

2017 Montana State CTE/VoEd Final Allocation Updated

Due to unforeseen circumstances the FY2017 State Career and Technical Education allocation payments (i.e. State VoEd Allocations) has been updated and finalized and will be automatically deposited with your county treasurer by November 10, 2016. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

The Payment Report is posted both on the Payments to Schools and Co-Ops AND Secondary CTE pages of the OPI web site. The following link will take you directly to the FY2017 State VoEd Payment Report:

http://www.opi.mt.gov/Finance&Grants/Index.html?gpm=1_4#p7GPc1_4

A larger than normal number of corrections and additions have been made since the Preliminary allocations were posted on August 26, 2016. You will likely see a change in your final allocation due to these corrections.

State CTE (VoEd) allocations are based on a formula that factors:

1. High School student enrollment averages in career and technical education classes;
2. Extended contracts for properly endorsed career and technical education instructors;
3. Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) high school chapters and student membership;
4. District career and technical education expenditures.

The enrollment and extended contract information comes from the ‘Career and Technical Education Student Participation Reports’ your district submits to our office each February. CTSO information comes from National Membership lists provided to the CTE Division each spring. The district expenditures are determined from financial reports sent to the Office of Public Instruction.

Only CTE programs that meet the general guidelines in the Montana Standards and Guidelines for Career and Vocational/Technical Education are included in the CTE enrollment factor. Enrollment calculations are based on Montana Accreditation Standards.

State CTE funds are intended to supplement existing district budgets in the area of career and technical education. Examples of approved use of state CTE funds include: CTE teacher salaries for extended contracts, stipends to CTE teachers for supervision of CTSO’s, instructional supplies and/or instructional equipment used in an approved program, instruction-related travel expenses for an approved CTE program or CTSO, repair, maintenance and leasing of instructional equipment for an approved CTE program.

Montana Student Mock Election on Thursday, November 3

The Montana Secretary of State’s office created an online voting application so schools across Montana can participate in a statewide student mock election. The direct link to the application is <https://youthvote.mt.gov>.

Three ballot styles are available for all grade levels: K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. All ballot styles include candidates for federal and statewide offices. The K-4 ballot style contains ballot questions relevant to this age group. The 5-8 ballot style includes ballot questions provided by the National Student Parent Mock Election (NSPME). The 9-12 ballot style contains the polling questions from NSPME and ballot questions appearing on the 2016 statewide ballot.

The Montana Student Mock Election will occur on November 3, 2016. For more information, contact [Casey Hayes](#) at chayes@mt.gov or 444.7911

Graduate Credit Available for WBEA 2017 Conference – Only \$99

The 2017 Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference will be held in Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20, 2017, and the WBEA 2017 Conference Committee is excited to provide attendees with an added benefit. Attendees of the WBEA 2017 Conference will be able to earn graduate-level college credit from Montana State University Billings. The cost for the credit is \$99.00.

The Montana Business Education Association has partnered with Montana State University Billings to provide WBEA 2017 Conference participants with the option to earn one (1) graduate-level credit from MSU Billings' Extended Campus. Registration and payment for the credit can be completed at <https://goo.gl/IEkuA1>.

The credit, EDCI 589-450, is not applicable to a Master's degree offered by MSU Billings; however, the credit may be used to fulfill K-12 licensure requirements, "lane changes," or other continuing education requirements for professionals.

WBEA 2017 Conference attendees who wish to earn the graduate credit will be required to provide proof of registration and attendance (such as a copy of registration receipt and nametag), provide a written agenda/synopsis listing all the conference sessions and all the conference-related activities attended (including workshops, tours, networking sessions, etc.), and create a lesson plan in which materials and/or resources gained from the WBEA 2017 Conference are implemented. All materials will need to be submitted by March 1, 2017.

For complete details about the credit offering, including a template for the lesson plan, directions for utilizing the lesson plan template, and a copy of the rubric which will be used to evaluate the lesson plan and lesson materials can be found on the WBEA 2017 Conference website at <https://goo.gl/a0bd6d> along with other details regarding the 2017 event in Bozeman.

