

The Wednesday Reader

February 1, 2017

Start Here, Go Places' Resolution? More new content for you & your students

It's a new year, a new semester and, above all, a new you -- after a well-deserved winter break. So to get you all geared up and ready to hit the ground running, Start Here, Go Places. is announcing even more new materials for you and your students.

Since January is also the beginning of the spring scholarship season, it only seems fitting for that to be the topic of this month's professional development article. [Scholarships: Ways to help your students find -- and get -- cash for college](#) addresses the role you can play in that process.

And what better way to kick off a new semester than by having [students create their very own FutureMe?](#) It's a great way for students to see where a career in accounting can take them by serving up real job titles, descriptions and salaries to fit their own likes and preferences.

Check out our latest resources and everything else we've got for your teaching tool box at [StartHereGoPlaces.com](#).

4-Year STEM Scholarship at University of Great Falls

The University of Great Falls and the National Science Foundation are offering 4-year S-STEM scholarships to Montana high school seniors interested in pursuing careers in STEM.

The scholarship is renewable and is for students majoring in chemistry, biology, or math.

The deadline to apply is March 1, 2017. View the application packet [here](#) for additional information.

Funding Support from Reach Higher Montana to Attend NACEP Conference in Missoula

Reach Higher Montana ([reachhighermontana.org](#)) is interested in helping up to ten (10) administrators, counselors, teachers, and policy makers attend the [2017 NACEP Western Region Conference](#), by paying registration fees for those needing assistance to attend.

If you are interested in attending and would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please email Kelly Cresswell, kcresswell@ReachHigherMontana.org. Inquiries will be fielded on a first come first served basis.

NACEP (National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships) is hosting its first ever western states conference at Missoula College on April 3 & 4. Attendees will have the opportunity to join education leaders and dual enrollment professionals from across the country at the premiere networking and professional development opportunity in the west. There will be a wide variety of topics relevant to secondary and postsecondary leadership, program practitioners, high school and college educators, counselors, and state leadership.

Conference strands include:

- Best Practices: Professional Development, Online/Distance Delivery, Faculty Liaisons, Student Advising, CTE Programming, Concurrent and Dual Enrollment Program Models
- State Funding Models
- Research and Policy

The registration is \$175.00 for NACEP members* and secondary school attendees, \$225 for non-members, and there is a \$25 per person discount for institutions/organizations that send three or more individuals. Lodging, registration, and event information can be found here: <http://www.nacep.org/calendar/western-conference/>.

It is a rare treat to have this caliber of conference in our own back yard and we strongly encourage those who interested in high quality dual enrollment to take advantage of this unique opportunity to attend this exciting event.

**Current Montana NACEP members: City College MSUB, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College, Gallatin College MSU, Highlands College of MT Tech, Montana State University Northern, Salish Kootenai College, Missoula College UM, Montana University System-Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.*

Save the Date-- Economics Seminar for Teachers in Bozeman, June 14-16

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) is happy to announce—back by popular demand—the Economics Seminar for Teachers.

The Economics Seminar for Teachers will be held in Linfield Hall on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman, June 14-16. On-campus lodging will be available if needed.

The three-day professional development event will include professors and industry experts providing a program featuring the best practices in teaching economics at the high school level.

Participants will be able to earn OPI Certificate Renewal Units or one (1) 500 level college credit.

Registration will involve \$50 fee that will be refunded upon successful completion of the course.

Registration materials will be available soon. If interested in attending or if you have questions regarding the workshop, email mcee@montana.edu.

Joy & Beauty of Computing Workshop @ UofM – Travel Funds & Stipends Available

The University of Montana will be hosting a Joy and Beauty of Computing workshop on the University of Montana campus in Missoula June 12-16, 2107.

The workshop will focus on Computational Thinking, Python programming, and Topics in Computer Science. A sample curriculum can be viewed at cs.montana.edu/paxton/classes/joy-and-beauty/. Plan to attend and learn the Joy and Beauty of Computing curriculum so you can offer the course at your high school, potentially as dual enrollment.

