

The Wednesday Reader

August 31, 2016

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. Today marks the beginning of the Wednesday Reader for the school year—your weekly informational email containing details about professional development opportunities, events for students, curriculum resources, funding opportunities, and other interesting items for your use.

Please feel free to share any resources, events, and ideas you may think may be interest t other Montana business education professionals.

Professional Development Opportunity for Business & Other CTE Teachers New to the Classroom

The Office of Public Instruction’s Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting a **New CTE Professionals Workshop** on Wednesday, October 19, in Bozeman at the GranTree Inn, prior to the start of the 2016 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 GranTree Inn (1325 North 7th 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, can be downloaded via the following link at <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Avc-jqRDMqkIqizk5njVC5SyQ5kW>. Please let me know if you have problems downloading the file.

Registration for the 2016 New CTE Professionals Workshop can be completed and submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KR868PJ>. The deadline to register is Monday, October 3. Workshop attendees are responsible for their own travel and substitutes.

Please note, registration for the 2016 New CTE Professionals Workshop does not also include the Montana ACTE Fall Institute. Registration for the Montana ACTE Fall Institute must be submitted separately. Montana ACTE Fall Institute registration details can be found at <http://montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml>.

Helpful Calendars Now on the Secondary CTE Web Page

Welcome back to school from all of the OPI staff in the Career and Technical Education division.

As you get back into the swing of things, we thought you might like a little reminder of what is coming up for the school year. Although all CTE due dates and deadlines are already posted on the general OPI calendar, we thought this would be an additional help to you.

First, the **DUE DATES and DEADLINES Calendar** lists all due dates and deadlines relating to CTE accountability data and money-related concerns. Second, the **2016-2017 CTE Calendar of Events** lists additional dates and happenings related to Career and Technical Education such as student organization conference dates and teacher professional development.

You will find both calendars on the Secondary CTE web page under the 'Calendar' tab and located at http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_5.

Latest Information from CTE Program Specialists

You'll also find the latest monthly update from our CTE Division Specialists on our web page under the 'Updates—Latest CTE Info' tab and located directly at http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_15.

As always, please feel free to contact the OPI Career & Technical Education office at 406.444.9019 if you have any questions or if we can be of service or help to you as we all serve the great students in our Montana schools.

2016 Montana ACTE Fall Institute – Montana's Premier Professional Development Event for CTE Teachers

This October, Montana CTE professionals from across the state will gather in Bozeman, October 20-21 for the most exciting CTE event of the year in Montana. This year's theme is "*I AM CTE*".

The Keynote Speaker this year will be Joe Walkuski, founder and CTO of TEXbase, a Bozeman based business that provides compliance, quality and materials management software solutions in the apparel, footwear, home textiles and consumer product industries.

By attending the fall institute, you will discover new teaching approaches, find solutions to your shared challenges, share your best practices with colleagues and leave with constructive new ideas to take back to your school. You will gain valuable insights and proven strategies that will improve your program and increase student achievement in your district as well as assist you in implementing pathways in your district.

[Online Registration](http://www.montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml) is now open and complete Montana ACTE Fall Institute details can be viewed at <http://www.montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml>, including details for booking your lodging at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn.

Dig-in on Pathways and Dual Enrollment – Build a Big Sky Pathway, Change a Student's Future

Maximize your time at Montana ACTE and minimize your time out of your classroom! This year Big Sky Pathways and Montana ACTE are partnering on a hands-on approach on Pathways and Dual Enrollment. Friday's schedule will feature "Pathway Sessions." These allow conference attendees to sign up to work with Pathway coordinators at Montana ACTE.

What is a Pathway Session?

It is a 30-minute session with a Pathway Coordinator that allows you to get to work on Pathways. You can choose to work on a new pathway, renew an old pathway, explore dual enrollment within a new or existing pathway, or schedule a focus session with attending faculty (see below).

How do I sign up?