Questions regarding the graduate credit offering can be sent to Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov. See you in Bozeman.

EverFi Announces Six \$1,000 Scholarships for Financial Literacy

Students completing the [FutureSmart](#) middle school financial literacy course are eligible for 5 \$1,000 scholarships through the [National Blog Contest](#). Additionally, another \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for students who have completed the course by March 31, 2017.

FutureSmart empowers students to effectively manage their finances, make sound decisions, and become stewards of their financial future. Through the story-based narrative, students play the mayor of a town as they help local citizens make real-life, personal finance decisions. Interactive exercises challenge students to make choices in real-life scenarios to achieve important goals around saving, education and career planning, and budgeting.

Built around the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies and the National Jump\$tart Standards for Financial Literacy, this online course provides students with engaging and educational 21st century skills.

To learn more, contact Mick Karls of EverFi at 406-204-1148 or mick@everfi.com.

Superintendent Juneau Releases Career Readiness Definition, Guidance for Schools

Superintendent Denise Juneau, business and school leaders unveiled career readiness guidance to help public schools measure whether students are ready for the workforce. The guidance comes after a year of work from her Montana College and Career Readiness Standards Commission (MCCRS).

The career readiness guide addresses academic and technical skills, employability skills, and work ethic and professionalism skills. To view and download the complete Career Readiness Guide, please go to http://opi.mt.gov/Media_Center/MCCRS.html.

Montana Teenpreneur Challenge Announces New Sponsor

Exciting news! Submissions are being received for the *Challenge*. Those entered by November 1 are getting feedback from mentors to improve their video pitches and written business plans before the final submission deadline for all entries of December 1.

First Place winners will receive \$500 plus 6 months of coaching from *Challenge* sponsor, Blackstone LaunchPad at Montana State University. Winners and \$250 Honorable Mentions awards will be chosen in two categories--new business ideas and existing businesses.

Learn about the *Challenge* at www.OneMontana.org. Learn about LaunchPad at www.montana.edu/Launchpad. Questions? Email Challenge@OneMontana.org.

ACTE Region V's 2017 Leadership Conference Set for Next April

Make plans to attend the 2017 [ACTE Region V](#) Leadership Conference April 6-8 in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Planning Committee has been organizing an exciting and educational conference for CTE teachers, administrators and other stakeholders. Pre-conference activities include:

- CTE Leadership 101
- A Leadership Strand for New
- Emerging Leaders (as well as anyone desiring a refresher course)
- A Scavenger Hunt of downtown Rapid City
- An informal reception.

Dr. David Jones from North Carolina State University will kick off the opening session discussing leadership with breakout sessions to follow. Education tours including dinner are planned for Thursday afternoon and evening. Friday includes more breakout sessions and a return of the round tables as a time for participants to gather great information and share best practices.

The awards brunch is tentatively planned for Mt. Rushmore on Saturday morning. Watch for more details and information at the Region V Business Meeting at VISION.

View the [Call for Presentations](#) and download the [Conference Brochure](#).

FAFSA: Big Changes are on the Way for 2017-2018 Academic Year

Now is the time for Montana students and their families to focus on how to get the resources needed in order to pay for college.

Families can now fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid – or FAFSA, beginning this fall. The resources at www.reachhighermontana.org include free information necessary to learn how to fill out your FAFSA and a listing of events scheduled in almost every Montana community this fall and winter to help students and their families access federal student aid.

In addition to being able to file their FAFSA earlier, students and parents are now able to use their 2015 tax information for the 2017-2018 school year.

The priority filing date at most Montana post-secondary institutions is December 1, but November 15 for the University of Montana and Missoula College. This does not mean that a student cannot fill out the FAFSA after these dates; however, the priority deadline is used by these institutions for the majority of their student aid decisions.

5 Ways to Use Bank On It® in Your Classroom

Heard of Bank On It? It's our online game designed to help students master accounting concepts and trivia. It's been recently revamped to be more mobile friendly, so students can play anytime, anywhere -- but that doesn't mean there aren't still plenty of ways to use it in the classroom. In fact, we've got five examples right here:

As a Class Tournament - With more than 700 tournaments created so far, the Bank On It game is a great way for students to use their accounting knowledge for class-wide bragging rights.