This workshop is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under grant no. CNS-1639841. Funds are available to help cover travel as well as stipends of \$1000 each to offer to over 15 accepted participants.

Instructors for this event include Yolanda Reimer (University of Montana), Jeff Braun (Montana Tech), Tim Olson (Salish Kootenai College), and Qing Yang (Montana State University).

Participants must be willing to take a free online python course prior to arrival and attend two (2) follow-on weekend workshops in Missoula.

If interested, apply online at https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aahKo3kpBXC5Ok5.

For more information, contact Yolanda Reimer at yonlanda.reimer@umontana.edu.

Join the Best of the West at the 2017 ACTE Region V Conference in Rapid City

The ACTE Region V Conference will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota, April 6-8, 2017. Join your fellow western-region Career & Technical Education professionals at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn for this year's event.

Registration is not open, with early-bird registration ending on March 1. Hotel rates at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn are \$89 + tax.

For more information about the conference, including the [conference brochure](#), submitting a [Call for Presentations](#), or to complete your [online registration](#), please visit www.acteonline.org/regionv/#.WJDZDk0zWgc.

Planning to be a First-Time ACTE Region V Attendee? Would You Like \$500?

If this year's [2017 ACTE Region V Conference](#) will be your first time attendee at the Region V conference, be sure to apply for one of the stipends that are available.

Up to 10, \$500 stipends will be awarded for the 2017 conference in Rapid City, SD and the 2018 conference in Colorado. To be eligible for the \$500 stipend, you do need to attend both the 2017 and 2018 ACTE Region conferences.

Applications must be submitted by March 15 and are available at acte.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT01ODY4ODIyJnA9MSZ1PTc3MTYzMzkzNiZsaT00MDU5MjcyOQ/index.html.

Sentinel HS Students Win Best of State in Verizon App Challenge – Help them Qualify for National Competition

An app created by students from Sentinel High School has been chosen Best of State for the High School Division in the Verizon Innovative Learning App Challenge. The app, [Classroom Assistant](#), was developed by students of Sentinel High School business/computer science/math teacher Daniel Lande.

Classroom Assistant is for students and teachers that have everyday problems in the classroom. It includes grading, scheduling, makeup work, communication, and much more.

Verizon received more than 1,800 app concept submissions in this highly competitive contest.

As a Best in State winner, the Sentinel team is eligible to enter the Fan Favorite contest, in which people across the country vote for their favorite app concept. The team with the most votes will receive more great prizes: an additional \$15,000 for their school/group, in-person app development training from MIT experts, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the TSA conference in Orlando, Florida, in June 2017.

Fan Favorite Contest: How to Participate

The App Challenge Fan Favorite award will be given to the team that receives the most votes for its app concept. Read all about it [here](#).

Voting is simple, and it's free (standard texting rates apply). Just text the code for your favorite app concept—Sentinel's team's code is **CLASSASST**—to 22333 using a mobile device.

The voting period began on January 16 and ends on February 14 at 9:00 pm (Mountain Standard Time).

To learn more about the Sentinel High School students' app [Classroom Assistant](#) and to vote, please visit https://appchallenge.tsaweb.org/scroll?field_verizon_region_value=All&field_school_city_value=&field_school_state_value=MT&field_team_grade_value=All&title=&field_contest_name_value=current&field_verizon_region_v2_value=All.

To learn more about the Verizon Innovative Learning App Challenge, visit appchallenge.tsaweb.org.

It's Time to Register for the Spring 2017 Stock Market Game

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.

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 February 13, and runs for 10 weeks, with April 21 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, Montana Stock Market Game Coordinator, at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, (406) 994-2263.

GAERF Launches 2017 Student Design Competition

The [Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation](http://www.gaerf.org) (GAERF at www.gaerf.org) announces the launch of the [GAERF 2017 Student Design Competition](#), themed “*MAGnify!*” Entrants are challenged to demonstrate creativity by designing a product promotion via a magazine ad linked to digital media.

This ninth annual contest challenges participants to combine their critical thinking and creativity with cutting-edge technology to design and produce a printed magazine ad, featuring a product of their choice and linked to digital media, to demonstrate the essential role that print plays in today’s multichannel media mix.

