee for participating in these webinars, nor do you need to register for the simulation to attend the webinar. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Following are the dates, times, and registration links to the various webinars:

- a. Thursday, 9/10/15, 4:00-5:00 PM MDT: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5391364375154189825>
- b. Monday, 9/21/15, 5:00-6:00 PM MDT: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8435962650000818689>
- c. Wednesday, 9/30/15, 2:30-3:30 PM MDT: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/203127444469915649>
- d. Thursday, 10/8/15, 5:00-6:00 PM MDT: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3405687057320983809>

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on October 5, and runs for 10 weeks, with December 10 being the final trading day. To find out more information and register teams for competition, go to www.stockmarketgame.org, and click on the registration link in the center of the screen.

What students gain from The Stock Market Game™ program is a remarkable experience — and even more important, an education for life.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 406.994.2263.

2015 Jump\$tart National Educator Conference

As the nation's leading advocate for youth financial literacy, the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy® is proud to conduct its [seventh annual conference](#) devoted specifically to Pre-K to 12th grade classroom teachers of personal finance.

This year's event will take place Nov. 6-8 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, just outside Washington, D.C.

Complete [2015 Jump\\$tart National Educator Conference](#) details can be found at <http://www.jumpstart.org/teacher-conference.html>.

This Year's Conference Highlights:

- Tools, resources, information and support for teaching personal finance in the classroom.
- A variety of workshops under three strands: Curricula/Content, Personal Development "101" and Personal Development "AP."
- Networking with your peers from across the country!
- Exhibit Hall devoted to Financial Education Resources
- Welcome to Washington Gala with Opening Night performance by "America's Comedic Financial Expert" [Colin Ryan](#).
- 15 Professional Development Hours for Teachers
- Optional Activities** include: free financial planning clinics, two financial educator certification programs, and various teacher networking opportunities. [Click Here to View the Activities](#).

Teacher Fundraising - New This Year! Jump\$tart wants to help you get to the National Educator Conference! While Jump\$tart and its partners underwrite a significant portion of the event, they know you—the teachers—still incur some costs. So, they have established a way for you to crowdfund the registration fee and reasonable travel costs, if you need. [Click Here to Learn More](#).

Student Loans Forgiveness Thanks to Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

As an employee of your local school district, or college campus, you may qualify for forgiveness of a remaining balance on your eligible federal student loans (including Parent PLUS loans) thanks to the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#) (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>).

The [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#), or PSLF Program, is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance of their Direct Loans after they have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full time by certain public service employers.

To qualify, you must make 120 on-time, full, scheduled, monthly payments on your Direct Loans; only payments made after October 1, 2007 qualify. You must make those payments under a qualifying repayment plan. When making each of those payments, you must be working full-time at a qualifying public service organization.

Qualifying employment is any employment with a federal, state, or local government agency, entity, or organization or a not-for-profit organization that has been designated as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The type or nature of employment with the organization does not matter for PSLF purposes. Additionally, the type of services that these public service organizations provide does not matter for PSLF purposes.

Because it will take at least 10 years for you to make the 120 qualifying payments necessary to receive PSLF, an Employment Certification for Public Service Loan Forgiveness form ([Employment Certification form](#)) has been created that you should submit and a process that you should follow to assist you in tracking your periods of qualifying employment and your qualifying payments.

The form allows you to get your employer's certification of employment while you are still employed at that organization or shortly after leaving. The process allows you to receive confirmation of qualifying employment and your Direct Loan payment eligibility. You may also submit the form less frequently than annually to cover more than one year's employment or for more than one employer.

For more details and to access complete PSLF Program guidelines, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>.

Google for Education Online Course – Computational Thinking

Google for Education is offering a free, online course where educators can explore and learn more about what Computational Thinking (CT) is and how it can be integrated into a variety of subject areas that they teach, whether it be computer science, humanities, math, or science.