To Gain Financial Literacy - Try out the Financial Literacy version to help your students get a better grasp on how to make smart decisions managing their own money.

For Team Building - Have students play one on one, in small groups or even as a class to help them cultivate the soft skills they'll also need to excel in a career in accounting.

To Challenge Them - Add an extra level of difficulty by having students play (and beat) the computer. Or up the ante with "CEO level"- where students have the added challenge of tracking their balance.

As a Reward - Keep students who finish in-class assignments early engaged with a game of Bank On It. You can even serve it up as a way for students to earn extra credit.

Create your account to get your unique classroom code, if you haven't already, so you can track students' game play. Get started now at BankOnItGame.com.

Study Shows My Classroom Economy Builds Students' Financial Literacy

Headquartered in Valley Forge, Pa., Vanguard is one of the world's largest investment companies, offering a large selection of low-cost mutual funds, ETFs, advice, and related services. Vanguard crew members employ their professional skills and expertise to benefit our clients and our communities. [My Classroom Economy](http://MyClassroomEconomy), myclassroomeconomy.org, (MCE) is a financial education program created at Vanguard and developed by

volunteer crew members. Vanguard's partners in these efforts include the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, school districts in all 50 states, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Financial Security.

[MCE](#) is available to students in kindergarten through 12th grade and uses materials that teachers and administrators may access online for free and are easy to download. By simulating an actual economy, MCE provides real-world lessons that can last a lifetime, and it does so in a way kids enjoy.

[MCE](#) is an innovative method for teaching elementary school students the fundamentals of financial decision-making and responsibility. The free K-12 classroom program was designed by Vanguard in partnership with educators to be experiential, in contrast with more traditional financial education programs based around lesson plans. Students participate in a classroom economic system and learn the importance of earning, saving and delaying gratification. The program has reached more than half a million students nationwide since its launch in 2011.

Students participating in [My Classroom Economy](#) show consistent gains in financial knowledge, budgeting behavior, financial socialization, and economic experience, according to the results of a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Financial Security, with funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury, and in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County Florida. The study also shows the MCE approach is appealing to teachers because it is easily integrated into the school day, helps minimize time away from core learning requirements, and does not require extensive teacher training. The results highlight the promise of financial learning programs for elementary school-age students.

For more information or to contact [My Classroom Economy](#), please visit <http://myclassroomeconomy.org/aboutus.html?contact>.

Montana Business Educators Recognized During MBEA Awards Presentation

During the 2016 Montana Business Education Association's (www.mbea.info) Annual Business Meeting Thursday, October 20 in Bozeman, MBEA presented honored two business education professionals and one business for their contributions to the field and students of business education.

MBEA Past President Doug Andersen (Billings Senior High School) presided over the awards presentation. Past President Andersen first present the New Teacher of the Year Award to Casey Donahue, Ennis High School. Casey is in her third year of teaching and her second at Ennis High School. Casey serves in a variety of roles at Ennis High School including advisor of the Ennis Business Professionals of America chapter, yearbook staff advisor, and technology coordinator for the district. Casey is also active in professional development organizations and provides leadership and personal and professional growth opportunities for her students.

Molly Barta, Billings Skyview High School, was named the 2016 MBEA Teacher of the Year award. In addition to teaching a variety of business courses at Skyview High School, Molly is a MBEA Past President and has represented MBEA on the regional and national levels. Along with co-advisor Janelle Berry, Molly advises the largest Business Professionals of America in Montana. She also serves on the state level of Montana BPA as a member of the state leadership conference coordinating committee as the judge recruiter.

Montana Business Educator Named the Montana ACTE Teacher of the Year

Bainville High School's Cheryl Graham was awarded the [2016 Montana Association for Career and Technical Education](#)'s Teacher of the Year during the 2016 Montana ACTE Awards Luncheon. The 2016 Montana ACTE Awards Luncheon was held in Bozeman on Thursday, October 20 during the 2016 Montana ACTE Fall Institute.