The ad design must incorporate a reference (URL or other) to the online promotion of their product. Entries will be judged on designs that include both the print and digital media components. One secondary and one post-secondary school winner will be identified for each of the first, second and third place awards.

The competition is open to all students attending secondary or post-secondary institutions in the continental United States who are studying in a graphic communications/printing, advertising, graphic design or interactive media program. Entries selected by GAERF will be judged by a panel of industry professionals.

First place winners and their instructors will receive a two-day trip, all expenses paid, to attend PRINT 17 in Chicago, IL. The winning students will receive an award of \$2,000 presented during PRINT 17’s Career Awareness Day, Thursday, September 14, 2017. Second place winners will be awarded \$1,500, and third place winners will receive \$1,000.

“GAERF is proud to continue its commitment to supporting education initiatives by encouraging creativity and self-expression in students through the art of design and production,” said GAERF President Thayer Long. “This year’s competition, which centers on effective graphic design to convey information both in print and digitally, will serve to recognize our best and brightest students, as well as the significant commitment of their instructors.”

For complete information about the GAERF 2017 Student Design Competition visit: <http://gaerf.org/designcompetition.aspx>.

The Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation was created in 1983 by the Graphic Arts Show Company’s (GASC) three founding partners: Idealliance (*formerly NAPL*), NPES and Printing Industries of America. GAERF’s mission is to develop the next generation workforce for the graphic arts industry. GAERF is managed and directed by NPES from their headquarters in Reston, Virginia. For additional information about the Foundation and its programs, visit the GAERF website at: www.gaerf.org or phone toll-free: (866) 381-9839.

MCEE Launches New Website – No Cost State & National Teacher Resources Available

The Montana Council on Economic Education is proud and excited to announce its new website, available at www.econedmontana.org.

The new [MCEE website](#) features include program descriptions and updates, interesting and relevant news in economics teaching, donor recognition and board member bios.

Most importantly, the new site has a page focused to include [teacher resources](#) for use in the classroom, particularly with the Council on Economic Education resources. There are lesson plans, online assessments, webinar courses and teaching materials, all available for free from the website.

In addition to the new website, MCEE has re-engaged their social media channels with [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

MCEE encourage teachers, students and interested business leaders to like and follow their pages. MCEE also encourages you to share your stories using their channels.

In addition to program content that MCEE will add as it occurs, MCEE will share and repost information from around the country it finds useful for teachers in Montana.

[It's Time to Register for the High School Business Challenge – Spring 2017 Edition](#)

The key to getting your students to understand key business concepts is through hands-on activity. If you've not yet done so, consider this simulation designed to develop management, financial, marketing and critical thinking skills in a competitive, learning enhanced environment.

The Montana High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council for Economic Education lets your students actively participate in a state-wide simulation as real entrepreneurs. The students manage the business of a Digital Music Player manufacturer, and many daily decisions face the students, including financial, ethical, legal, and competitive issues. It is a dynamic simulation that can be incorporated into many different class disciplines.

The state-wide competition runs eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, February 15 and concluding Wednesday, April 12. College scholarships are awarded yearly to the top three teams, as determined by a year-end playoff. The cost is \$15.00 per team.

REGISTERING TEAMS FOR FALL SEMESTER? QUESTIONS?: To register teams for the spring Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263 for further information. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, February 8.

FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS: First-time participants need to be trained prior to involvement in the Business Challenge by webinar training sessions which introduces the teacher to the concepts and procedures the simulation. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 6 and 7, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. If you are a first-time participant, or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of the Business Challenge, please register online at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2969265615767965955>.

REFRESHER WEBINAR FOR PAST PARTICIPANTS: A webinar is scheduled on Wednesday, February 8, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for teachers that have previously participated in the Challenge who want to refresh their skills and learn more about the simulation. This webinar is voluntary, and is open only to teachers that have previous HSBC involvement. Space is limited. The web address to register for this webinar is: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/716207960781084674>.

For more information, or for questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone at 994-2263.