The goal of the course is to increase awareness of CT among all educators around the world and encourage them to integrate CT into their everyday content. Thus the course is divided into five parts, each focusing on the following:

- What is CT?: Educators will learn what computational thinking is, where it occurs, why it matters, and how it is being applied
- Exploring Algorithms: Educators will walk through examples of algorithms that are applicable to their subjects, experience the power of algorithms, and learn how technology can be useful for implementing and automating algorithms
- Finding Patterns: Educators will explore examples of patterns and develop their own processes for approaching a problem through pattern recognition
- Developing Algorithms: Educators will apply the computational process to a given problem and learn how algorithms can articulate a process or rule

-Applying Computational Thinking: Educators will create a statement of how computational thinking applies to their specific subject area and design a plan for how to integrate it into their work and classroom

Note: this course is designed to be completed at your own pace and will run through Sept 30. It should take between 15 to 30 hours to complete.

For more information, or to register for this course, visit g.co/computationalthinking. For additional resources on CT, including classroom-ready lesson plans, videos on how Google uses CT to do some amazing things, and more, check out: g.co/exploringCT.

Educational Robotics For Absolute Beginners: The Basics Of Lego Robot Programming

The Rowan University Laboratory for Educational Robotics (RULER Lab) invites you to join their free self-paced online courses that teaches absolute beginners the fundamentals of programming LEGO robots.

Over 5,000 people have already participated in the LEGO NXT Robotics Course and they are excited to announce that the new LEGO EV3 Robotics Course is now open. Both courses were designed specifically for K-12 teachers, but are free and open to anyone who is interested in learning about LEGO NXT robotics thanks to the support of Google's CS4HS program.

The LEGO NXT and EV3 robots are programmed using block-based visual programming languages that (combined with the physicality of a robot and the familiarity that many people have with LEGO) will be attractive to people who are new to programming.

Each lesson in these five week courses includes short video clips, self-test questions, and robot projects. The first week does not require any special hardware, but after week 1 you'll need a LEGO NXT or EV3 robot and software to complete all the exercises.

To learn more about both of these courses, please visit <http://www.rowan.edu/cs4hs>. If you have additional questions, please contact Jennifer S. Kay, RULER Lab Director, at kay@rowan.edu.

CodeHS Web-Based Coding Curricula Now Available For All Classrooms

[CodeHS \(codehs.com\)](http://codehs.com) has worked with thousands of schools across the country to build a great tool for teaching programming. Now, they are excited to reach even more students by introducing a free version of [CodeHS](http://codehs.com) for teachers to use in the classroom.

Imagine everything you need to teach your computer science courses all in one place.

With [CodeHS](http://codehs.com), you can:

- Write and run code in the browser (including Java)
- Use autograders to provide immediate feedback
- Leverage your time in the classroom with student progress tracking
- Save time grading with efficient grading tools
- Import your own exercises or use ours

Sign up for free at codehs.com/signup/teacher.

Even more teacher tools and features are available when you sign up for a school membership.

Questions about how CodeHS fits in with your classroom or want to learn more about our membership options? Fill out this short form: <http://bit.ly/1NOJNVh>.

If you have questions, shoot CodeHS an email at hello@codehs.com.

Fun Facts and Trivia

3.1% of all beverages consumed around the world are Coca-Cola products

Coke makes so many different beverages that if you drank one per day, it would take you over 9 years to try them all—Coca-Cola has a product portfolio of more than 3,500 beverages (and 500 brands), spanning from sodas to energy drinks to soy-based drinks

Coca-Cola's \$35.1 billion in revenue makes it the 84th largest economy in the world, just ahead of Costa Rica

The Coca-Cola brand is worth an estimated \$74 billion: more than Budweiser, Pepsi, Starbucks and Red Bull combined

If every drop of Coke ever produced were put in 8-ounce bottles and laid end-to-end, they would reach the moon and back over 2,000 times

If you stacked up Coke's 2.8 million vending machines, they would take up 150.2 million cubic feet of space -- the size of 4 Empire State Buildings

Around the world, the average person consumes a Coke product every four days

Coca-Cola spends more money on advertising than Microsoft and Apple combined

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