In addition to teaching a variety of business courses at Bainville High School, Cheryl is both a MBEA and Montana ACTE Past President and has represented both MBEA and Montana ACTE on the regional and national levels.

A graduate of the University of Montana, Cheryl began her teaching career at St. Regis High School, served as the OPI Business Education Specialist and state advisor for both Montana BPA and Montana DECA, and is currently the Montana BPA Region 8 Coordinator. Most recently, Cheryl served as a member of the Montana Career & Technical Education/Business and Marketing Education Guidelines committee and serves as a member of the Framework for Business Education in Montana committee.

Cheryl will now advance to be the Montana ACTE candidate for the ACTE Region V Teacher of the Year. The 2017 ACTE Region V conference will be held in April in Rapid City, South Dakota.

New Leadership Team Elected for Montana Business Education Association

Members of the [Montana Business Education Association \(MBEA\)](#) (www.mbea.info) elected a new slate of officers for 2017 during the 2016 MBEA Business Meeting. The 2016 MBEA Business Meeting was held in Bozeman on Thursday, October 20 during the Montana ACTE Fall Institute.

The 2017 MBEA officers include

- President: Chad Eichenlaub, St. Regis
- President Elect: Nicole Bogunovich, Billings West
- Vice President: Calie Wineinger, Froid
- Secretary: Beth Lawrence, Garfield County District High School, Jordan
- Treasurer: Bertha Kirschten, Plevna
- Membership: Director: Jeanette Barreto, Colstrip
- Past President: Brad Mehr, Bozeman

Applications Now Being Accepted for the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC)

For a number of years, the NCWIT (National Center for Women and Information Technology) has given national awards to high school girls. The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is for young women with aspirations and achievements in technology and computing.

This year will be the fifth year that there also will be a MONTANA contest for Montana girls. The time to submit applications is September 1 through November 7 and the application is found at <http://www.aspirations.org/participate/high-school>.

There are many qualified high school girls that would apply if they just had a little push from a leader like you. Any interested female high school student would need to fill in the on-line application, and get a parent and a school official to approve it to be entered into both the national and Montana contests.

In the past, there have been winners from high schools in Anaconda, Arlee, Beaverhead County, Bozeman, Cascade, Cut Bank, Helena Capital, Helena High, Missoula Big Sky, Missoula Sentinel, Noxon, Park County and Whitefish High School. We hope your school will be represented on the winners list this year, but girls have to apply.

We are looking forward to recognizing Montana's talent, and hope that you would encourage the young women that you know to apply. Sometimes all they need is a little encouragement and you are the person to provide that.

P.S. There also is a Montana educator award (with \$1000 for professional development) given each year. Do you know a good teacher that you should encourage to apply? Encourage them by going to <http://www.aspirations.org/content/encourage-educator>.

For more information to get questions answered, please contact Steve Harper and Ted Wendt, Computer Science department at Carroll College, at 406.447.4466 or via email at sharper@carroll.edu.

Online LEGO MindStorm Course--Introduction to Robotics using LEGO Mindstorms

Montana State University's extended university has put together an online, non-credit, course to introduce robotics as a method for teaching STEM. The course is designed for pre- and in-service teachers, and is also appropriate for youth leaders, coaches or parents who are supporting FIRST LEGO League (FLL) robotic competition teams.

Through self-paced, instructor-led tutorials, you'll learn about:

- computer systems and programming;
- robot construction, locomotion and autonomy;
- sensors; and
- common robot challenges.

The course uses the LEGO Mindstorms robotic platform and supports both the NXT and EV3 versions.

This self-paced course has an open registration so you may enroll at any time that is convenient for you. Registration is required along with a \$49 course fee. OPI renewal units can also be earned for a \$25 fee.

For more information about the course, please visit www.montana.edu/news/15901/msu-online-course-introduces-robotics-for-stem-education and complete registration and course details can be found at eu.courses.montana.edu/CourseStatus.awp?&course=16SWROBOTS.