Sign up now using this link, <https://goo.gl/forms/mA8d0Dr2IeFqfkU63>, or use the link provided when registering for Montana ACTE's 2016 Fall Institute. The sign up link allows you to choose the college, career cluster, and/or Pathway you want to work on. You may also choose to schedule a Faculty Focus Session. Once we receive your request we'll connect you with a Pathways Coordinator to schedule a Pathway or Faculty Session between 9am and 2pm on Friday, October 21 at Montana ACTE.

Sign up today. Pathway and Faculty Focus Sessions are filled on a first come, first served basis and registration will close October 1.

Faculty Focus Sessions

During Montana ACTE's Pathways sessions, four colleges will be bringing faculty for special faculty focus sessions, described below. Be sure to sign up for a focus session to do dig in with faculty experts in their content areas, explore curriculum alignment for dual credit, and make connections to benefit your students, your classroom, and your career.

Helena College-Business Focus

Helena College will provide a special opportunity for teachers to explore the development of a dual enrollment Personal Finance class by working with Accounting & Business instructor, Barbara Yahvah. Helena College is excited to connect with high schools to discuss the Financial Literacy component of Reach Higher Montana and its alignment with high school personal finance classes, potentially for dual credit potential. Barbara and Jan can also help with business and accounting pathways. Go to http://www.umhelena.edu/admissions_enrollment/careerpathways.aspx to see Helena's existing pathways and gain further insight. In the coming year, additional pathways will be developed in three Office Technology programs.

Missoula College-Sustainable Construction Focus

Attending the Montana ACTE's Pathways sessions will be faculty member, John Freer, and Pathways Coordinator, Jordan Patterson, from the Missoula College UM. John is a Carpentry instructor who was heavily involved in creating the college's new Sustainable Construction Program. Sustainable Construction a new addition to the Carpentry program that, along with Carpentry fundamentals, includes more green building and sustainable concepts. With this new program, students have more options and more flexibility that fits emerging trends in building industry. This is a high demand field with a lot of hands on training.

Gallatin College-Design Drafting Focus

Gallatin College's Pathways Coordinator Diane Dorgan is excited to offer teachers access to resources emphasizing the field of Design Drafting Technology with new Program Director, Sean Peterson. Sean brings a diverse and fresh perspective to this discipline with experience from both industry and extensive classroom instruction in CAD. He is committed to supporting the development of job skills at the secondary level appropriate to advancing a variety of employment opportunities in Architecture, Construction, Engineering, or Manufacturing while expanding access to college level dual enrollment coursework in CAD or Revit for high

school students considering Architecture and Construction related career pathways and/or post-secondary credentials.

Highlands College-Healthcare Informatics Focus

Highlands College of Montana Tech is excited to bring to you the dynamic world for Healthcare Informatics, an emerging specialization in the health care industry that joins the disciplines of information technology, communications, and health care. Pathways coordinator Bernie Phelps is joined by HCI department head, and former high school teacher, Charie Faught for Montana ACTE faculty focus sessions to work on pathways, learn about our programs, and offer resources to you and your classroom.

Registration Opens September 6 for the Jump\$tart 2016 National Educator Conference

The [Jump\\$tart Coalition](#) is presenting its 8th annual [National Educator Conference](#) (#JSNEC16), which gives attendees the opportunity to see, learn about, and try educational resources that can be immediately integrated into current lesson plans.

This year's event, which also provides networking with colleagues from across the country, will take place November 5-7 at the InterContinental Dallas Hotel. Conference registration opens September 6. [Download the Summer 2016 newsletter for the full story](#). Registration for classroom teachers is \$425 and includes two nights at the InterContinental Dallas Hotel and all meals during the conference.

The [Jump\\$tart Coalition National Educator Conference](#) is the only national conference for classroom teachers dedicated to personal finance education in the classroom. Each year, the conference provides PreK-12 educators with financial education resources, personal and professional development, access to a nation-wide network of colleagues, and general support for financial education.

Newly Redesigned Montana Career Guides are Now Available

The Montana Career Resource Network (lmi.mt.gov/Career) has received their shipment of 15,000 Montana Career Guides and are ready to start filling backorders and accepting new orders.