Bring your students to Helena for the Economics Challenge March 6, 2017

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the Montana Council on Economic Education are pleased to announce the 22nd Annual Montana Economics Challenge. Sponsors this year include the Montana Bankers Association, BNSF and First Interstate Bank.

Montana High School teachers are invited to incorporate economic learning in their classrooms and assemble teams to compete in a challenging array of tests covering concepts, issues and reasoning. Teams are comprised of three or four students who compete individually and as a team.

Essentially, each participant takes a 15-question, multiple choice test in each of the following three areas: microeconomics, macroeconomics and international trade and economics. The top two teams from each division after the first three rounds will compete against each other in a buzzer round on general economics and current events to determine overall division winners.

The Federal Reserve Bank will cover costs associated with the Montana Challenge, including the optional pizza party the night before, refreshments, breakfast, the luncheon, awards and test facilitation. The MCEE and sponsors will cover lodging expenses on Sunday, March 5 for teams who wish to travel to Helena the day before the Challenge. MCEE will cover costs for a substitute teacher on March 6.

New this year: free teacher training offered with renewal unit credit.

Register by February 17, 2017. Contact Rhonda Krieger at 1-800-823-4333 ext 447-3864 or send an email to Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org.

Montana School Meal Photo Contest from Montana No Kid Hungry

[Montana No Kid Hungry \(mt.nokidhungry.org\)](http://mt.nokidhungry.org) is excited to reach out to you today to share a fantastic opportunity for your school. With support from their partners, the organization has recently launched our #MTschooleats Photo Contest, designed to showcase healthy school food being served across the state, and is open to ALL Montana public school students, faculty, staff, food service personnel, and school volunteers.

The goal of this contest is to highlight successful food service programs that are serving healthy, nutritious meals to their students and to recognize the hardworking members of food service staff that feed Montana's children day in and day out.

First place winners will receive a \$250 Amazon gift card, and the school food service program that prepared the food will be awarded \$500. Runners-up will receive a \$125 Amazon gift card, and \$250 will be awarded to the food service program that prepared the food. Funds awarded to food service programs can be used at the discretion of the food service director, which could allow them to purchase new equipment, buy ingredients to test new menu items, or host an event to honor their staff!

[Montana No Kid Hungry](http://mt.nokidhungry.org) would like to encourage everyone—from students, teachers, and food service staff, to principals, coaches, and superintendents—to submit photos, because every entry is another chance to show your

appreciation for the people who feed Montana's kids and to take pride in the food service programs that offer our children healthy and delicious meals.

Photos can be submitted through a [Landing Page](#), which can be accessed through the website at mt.nokidhungry.org, on Facebook at facebook.com/nokidhungrymontana/, or from Instagram account [@mtnokidhungry](#).

Round 1 for submitting photos runs from January 1 to March 3 and Round 2 will be held March 4-April 30. Submit your photos today.

H&R Block Budget Challenge Seeking Participants for the Spring Challenge

H&R Block is preparing kids for the future. How? By helping teens learn money management and earn scholarships while having some fun along the way. And by giving teachers the tools they need to engage students in learning personal finance.

The H&R Block Budget Challenge aligns with the [National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education](#), published by Jump\$tart, and helps teens learn before they earn in a game-like environment.

A free interactive personal finance game that simulates real-life money management.

The [H&R Block Budget Challenge \(hrblock.budgetchallenge.com\)](#) helps teens get real-world ready from the safety of the classroom. In this learn-by-doing simulation, students pay bills, manage expenses, save money, invest in retirement and pay taxes while competing for \$200,000 in college scholarships.

Awards include:

- 10 opportunities for student scholarships of \$20,000 (five scholarships remain for the spring semester) and
- Student incentives during game play.

Think of Budget Challenge as the Road Test for Personal Finance[®]. Students are in the driver's seat as they immerse into the financial life of a recent college graduate who has been working for about six months. Each student gets a regular paycheck, a checking account, a 401(k) savings account and bills to pay throughout the simulation. Students increase their score by maximizing 401(k) savings, paying bills on time, avoiding penalties and fees like late fees, overdraft fees and finance charges and responding correctly to quiz questions.