Updated Framework for Business Education in Montana & OPI TEAMS K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions Reference Manual for Business & Marketing Education Available

The [Framework for Business Education in Montana](#) has been updated for the 2016-2017 school year. Within the Framework, updates have been made to the competitive event crosswalks for Business Professionals of America and DECA. The updated crosswalks reflect updates and changes to the competitive event programs at the national level effective for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Framework for Business Education in Montana provides teachers with common guidance for curriculum development and course content development. Review and update work for the Framework for Business Education in Montana was by a committee Montana business education professionals representing all classifications of Montana High School as well as business education teacher program coordinators from the University of Montana and University of Montana Western and the State Directors for Business Professionals of America, Montana Association and Montana DECA.

The course information within the Framework is organized by Career Clusters with the Common Career Technical Core as the standards for each cluster. Additionally, course content is aligned to the *National Standards for Business Education* and is crosswalked to the *National Standards for Business Education* and to the competitive event programs for Business Professionals of America and DECA.

A complete PDF version of the Framework can be downloaded at <https://app.box.com/s/e4vxcib34pb7gkn2ypkqjdwhj37uj5mz> and if you would like to just download the BPA and DECA competitive event crosswalks, they can be downloaded at <https://app.box.com/s/0f3gnfq8msbtutc4fe67drecl6ptxu85>.

Also updated for the 2016-2017 school year is the [OPI TEAMS Current Listing of All Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions Reference Manual for Business & Marketing Education](#). The Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions are used for the reporting of course taught in all schools and at all grade levels via the OPI TEAMS school staffing system. Updates to this year's manual include the removal of duplicated courses to help streamline course identification and the removal of "other" courses and codes. Additionally, this year's manual includes a complete listing of Montana teacher licensure course codes.

Within TEAMS, all courses taught are identified and aligned to a national SCED Code with the local school course title listed as well as term type, enrollment numbers, and length of instruction. For Montana's Career & Technical Education programs, the TEAMS data is also used to generate the Montana CTE Student Participation Reports which are used to determine State CTE/VoEd funding allocations.

If you received an updated copy of the Course Codes during the August Summer Update Workshops, please download the manual above as there have been some corrections made to endorsement listing in certain courses since August.

The [OPI TEAMS Current Listing of All Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions Reference Manual for Business & Marketing Education](#) can be downloaded at <https://app.box.com/s/8ymsldpmr66xrt1rvl73fzf2sg5zky1r>.

Additional information about the Framework for Business Education in Montana and the OPI TEAMS Current Listing of All Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions Reference Manual for Business & Marketing

Education will be presented during the [2016 New CTE Professionals Workshop](#) and the [2016 Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#).

If you have problems accessing any of the documents noted above, please contact Business Education Specialist Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Iceland was settled by Vikings from Norway sometime in the 800s.

Iceland is home to the very first parliament grounds in Europe when Iceland's Parliament was established in 930 AD.

The Iceland national park, Thingvellir, is one of only two places in the entire world where you can see two of the earth's tectonic plates meeting above the earth's surface. The North American and Eurasian plates jut up out of the ground in Thingvellir, moving apart roughly 2 cm/year, and diving/snorkeling is common between the plates in nearby Thingvellir Lake.

There are more than 125 volcanic mountains in Iceland, a handful of which are still very active, and another handful that could easily awaken and become active as the country changes and grows

Iceland harnesses hydro and geothermal energy to power more than 80% of the country and most homes are heated using geothermal water that's pumped up from beneath cities and towns.

The English word "geyser" comes from Iceland's Great Geysir in Haukadalur.

At about 39,000 square miles, Iceland is close to the size of the state of Ohio.

The majority of present-day Icelanders believe in the existence of fantastical beings such as elves and trolls. Icelanders go so far as to postpone construction projects if it is believed that something is going to be built where elves currently live.

There are no surnames or family names in Iceland—Icelanders use the traditional Nordic naming system, which includes a last name that is comprised from their father's (or mother's) first name with the addition of -dóttir (-daughter) or -son.

Consumption of Coca-Cola per capita is higher in Iceland than in any other country; however there are not any McDonald's Restaurants anywhere in Iceland.

In Iceland owning a pet snake, lizard or turtle is against the law.

Mosquitoes do not exist in Iceland.

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