

The Wednesday Reader

Rocktober 5, 2016

Online Registration Now Open for the Western Business Education Association 2017 Conference

The Western Business Education Association's [2017 Conference](#) will be hosted by the Montana Business Education Association and held in Bozeman, February 16-20, 2017, at the Best Western GranTree Inn.

Online registration for the WBEA 2017 Conference can now be completed at <https://bozeman2017.wufoo.com/forms/zxtgf2905hyxuy>. Registration is \$200.00 for NBEA/WBEA members and includes all general and breakout sessions, the Exhibitors' Reception Friday evening, the Saturday afternoon WBEA Luncheon and General Session, and the Awards Dinner and Closing Session on Sunday.

In addition to the breakout and general sessions, you can also register for a variety of hands-on computer workshops, Bozeman-area tours, and be sure to register to attend Saturday night's Montana Special Event to be held at the world famous Museum of Rockies.

One (1) Graduate-level credit will be available from MSU Billings (\$99 payable to MSU Billings) as well as OPI Renewal Units.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Best Western GranTree at 406.587.5261 and refer to **Group Code 806427** (Montana Business Education Association). Rooms for the conference are available at the \$92 group rate (plus tax) which is valid from Tuesday, February 14 to Tuesday, February 21, and includes breakfast and free WiFi.

Please visit the [WBEA 2017 Conference](#) page for more information including the conference timeline, computer workshops, and tours.

Free Raspberry Pi Robot Teacher Trials

Dexter Industries launches Spy v. sPi: Code. Capture. Defend, on Kickstarter today at www.dexterindustries.com/spy. The site includes great robotics and coding project for classrooms, workshops, after-school programs & camps.

Spy v. sPi is an exciting educational capture the flag style adventure that coaches kids to learn how to program while accomplishing a secret mission. It is based on the GrovePi (www.grovepi.com), a Raspberry Pi robot kit that is easy-to-build and includes a rich collection of programmable, plug-and-play components—from sensors for things like distance, sound, light, and infrared, to buttons, buzzers and more.

Check out other curriculum Dexter Industries has launched recently:

- Mars Rover Unit, explore outer space with the GoPiGo Robot Car
- Inventions & Exploration, a full curriculum for the GrovePi
- GoBoxEd, Missions for the GoPiGo Robot Car

To learn more, visit www.dexterindustries.com/dextered. Free teacher trial kits are available for all three of Raspberry Pi robot kits. Request one now by emailing DexterEd@dexterindustries.com.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Kiken at DexterEd@dexterindustries.com.

Montana Career & Technical Education/Perkins Report Card Update

The Career and Technical Education Division has been working on new ways to keep Montana's schools updated on how they measure up and one of the latest ways we are doing so is by adding a new tab called Report Cards on the Secondary CTE page (opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html) of the OPI website.

If a school's score falls below the State minimum (Threshold Target) for three consecutive years, the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant requires the school to develop an improvement plan to address how the school plans to increase their scores in the core indicator they missed. A Small Schools Exemption – ten (10) CTE Concentrators or less – unfortunately, cannot apply to Perkins Performance Indicators. All schools receiving Perkins, regardless of their CTE Concentrator total, are required to develop an improvement plan.

This Report Cards tab allows schools to view their schools '3-Year Report Card', their individual 'Report Card' as well as 'Report Cards' by Class Size and CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs). Each schools '3-Year Report Card' is broken down by performance indicators and includes visual graphs. Schools can also view the Montana State Report Card. The Report Cards are created from data collected from AIM. If your school is not listed in the 'Individual School 3-year report card', it is because the school has less than 10 CTE Concentrators in all three (3) years.

The direct link to the Report Cards can be found at opi.mt.gov/Programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_12.

The Perkins Core Indicators, as well as explanations and Threshold Targets for each indicator, are available. The state goals for each core indicator are determined by the United States Department of Education.

Schools receiving Carl D. Perkins funding, are required to meet at least 90 percent of the state adjusted level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance.

