

The Wednesday Reader

December 2, 2015

Montana Tech CodeMontana Scholarships

The Montana Tech Computer Science Department is offering students the opportunity to win a \$4,000 scholarship for completing seven [CodeMontana](#) modules and scoring a 24 or better on the math portion of the ACT.

The modules allows students to explore the world of programming (at no cost), to find out if it's a good career fit for them. Students can also opt to take the course as dual enrollment, earning them three (3) credit hours towards the Tech Computer Science degree.

The scholarship is limited to 20 students, so [apply now](#).

Facts about CTE in Montana - Now Available

The 2014-2015 Facts about CTE in Montana is now available on the Secondary CTE web page and also located here: http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/14_15CTE_Facts.pdf

Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares Montana K-12 students for a wide range of careers and postsecondary education programs. CTE courses are found in Montana's middle schools, high schools and career centers.

CTE courses provide students with life and employment skills to make them highly desirable employees in today's modern workforce. Skills learned in K-12 CTE courses prepare students to enter the workforce or to continue their education with a much higher degree of focus and direction for their career goals.

Montana has 465 approved CTE programs and 648 certified teachers in Agriculture, Business, Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Industrial, Trades and Technology, and Health Science. More than 150 Montana high schools participate in the federal Carl D. Perkins and state CTE grant programs to support and improve their CTE programs.

In addition to skills learned in CTE courses, many Montana students gain additional technical and leadership skills through participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO). The seven CTOS with active Montana chapters are: FFA; Business Professionals of America (BPA); DECA, An Association of Marketing Students; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); HOSA, Future Health Professionals; SkillsUSA; and Technology Student Association (TSA).

New Links on OPI's CTE Website

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) website has been updated and now includes three (3) new links to help CTE teachers and schools to complete their participation reports.

The links include a helpful worksheet for CTE teachers to complete with all the necessary information needed for the participation reports, the current listing of all Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions for the 2015-2016 school year and an Introduction to the Common Career Technical Core.

The link for all these valuable resources is located at http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_6.

For more information, contact [Christy Hendricks](#), 406-444-9019.

CTE Fall Data Collection

The CTE Fall Data Collection began on October 1 and ends on December 31, 2015. The CTE Fall Data Collection is a follow-up to last year's Spring CTE data collection.

Students identified last year (2014-2015) as CTE Concentrators and who also graduated in the spring of 2015 must be contacted between October 1 and December 31 and asked their current post-graduation status. After contact, the appropriate post-graduation status code must be entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system for each CTE Concentrator.

All high schools that received funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program in 2014-2015 are required to complete this fall follow-up data collection to maintain their eligibility to receive Perkins funding.

Instructions for completing the CTE Fall Data Collection—called the 'Quick Reference Guide'—is located on the AIM web page listed inside the Reports and Data tab.

Technical AIM questions regarding the CTE Fall Data Collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 (toll-free) or email opiainhelp@mt.gov. Questions regarding the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program data requirements should be directed to Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Accountability Specialist at 406-444-9019 or email chendricks@mt.gov.

Please forward this information to your school's Authorized Representative who enters the CTE data for your school.

2016 Educator License Renewals – Changes for Class 2 Standard Licenses

As we near the end of 2015, it's time for those teachers, administrators, and other licensed school staff to start thinking about renewing their Montana educator licenses if they expire in 2016. Due to recent updates to the administrative rules regarding educator licensure, the renewal requirements for Class 2 Standard licenses have changed.

A Class 2 Standard license can be renewed upon the completion of 60 renewal units—college credits are no longer required for renewal. If college credits have been earned, they can still be used to meet renewal requirements. Each semester credit is equivalent to 15 renewal units and each quarter credit is equivalent to 10 renewal units. Additional information on renewal requirements can be found on the OPI website at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/cert/FAQ/faq.html#renewal>

In 2015 a new renewal process was implemented to improve the efficiency of the educator licensure renewal system. All renewals can now be completed online. Information on the renewal process can be found on the OPI website at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/cert/Materials/licenseRenewal.html>.

Educators are not required to submit documentation of professional development activities unless their application is chosen for audit. Educators whose renewals are audited will receive a letter requesting original documents to verify the completion of the professional development activities as reported in the online renewal system. If professional development activities cannot be found in the MSEIS system at the time the renewal application is initiated, educators should contact the renewal unit provider and request that the event be entered into the Renewal Unit Provider system.

Finally, renewals for educator licenses expiring in 2016 can be completed any time after January 1, 2016, as long as the required 60 renewal units have been completed. Educators should renew as soon as possible to ensure appropriate licensure before the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

For more information, contact [Educator Licensure Program](#), 406-444-3150.

National Security Agency's Day of Cyber

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) has partnered on a program sponsored by the National Security Agency and powered by LifeJourney (<http://www.lifejourney.us/>) called the **NSA Day of Cyber**. This national initiative is designed to raise the awareness and the "national IQ" for STEM and Cyber Science education paths and there is no cost for students to participate.

The NSA Day of Cyber (<http://www.lifejourney.us/>) is a powerful tool to connect Computer Science to the nation's fastest growing STEM Career Pathway and provides educators a ready-to-use tool to bring cyber-security into their classrooms.

The NSA Day of Cyber is an interactive, online platform that will enable students to test drive and experience a day in the life of six NSA cyber professionals and introduce them to challenging real-life cyber scenarios, while engaging students to explore the growing number of careers in computer science and cyber-security.