The new [Montana Career Guide](#) has been totally redesigned. In order to be able to provide customers with an adequate supply of free career resources several of the specialty job search publications have been eliminated and the content combined into the Montana Career Guide. By combining the content into one publication it reduces the overall printing and shipping costs.

The publications that have been eliminated are Inside Edition: Job Hunting Guide for Montanans with Criminal Records, Willing and Able: Job Hunting Guide for Montanans with Disabilities, and Experience Wanted: A Job-Hunting Guide for Montana Seniors.

PDFs will be provided on the specialty sections of the Montana Career Resource Network website (lmi.mt.gov/Career) for those who want a quick and easy handout for the specific job hunting needs of these populations. Rest assured, information for these specific job hunters was not eliminated—the information in these publications repeated much of the same information found in our regular Career Guide so combining them just makes sense.

In addition, the [Montana Career Guide](#) includes an entire section on soft skills. A five-page soft skills checklist that will help career decision makers identify skills they may need to work on. The Career Guide introduces the concept of the S.I.F.T. method of career planning. S.I.F.T. stands for Self-Assess, Investigate, Focus, and Take Action.

You can order your Career Guides, and any of our other publication by using the online order form at: <http://lmi.mt.gov/Publications/PublicationOrders>.

In order to minimize shipping costs, let the Montana Career Resource Network know if you are interested in having an MCIS trainer come to your location to do some training and the trainers will hand deliver your publications. Shipping on the first box of publications is free, but additional boxes will cost \$20/box to ship. The online publication order form will include the number of publications that can be packed into one box.

As always, the Montana Career Resource Network is interested in your feedback. Please let them know your thoughts on the new Career Guide. Just send an email to mcrn@mt.gov to submit your feedback.

EverFi's FutureSmart – A New Course Launch Webinar

On Wednesday, August 31, 2016, at either 12:00 pm (EDT) or 3:00 pm (EDT) join [EverFi](#) for a webinar featuring [FutureSmart](#), a new digital course, that educates middle school students on the practicalities of daily financial decisions and the payoffs of long-term planning.

This no cost resource, supported by the MassMutual Foundation, guides students through a compelling narrative in which they serve as the mayor of a town, helping local citizens with real-life decisions. From weighing opportunity costs, to delaying instant gratification for long-term gain, students face important questions on their way to becoming FutureSmart.

You will also hear from EverFi's team of curriculum experts who will review the research that supports their approach, explain their instructional design principles, and review course content.

To register for the webinar, click on one of the following options:

--[Wednesday, August 31, 2016 — 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm](#) (EDT, 10:00 am Mountain)

--[Wednesday, August 31, 2016 — 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm](#) (EDT, 1:00 pm Mountain)

If you cannot make one of the August webinars, two additional webinars will be hosted in September—[Wednesday, September 20th, 12-12:45pm \(EDT\)](#) or [Wednesday, September 20th, 3-2:45pm \(EDT\)](#).

If you cannot make the webinars, visit the [FutureSmart website](#) and fill out the form at the bottom of the page to request information or access for your school.

H&R Block Budget Challenge® Helps Students Develop Real-World Financial Literacy Skills

[Budget Challenge®](#) (hrblock.budgetchallenge.com) is a personal finance simulation played as a competition. A unique and patented simulation, students in the scenario are immersed in the life of a college graduate six months after graduation.

Students receive paychecks and bills in real-time and are challenged to build a budget that allows them to pay their bills on time, manage their credit card balance, and save money for retirement in a 401(k).

The [Budget Challenge®](#) program encourages students to learn personal finance in a fun and engaging environment while competing against their classmates and other students across the nation.

To learn more, visit <http://hrblock.budgetchallenge.com/>.

CS First - Google's Free Beginning Coding Program

In the last year, there has been tremendous change in how teachers are using Google's CS First program. Google is learning from teachers that its use extends far beyond the club environment originally envisioned. And as teachers take CS First into their classrooms, they are teaching demonstrating new, more engaging ways in which this resource can be used.

While Google CS First started as an after-school enrichment resource, over the 2015-2016 school year, around 40% of educators integrated Google CS First into the school day.