If you have any questions about the report cards, please contact Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist, at 406.444.9019 or email her at chendricks@mt.gov.

Attending ACTE in Las Vegas or Jump\$tart in Dallas? Earn OPI Renewal Units for your Travels

Are you planning to attend ACTE's CareerTech VISION conference in Las Vegas? Or, maybe you have registered to attend the 2016 Jump\$tart National Educator Conference in Dallas next month. If so, be sure to submit the required information to OPI to be able to turn your out-of-state professional development travel into OPI Renewal Units.

Keep in mind, all educator licenses that expire in 2016 and in subsequent years no longer need college credits; only 60 professional development renewal units are new required.

The Educator Licensure division of the Office of Public Instruction will grant renewal units for certificate renewal when a Montana educator wishes to receive renewal units for attending an event not either delivered by an approved OPI provider or approved by OPI as a single event. To gain the renewal units, you must complete the [Educator's Application for Prior Approval of Professional Development Activities for Renewal Units](#) form.

The fillable PDF [Pre-Approval form](#) can be downloaded at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/cert/PreApprovePDActivities.pdf>. The completed form and a copy of the documentation, brochure, or promotional materials about the event need to be mailed to the address indicated on

the form and be received at least seven (7) days prior to the event's start.

After you download the form, complete the required educator information and information about the course, conference, workshop, event or seminar. To determine the number of number of renewal units requested, most event documentation states the number of contact hours, the number of credits granted (1 semester credit=15 hours/units and 1 quarter credit-10 hours/units); or the number of credit hours granted by another education-related agency. Remember, units are awarded in whole hours—1 hour=1 unit; 1.5 hours=1 unit; 1.75 hours=2 units.

When the event is completed, submit documentation of your participation (most likely a certificate of completion including the number of contact hours) and a copy of your approval letter from the OPI and OPI will send you an official certificate. The certificate should be filed with your renewal unit certificates and college transcripts to be used as evidence when you apply for renewal of your Educator License.

Please keep in mind, if you have applied to receive college credit for the event, you cannot request approval for renewal units.

Should you have questions about the preapproval process, you may contact the Educator Licensure office at 406.444.3150.

Computer Science Small Grant Program for Montana Schools – Deadline is October 15

The application deadline for the Gianforte School of Computing's Computer Science Small Grant Program for Montana Schools is Saturday, October 15, 2016.

The GSOC's Small Grant Program aims to be responsive to the needs of Montana High Schools. The awards will provide support to educators to enable students to learn computing skills and to expose students to careers in computer science.

Awards are for the 2016-2017 school year and will be in three categories:

1. Program Development - Grants up to \$3000
2. Training - Grants up to \$1000
3. Equipment - Grants up to \$1000

For more details, information and link to the application, please go <http://ou.montana.edu/csoutreach/MT-Small-Grant-Program.html>, You may also contact Sharlyn Izurieta if you have questions at 406.994.4794 , Sharlyn.Izurieta@montana.edu, or sgizuri@gmail.com.

Fall 2016 CTE Data Collection for Perkins Funding Now Open – Where are Your 2016 Grads?

The Fall 2016 CTE Data Collection begins on October 1 and ends December 31, 2016. The Fall CTE Data Collection is a follow up to last year's Spring CTE Data Collection.

Students identified as CTE Concentrators last year (2015-2016) and graduated in the spring of 2016 should 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 2015-2016 are required to complete this fall follow up collection to maintain their eligibility to receive Perkins funding.

Instructions for completing the Fall CTE Data Collection—called the *'Quick Reference Guide' for the Fall CTE Data Collection*—are located in two places on the OPI website on the AIM web page listed in Reports and Data and also on the Secondary CTE web page (<http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html>) under the *'Data Collections'* tab.

Please Note: Be sure to verify the list of CTE Concentrators from what your district submitted last spring. Any additions, corrections, or changes to the list of CTE Concentrators must be made no later than November 15, 2016, to be accurately reflected in federal reporting and used to compute Perkins Performance Indicators for your school.