How to Register

Computer Science Teachers who would like to offer this experience in their class or classes should pre-register (<https://prod.lifejourney.us/lifeJourney/registrationRequest?programId=2&role=School&oId=82>) and enter the estimated number of students that you anticipate will participate. Each instructor/teacher will receive a student registration key, when the platform is live this December that you will share with each student participating. The NSA Day of Cyber experience will be available throughout the year and into 2016.

Schedule

The platform is scheduled to be released in early December and will be available for one year. Once it is available you will receive your login information and student registration keys that you can share with your classes.

There is one class period of initial student engagement on the NSA Day of Cyber platform, and 2-3 hours that can be optionally followed as teacher/student time and interest permits. Each student will receive a Cyber Resume and Certificate of Completion signed by the NSA.

More information about running the NSA Day of Cyber in the classroom, and the technology requirements will be provided in the coming weeks to help you plan and schedule the activity.

The NSA Day of Cyber is a tremendous opportunity for our students to understand the skills and education pathways needed to achieve those cyber career futures in the lucrative cybersecurity market. There is no teacher training required. Students will only need a computer and Internet access. We hope that you can use this content and valuable resource as supplemental curriculum in your computer science classrooms.

Check out this video (<https://lifejourney.wistia.com/medias/11a7gfyewg>) to learn more about the NSA Day of Cyber Experience.

Only the financially fit will survive the new Bank On It.®

The Bank On It® game you and your students know and love is so popular AICPA decided to up the ante.

Start Here, Go Places. is always looking for new, innovative ways to help you inspire and engage your students, so they worked with the [AICPA's 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program](#) to create a new financial literacy version of Bank On It. It's the perfect way to reinforce and test your students' financial skills.

The Financial Literacy version

- * Covers topics all students need to master to be money savvy.
- * Enables students to show off their financial management skills.
- * Reinforces how to balance a checkbook, understand credit scores and invest in a startup company.
- * Allows students to continuously learn while having fun.
- * Can be chosen when setting up a new game.

You may be wondering, if you can still enjoy all the awesome features of the original Bank On It. Absolutely. It's the same game, enhanced with this new version.

Continue to use your classroom code to set up tournaments and see what your students are getting right, as well as potential areas for improvement. And your students can still play against the computer or each other.

Ready to set your students up for financial success? Visit <http://www.startheregoplaces.com/students/games-tools/bank-on-it/>.

Register Today for the Next Week's 2015 Hour of Code

The [Hour of Code](#) has previously been announced to the United State and last week, the official announcement for the 2015 campaign was sent out worldwide.

Here's an exciting update: *every* [Hour of Code](#) organizer worldwide will receive a gift card to iTunes, Amazon or the Windows Store as a thank you gift—as long as you are registered.

Are you in? Together with your help, [Hour of Code](#) wants to reach 100,000 classrooms during December 7-13. So far, over 48,000 organizers have signed up. Visit <https://hourofcode.com/us> today to sign up.

If you don't sign up, you'll miss out on

1. Your thank-you gift
2. Exciting new tutorials, coming in a few weeks
3. The new volunteer match—Hour of Code is recruiting experts in your area who want to help you with your Hour of Code

In just one hour you can empower students to keep learning.

Every student today deserves the opportunity to learn foundational 21st-century skills.

Are you in? Sign up for the Hour of Code 2015 today at <https://hourofcode.com/us>.

Apply Today for the NBEA Convention's First-Time Attendee Stipend

The [2016 National Business Education Association Annual Convention](#) will be held in Las Vegas at The Cosmopolitan Las Vegas March 22-26, 2016. If you are a professional member of NBEA and have never attended the annual national convention, you are eligible for a professional development stipend.

The \$200 stipends will be presented at the NBEA awards luncheon on Friday, March 25, 2016.

Recipients must purchase a ticket and attend the luncheon where they will receive the stipend from NBEA President Robert B. Blair. Applicants must be current NBEA professional members at the time of application.

Recipients will be notified by February 5, 2016. To apply for a stipend, the application form can be downloaded from the NBEA 2016 Annual Convention page at www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/convention.html.

Applications must be received at NBEA headquarters by January 2, 2016. No exceptions will be made.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Gummy Bears were invented in 1922 in Germany by Hans Riegel, a confectioner from Bonn who two years prior had started the HARIBO candy company.

The HARIBO company is an abbreviation of founder "Hans Riegel Bonn."

The "gummy" in gummy bear comes from the original thickener used by Riegel, gum arabic.

All the gummy products you see today, from worms to frogs, cherries and other fruit, sharks, and even hamburgers, were inspired by the success of the original gummy bear.

The biggest gummy bear money can buy is 26 pounds. It contains 32,000 calories.

In the United States, HARIBO gummy bears come in five flavors: raspberry (red); orange (orange); strawberry (green); pineapple (colorless); and lemon (yellow). Trolli's gummy bears are sold in the same colors, but their red is strawberry-flavored, green is lime, and colorless is grape.

From 1985 to 1991, *Disney's Adventures of the Gummi Bears* aired on NBC and later ABC, and was later rebroadcast as part of the syndicated Disney Afternoon block through the 1990s.

Gummi Bears was the very first animated TV show by Walt Disney Animation Television, and is widely regarded as having jump-started the TV animation boom of the late 1980s and '90s. Without *Gummi Bears*, there may not have been *Darkwing Duck*, *DuckTales*, *Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers*, *Goof Troop*, or *TaleSpin*.

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