For more information about [Budget Challenge](#), visit the [Learn More](#) page.

[H&R Block Budget Challenge](#) needs teachers to bring [H&R Block Budget Challenge](#) to their students by registering at www.hrbd.org, logging in and creating a class for the spring simulations.

Returning teachers can use their existing teacher account from the 2015-2016 school year to [login](#) at www.hrblock.budgetchallenge.com.

Spots are limited, so teachers should register and create a class to reserve a space for their students to experience this free program. [View simulation dates and deadlines](#).

Participating teachers are surveyed at the end of each simulation and their feedback is used to continuously provide improvements to the program. New this year, teachers can:

- Earn [free CEUs](#) by playing Budget Challenge as a student.
- Read the updated Teacher Toolkit for an overview of the simulation.
- Monitor student registration and game play in real-time via the free Android and Apple mobile app.
- Facilitate a class and play along as a student with an integrated Teacher Account.
- Convert student behavior, knowledge and skill into grades with the Grading Assistant
- Use the Teacher Readiness Checklist for a smooth start.
- Enhance the experience with the enhanced Road Map, week-by-week curriculum for teachers.

In addition, teachers can attend a new free live webinar to answer the question, “How do I get started?” [Sign up for a webinar](#) today!

In this webinar, attendees will experience the student registration process and daily activities of a student participating in the game through a virtual tour of the simulation presented by an experienced Budget Challenge team member who has facilitated this game in her classroom. Attendees also will view teacher resources, scoring, grading and receive suggestions on how to implement Budget Challenge.

For more information, visit hrblock.budgetchallenge.com or email the Budget Challenge Help Desk at support@budgetchallenge.fresdhdesk.com.

[Planning to Attend NCCE in March? Check out the Adobe Storytelling Academy](#)

Missoula Sentinel Business Educator Cindy Schultz, along with three other Adobe Education Leaders, will be conducting a two-day [Adobe Storytelling Academy](#), Tuesday and Wednesday, March 21 and 22 as part of the [2017 National Council on for Computer Education \(NCCE\) Conference](#).

The [2017 NCCE Conference](#) will be in Portland, Oregon, March 22-24, at the Oregon Convention Center.

The [Adobe Storytelling Academy](#) is a hands-on, integrated approach to storytelling that will provide participants the opportunity to take a deeper dive into the Adobe products that will unleash their creativity. This two-day academy will model different ways to engage students in storytelling and enable educators to leverage their knowledge of Adobe products to empower students to tell their stories. Participants will be grouped according to interests. Day one will be spent deciding on a theme and gathering and creating original media. On day two, participants will divide according to the strands listed below to create a digital product using a variety of Adobe products. The end of day two will involve a showcase of all work created during the Storytelling Academy.

Spark (mobile) Strand

The goal of the Spark strand is to enable participants to create using Adobe Mobile tools. This will be facilitated through the introduction of three different Adobe Spark (mobile) tools; Spark Post, Spark Page, and Spark Video. After introductory tutorials on the different tools, participants will use the media gathered in day one to create works to support their group’s theme.

Design Strand

The goal of the Design strand is to enable different types of media projects with their students according to interests. Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, or Illustrator will be introduced and participants will then have the

opportunity to create a digital artifact that incorporates their group's theme. Sessions will be tailored to the participants' interests, but might include photo correction, logo creation, infographics, and electronic publications.

Video Strand

The goal of the Video strand is to enable participants to create using Adobe Premiere Pro CC. After introductory tutorials on the video editing process, participants will use the media gathered in day one to create a video project to support their group's theme.

Visit the website for this Academy at: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/Sc91mE72U1QRB/>.

For more information about the [2017 National Council on for Computer Education \(NCCE\) Conference](http://nccce.org/attend2017), including registration, lodging options, and a complete schedule of the conference, please visit nccce.org/attend2017.

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

Did your students complete Vault or FutureSmart? Have them share what they learned in the [Student Blog Contest](#) for a chance to win a \$1,000 529 College Savings Scholarship.