Technical AIM questions regarding the Fall CTE 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 Data Control Specialist at 406.444.9019 or email chendricks@mt.gov.

Invitation to Participate in the Stock Market Game – Trading Begins October 11

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students? Those teachers that have participated know about the benefits of involving their classes in The Stock Market Game™ sponsored by the [Montana Council on Economic Education \(www.econedmontana.org\)](http://www.econedmontana.org).

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.

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on October 11, and runs for 10 weeks, with December 16 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.

CTE 2016-2017 Perkins Grant Submission & Approval Reminder for High School Districts

The CTE Division of the OPI is sending this brief, but friendly, reminder to all districts intending to submit a 2016-2017 Perkins grant application to please obtain final OPI approval of your initial Perkins application through the E-Grants system no later than **Monday, October 31, 2016**.

Only the initial/original application is subject to this deadline. Amendments to your approved Perkins application can occur after the October date. If you have questions regarding the status of your Perkins grant application, please contact one of the following CTE Division staff:

Renee Harris: phone: 406.994.6986; email: rharris3@mt.gov
Christy Hendricks: phone: 406.444.9019; email: chendricks@mt.gov

Jump\$Start Coalition Registration Now Open for 2016 National Educator Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the Jump\$Start Coalition's November 5-7 [National Educator Conference](#) at the InterContinental Hotel outside of Dallas. Teachers can attend the personal finance national conference for \$425, which includes your hotel, meals and conference materials. Other educators are welcome to register after October 5 at a cost of \$575.

If you are looking for financial support to attend, check out the numerous scholarships available at <http://www.jumpstart.org/2016-national-educator-conference-scholarship-opportunities.html>. Scholarships are available to cover registration and travel expenses. Be sure to check them out today as some have application deadlines as early as next week.

Highlights of the 2016 National Educator Conference include

- Tools, resources, information and support for teaching personal finance in the classroom
- Curricula/Content, ask the experts and personal development workshops
- Opening Starlight Gala
- 15 professional development hours for teachers
- Optional Activities: free financial planning clinics, financial educator certification testing and various teacher networking opportunities
- Plenary sessions featuring nationally recognized speakers:
 - Behavioral economist Sarah Newcomb, PhD from *Morningstar*
 - Author Dan Kadlec whose work appears in TIME and Money magazines
 - TEDx Speaker Adam Carroll

The complete 2016 Jump\$Start Coalition National Educator Conference brochure can be downloaded at <https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1012002>.

The [Jump\\$Start 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 [JumpStart 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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Finland has only been an independent country since 1918 after the Finnish Declaration of Independence from Russia was adopted December 6, 1917.

There are exactly 187,888 lakes (larger than 500 m²) and 179,584 islands within the territory of Finland. Both are world records.

Santa Claus Village in the Arctic Circle near Rovaniemi, Lapland in Finland, hires extra elves to work at its post office in both winter (November to March) and summer (June to August) to sell special stamps and souvenirs and to open and respond to the 500,000 or so letters that arrive for Santa.

The Finns are the world's biggest coffee drinkers, gulping down twice more than the Italians, three times more than the Americans, and four times more than the British.

Many nations try to claim ownership of creating the Internet, but the Finns were the first nation who had the idea to bring it to the general public when three technology students launched Erwise in 1994 as the world's first Internet Browser with a User Interface (UX). A few months later, Mosaic and Internet Explorer surfaced, and the rest is web history

In 2010, Finland became the first country in the world to make Internet access a legal right.

There are more saunas than cars in Finland.

When someone in Finland earns their Ph.D., they are given a top hat and a sword.

The Finnish company Nokia Corporation was the world's largest manufacturer of mobile telephones from 1998 to 2012, with a global market share of over 35% between 2006 and 2009.

There are no public payphones in Finland. There are over 5 million mobile phones in Finland for a population of 5.4 million.

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