[Google CS First](#) (www.cs-first.com) launched just over two years ago and in that time, this free program developed by Google has impacted over 448,000 students worldwide. The curriculum targets 4th-8th graders, though it can be implemented with other ages as well.

The goal of Google CS First is to inspire students to be creative, collaborate, gain confidence, and learn perseverance as they follow video tutorials to build coding projects with the block-coding platform Scratch. Coding activities are grouped into nine different themes, including [Storytelling](#), [Art](#), [Music & Sound](#), [Game Design](#), [Sports](#), [Friends](#), [Social Media](#), [Fashion & Design](#), and [Animation](#). Each theme is comprised of eight 60-minute coding activities, and the themes represent different levels of difficulty. The entire program provides over 80 hours of content that is flexible for many different educational environments!

Materials are free for students and hosts, and website training videos allow those who have no computer science background to easily launch and run clubs. Many of hosts even find that they enjoy grading the student projects and sharing them in the [CS First Google+ Community](#).

CS First is dynamic and impactful for both teachers and students. Here are a few ways to get involved:

- [Explore free coding activity tutorials](#)
- [Start a club and order materials](#)
- [Consider launching multiple CS First clubs across a network](#)

Fall is the perfect time to introduce CS First to your school or organization, or if you are already familiar with the curriculum, please [spread the word](#).

With [Google CS First](#) (csfirst.withgoogle.com) [training and lesson plans](#) are entirely free for the instructor, so that coding can be a part of any student's educational experience.

Online Coding and Design Courses for Kids and Teens

[Tech Rocket](http://www.techrocket.com) (www.techrocket.com) provides online courses in code, game design and graphic design for kids and teens ages 10-18. [Tech Rocket](http://www.techrocket.com) has 32 courses available on the site ranging from 15-minutes to 6 hours worth of content per course. [Tech Rocket](http://www.techrocket.com) also has an "Hour of Code" selection available for educators and students participating in the Hour of Code with Code.org.

[Tech Rocket](http://www.techrocket.com) has just released a brand new Ruby Basics course covering the basics of Ruby programming in under an hour. Check it out at www.techrocket.com/code/ruby-courses/ruby-basics. In this course, students can learn the basics of Ruby programming by helping a cat named Claire finish her book by creating a Mad Lib.

All [Tech Rocket](http://www.techrocket.com) courses focus on story-driven learning and are designed to be self-paced. Students are presented with videos and then several tasks pertaining to the information provided in the videos including an in-browser code compiler so they can actually write real code. They earn achievements, badges and certificates to showcase their skills to friends and family.

If you have any questions, contact Chris Craig, Product Manager, directly at ccraig@idtech.com or 408.637.2440.

For general information about the courses or other topics you can also email info@techrocket.com and a Product Support Specialist will be sure to get back to you by the next business day.

Teach Computer Science with the CodeHS 6-12 Curriculum Pathway

What is [CodeHS](http://codehs.com)? [CodeHS](http://codehs.com) (codehs.com) is a comprehensive teaching platform for computer science, with web-based curriculum, teacher tools and resources, professional development, and course building customization.

CodeHS includes a pathway of courses featuring:

- Introduction to Programming with Karel the Dog
- Web Design
- Computing Ideas
- Intro to Computer Science in JavaScript
- Intro to Computer Science in Python
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science in Java

To create a teacher account, sign up for free at <https://codehs.com/signup/teacher>.

In addition to the web-based curriculum, the CodeHS platform includes:

- Teacher tools and resources including progress tracking, code submission system, Magic Grading, automatic gradebook, access controls, badges, and much more
- Custom course building tools to create your own problems, assessments, graders, unit tests, and more in lots of languages
- Professional Development to set you up for success

--Administrator tools for large school and district programs

Whatever your program goals, [CodeHS](#) can help. CodeHS works with thousands of teachers and schools to implement the pathway that best fits their needs. Teaching computer science this year and want to learn more? Visit codehs.com/learnmore to get in touch.

You can teach the full year for free on the Free plan, and Pro plans are also offered for schools and districts.

