

The Wednesday Reader

December 16, 2015

Today's *Wednesday Reader* is the last edition for 2015. The first *Wednesday Reader* of 2016 will be sent Wednesday, January 6.

December 31 is Deadline to Submit 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'—are 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 opiaimhelp@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.

January 2 is Deadline to Apply 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.

MSU Gathering Data for Grant to Bring Computer Science Experiences to Schools

The Montana State University Department of Computer Science has developed a survey to collect information for a grant proposal.

The goal of the grant is to bring new computer science experiences to Montana high schools students. The survey seeks to gather data about what is being taught, what teachers would like to teach, etc.

The information will help the MSU Computer Science department to determine how they can best help support Montana teachers interested in offering computer science in their school.

The survey can be completed at https://montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8dbEpaNWsAJQPNb.

For more information about the survey or grant proposal, please contact Sharlyn Izurieta at Sharlyn.Izurieta@coe.montana.edu.

Montana STEAM Education Equity Incubator Seeks Info on CS Activities in Your Classroom

Do you participate in the Hour of Code last week, December 7—11?

The Montana STEAM Education Equity Incubator (Montana STEAM) wants you to be counted for your efforts to bring computer science, computing, and programming education to Montana's K-12 students.

Specifically, they want to know about any computer programming activities you've done this year (retroactive to January 2015). They have a survey on their website (www.mtsee.org/10khrsmt) where you can share information about one or many hours of computer science instruction.

If you are reporting your first experience doing computer programming activities in your classroom, you might register one hour, and if you are a formal computer science instructor, you may need to register a few dozen or a few hundred hours.

The 2015 inventory will provide critical information to Montana STEAM understand where they can best deploy mentors and resources to expand access to CS Education.

For more information about Montana STEAM Education Equity Incubator, please visit www.mtsee.org.

Start Here, Go Places.® Virtual Field Trip – If You Missed the Bus, Check out Latest Virtual Field Trip

Stat Here, Go Places.® is sorry that you were not able to attend the fall 2015 virtual field trip with Okorie Ramsey, Vice President, Finance Compliance Officer & SOX for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals. Attendees had a great time and it's not too late for you and your class to see what made this field trip so exciting. Just go to Okorie's [previous destinations page](#) to see the whole thing.

Gather your students and get ready to venture off to Northern California with Okorie. Here are a few things he covers:

--What it's like to work in financial compliance

- How he got interested in accounting
- What it takes to be Vice President and FCO
- What he loves about his job
- Why he's so passionate about mentoring
- What he has to say to future CPAs

Throughout his presentation, be sure to pay attention to all the student questions Okorie answers. Though your students won't be able to ask questions (sorry, this version isn't live), they will still get a lot out of hearing his insights and advice.

Want to extend your virtual vacay? Keep the good times going and watch more past virtual field trips. It's a great way to see what advice real CPAs have about a career in accounting. Happy field tripping.

Several past Stat Here, Go Places.® Virtual Field Trips can be viewed at <http://www.startheregoplaces.com/students/games-tools/virtual-field-trips/previous-destinations/>.

Foo Studio is Here

[The Foos](#) is an award winning game that turns computer programming into play. Kids solve fun coding puzzles and learn fundamental computer science concepts such as sequencing, looping, conditional statements and more.

[codeSpark](#), the team behind [The Foos](#), is excited to announce *Foo Studio*, a huge new addition to the *The Foos*. In *Foo Studio* kids build their own video games and share them with other kid creators. Most importantly, *Foo Studio* allows students to apply the coding concepts learned in other parts of the game as all objects in *Foo Studio* are programmable.

Try out *The Foos* and *Foo Studio* for yourself from the Hour of Code at <http://www.thefoos.com/hour-of-code/>.

Register Now for the NBEA 2016 Annual Convention in Las Vegas

Register today for the NBEA 2016 Annual Convention & Trade Show in Las Vegas from March 22-26, 2016. Early registration ends March 2, 2016.

The NBEA 2016 Convention will provide over 70 exciting and cutting-edge educational sessions, more than 20 technology workshops that will expand specific skills and introduce new technologies, and general session speakers that will educate and inspire. In addition, over 30 sessions will be offered at the Business Education Research Conference, held in conjunction with the NBEA 2016 Convention.

Do not miss this amazing opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills as a business educator, take part in networking opportunities, and be challenged to return to your classroom ready to educate, empower, and energize the next generation.

Please [click here](#) to access the convention details, including general convention information, session descriptions, professional development seminars, and much more. Both the online and printed convention registration forms can be accessed by [clicking here](#). You can't afford to miss this dynamic convention solely dedicated to the advancement of business education.

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas will serve as the official headquarters hotel for the NBEA 2016 Annual Convention. Visit <https://aws.passkey.com/g/50649057> to make your online reservations.

2016 Montana Financial Education Conference in Helena

The 2016 Montana Financial Education Coalition (www.mtmfec.org) [Annual Conference](#) will be held on Wednesday, February 24 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena.

Registration is now open for the [2016 Montana Financial Education Coalition Annual Conference](#). The early bird rate is \$75 if paid before January 21, 2016 and \$100 for registrations after January 21. Should you need lodging, a block of rooms is available for conference attendees at the [Red Lion Colonial](#) in Helena, at a state rate.

Everyone is invited and welcome. The conference will feature a nationally-recognized financial advocate as the guest speaker, will showcase a variety of financial education programs for all ages and demographics, and will provide numerous workshops with practical instruction for implementation.

The resource fair will host a wide range of financial education resources that will offer attendees the opportunity to discuss and compare curricula and products. A unique aspect of the conference will be the availability of MFEC mini-grants that attendees may apply for at the conclusion of the conference to implement financial education programs in their Montana communities.

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) is a collection of financial institutions, government and non-profit organizations, businesses, and interested individuals who believe that financial literacy is essential to economic advancement. MFEC is an affiliate of the [National Jump\\$tart Coalition](#) but are not limited to only assisting youth. MFEC efforts reach out to Montanans of all age groups and financial situations. MFEC does not intend to replace other education programs throughout the state. Instead, MFEC functions as a platform to forge partnerships and share best practices to become more efficient and effective in their initiatives.

For more information about the Montana Financial Education Coalition and the [2016 Montana Financial Education Coalition Annual Conference](#), please visit www.mtmfec.org.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Robert L. May created Rudolph in 1939, as an assignment for Chicago-based Montgomery Ward.

Rudolph was supposed to be a moose but that was changed because a reindeer seemed friendly.

May considered naming the reindeer "Rollo" or "Reginald" before deciding upon using the name "Rudolph".

2014 marked the 75th anniversary of Rudolph and the 50th anniversary of the television special.

DC Comics published a series of 13 annuals titled *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* from 1950 to 1962.

Rudolph is mentioned in the Beach Boys' song "Little Saint Nick".

Chuck Berry released the song "Run Rudolph Run" in 1958.

In Ray Stevens' 1962 novelty song "Santa Claus Is Watching You", Rudolph is replaced on Santa's team by "Clyde the Camel".

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.

Eric Swenson

Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov



"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