Students completing the [FutureSmart](http://everfi.com/k12/future-smart) (everfi.com/k12/future-smart) 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.

WBEA 2017 Conference Computer Workshops & Breakout Sessions

Planning to attend, or thinking about attending, the [Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference](#) in Bozeman in February? Check out the complete listing of hands-on computer workshops and breakout sessions on the [WBEA 2017 Conference](#) website or directly at <https://goo.gl/LepsrU>.

All hands-on computer workshops will be held on either Friday, February 17 or Saturday, February 18 with breakout sessions taking place on Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19.

One new offering this year to WBEA conference attendees will be the option to complete the w!se Teacher Certification for Personal Finance. W!se will be conducting an informational session on Saturday morning with certification taking place Saturday afternoon. For more information about the w!se Teacher Certification for

Personal Finance, please visit the [WBEA 2017 Conference](#) website or download the information, including registration requirements, at <https://goo.gl/XcmRR4>.

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.

W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Available at WBEA 2017

W!se developed a Financial Literacy Teacher Certification Program in 2008. Teachers prepare for the assessment through self-guided study using the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual. After preparation teachers take the W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test. Testers have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the comprehensive 75 multiple-choice question assessment. The test evaluates instructor's knowledge on topics that are aligned to state & national standards.

Teachers who pass the test earn a Certification in Personal Finance (CPF). The CPF demonstrates proficiency in personal finance. Certified teachers are subsequently encouraged to enroll their schools in the W!se Financial Literacy Certification Program for students.

The W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test will be offered during the 2017 WBEA Conference in Bozeman Montana. Certification will be available on Saturday, February 18, beginning at 1:45 pm. Details regarding certification testing and the WBEA 2017 testing schedule, please visit <https://goo.gl/XcmRR4>.

Testers MUST bring a personal WIFI enabled device (laptop, iPad, Chromebook...) to test upon. The cost of testing is \$50. To participate teachers must register prior to the conference. To register please visit SurveyMonkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZLJ8TZ> and complete the registration survey.

Payment for the test can be submitted through PayPal, via the link included in the survey, or by contacting David Anderson of w!se (danderson@wise-ny.org, 212-421-2700). Once registration is complete and payment has been submitted testers will receive the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual via email.

Working in Support of Education (w!se) was founded in 1998 with a mission to improve the lives of young people through programs that develop financial literacy and readiness for college and the workforce.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Samoa, or the Independent State of Samoa, is comprised by a group of islands in Oceania, situated in the south Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand.

Samoa consists of two main islands and eight small islets.

Samoa gained independence from New Zealand in 1962 after 48 years of rule and changed its name from Western Samoa to Samoa in 1997.

Samoa was the first Pacific island country to attain independence.

Samoans enjoy a tropical climate with a dry season from May to October, followed by a rainy season from November to April.

The official languages of Samoa are Samoan and English.

Samoans are apparently known throughout Polynesia as the ‘happy people’ due to their love of life and good spirited nature!

In 2009, Samoa became the first country since the 1970’s to change the side on which its residents drive. The change came about to bring the country in line with other Polynesian countries and to allow the cheaper import of right hand drive cars from New Zealand and Australia, rather than having to expensively import left hand drive cars from America.

In 2011, Samoa skipped December 30 when the International Dateline was moved to bring Samoa inline with its trading partners; therefore, Samoans went to bed on December 29 and woke up on December 31.

Samoa grows coconuts, bananas, taro, and yams; they also catch fish.

Samoa’s main exports include fish, coconut oil, coconut cream, taro and copra—the dried meat of the coconut.

Famous 19th century author Robert Louis Stevenson fell in love with the happiness and giving spirit of the Samoan people and settled there in his final years. He is buried atop Mt. Vaea which overlooks Apia, the capital of Samoa.

In Samoa, young men are in charge of the food- including the gathering and the cooking.

From independence in 1962 all the way to 1990, only Samoa's matai (holders of family chief titles) were allowed to vote; this meant only about 9% of the general population had any say in the governance of their country.

While independent, Samoa is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, comprised of 52 countries which were once part of the British Empire.

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