To learn more about the CodeHS curriculum pathways, visit <https://codehs.com/info/curriculum/pathways/6-12>.

An Invitation to Participate in Women in Gear Event this Fall

Helena College will be hosting [Women in Gear](#) on Saturday, October 8, 8:30 am-2pm, at the Helena College Airport Campus.

[Women in Gear](#) offers a fast-paced, hands-on opportunity for young women from grade 8 and up to sample exciting activities in the high-skills, cutting-edge technology programs offered by Helena College.

Programs feature during Women in Gear include Automotive Technology, Aviation Maintenance, Diesel Technology, Fire & Rescue, Computer-Aided Manufacturing, Nursing, Pre-Pharm and Welding Technology.

--“Plant Seeds in STEM” by Miss Montana, Lauren Scofield”

--Select from eight demonstrations and shop tours

--Witness an exciting emergency medical dramatization

--Hear stories of successful young women working in fields that often require special gear.

--Gift bags, snacks, lunch, safety glasses, and drawings for prizes free of charge to registered attendees

--Join the fun and explore your options at Woman in Gear!

Registration for Women in Gear can be completed at

http://www.umhelena.edu/admissions_enrollment/women_in_gear.aspx. Note: Girls under 18 must bring a signed parental consent form to the event.

Women in Gear is sponsored by The Boeing Company, Helena College & Big Sky Pathways.

One Montana is Excited to Announce the Upcoming Montana Teenpreneur Challenge

Save the Date for the October 1 Live Launch of the Montana Montana Teenpreneur Challenge.

The objective of this competition is to showcase new ideas and existing entrepreneurial initiatives of innovative high school students across the Big Sky.

The Montana Teenpreneur Challenge is an investment in Montana's next generation of entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders. Created by [One Montana](#) (onemontana.org) as an offshoot of the organization's highly successful Rural-Urban Student and Entrepreneur Exchange program, Montana Teenpreneur Challenge is a statewide contest for high school students designed to enhance their skills as business developers, real-world problem solvers, and persuasive communicators.

High schoolers who propose the most plausible business ideas for products and services addressing a community need or market niche will be awarded cash prizes and in-kind mentoring to advance their solutions.

The Montana Teenpreneur Challenge provides an opportunity for students to unleash their entrepreneurial creativity for the greater good and economic vitality of rural and urban communities across Montana.

Montana Teenpreneur Challenge descriptive digital and print materials will be available for distribution September 1. True to words of wisdom from successful entrepreneurs, [One Montana](#) is tapping into their own professional and personal networks (that's you!) to help spread the word about our upcoming contest.

[One Montana](#) is reaching out to ask for your support by announcing this opportunity to students and teachers across Montana.

[One Montana](#) will be pleased to provide you with digital and/or print materials to disseminate to educators, administration, students, CTO's, clubs, and organizations via mailings, newsletters, announcements, web links, social media and other outlets that target teachers, parents and students. [One Montana](#) will gladly reimburse you for out-of-pocket costs incurred while helping us to spread the word about the contest.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller

Please contact [One Montana](#) Program Manager Bobbi Geise at bobbig@onemontana.org and let her know if you can help distribute an announcement and what types of media may be most effective for your organization given our condensed timeline.

Thank you in advance for your time, consideration and support of student entrepreneurship.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Andorra is Europe's sixth smallest country nestled high in the Pyrénées Mountains on the French-Spanish border.

Andorra is the world's only co-principality as both the Bishop of Urgel (Spain) and the President of France serve as co-princes.

Andorra la Vella, the capital city of Andorra, is Europe's highest capital city based on elevation at 3,356 feet above sea level.

There is no official army in Andorra; however, when emergencies arise within Andorra all men between the ages of 21 and 60 are required by law to serve and defend.

Andorra commonly receives 300 days of sunshine each year.

Andorra is ranked fourth in the world when it comes to human life expectancy at 82 years of age.

Skiing is a popular sport in the country, attracting millions of tourists every year even though the main highway into Andorra is often closed in winter due to heavy snowfall.

More than 30% of the Andorran territory is a national park under protection of UNESCO.

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