

Fun Facts for April Fools' Day

While the exact history behind April Fools' Day is unclear, there is one widely believed theory for how April 1 became an annual day of trickery. According to Discovery.com, the holiday stems from people who refused to adopt the Gregorian calendar in favor of the older Julian calendar when it was established in the 16th century Europe. While most adjusted to the new calendar, which moved the New Year from April 1 to Jan. 1, those who refused to recognize the change were reportedly subjected to pranks and ridicule and were rumored to have been called "April Fools" for observing the holiday months later.

America is not the only country to celebrate every April 1. While France, England and Canada also join in on the sneaky festivities, [other countries](#) take the annual holiday more seriously. According to one report, April Fools' lasts for two days in Scotland, with the second day focused on children pulling pranks "involving the backside."

While Americans know April 1 as April Fools' Day, other locations celebrate the day under a different moniker. In France, where the day of pranks is rumored to have originated, the pranking day is referred to as "Poisson d'Avril" (April Fish), occurring to a report from CNN. Scotland's participants reportedly call the holiday "[Hunt-the-Gowk](#)" ([Cuckoo](#)) Day and the following day, "Taily Day." The ancient Roman version of April Fools' was [Hilaria](#). Meanwhile, Hindus celebrate the arrival of spring with the color festival of Holi.

WBEA Seeking Nominations for the Office of Treasurer

The [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) is seeking nominations for the office of Treasurer. The successful candidate will serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2015.

To be eligible to seek the nomination of a WBEA officer, individuals must be a member in good standing of National Business Education Association/Western Business Education Association and have attended a WBEA Executive Board meeting and served as a member of the WBEA Executive for one (1) full year within the last ten (10) years. Additionally, individuals seeking WBEA office must be in good standing with the State/Territory/Province (S/T/P) that nominates him/her.

Additional details about seeking nomination for the office of WBEA Treasurer can be found on the [WBEA](#) website at wbea.info/new/leadership/join-board.html.

To view the Program of Work for the WBEA Treasurer, a copy of the 2013-2014 POW for the WBEA Treasurer can be downloaded at <http://wbea.info/new/leadership/POWS/pows%20after%20june%2013/Treasurer%20POW%202013-2014.pdf>.

Elections to select the new WBEA officers will be held during the 2015 WBEA Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, May 22-24, 2015.

For additional information or questions, please contact WBEA Past President Christy Ekroth at ekroth@msn.com.

Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND State CTE/VoEd Application NOW OPEN – Due April 24

The Office of Public Instruction has again this year combined both the Federal Carl D. Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND the State CTE/VoEd Funding application for school districts' convenience. You can apply for one or both funding programs using this one electronic form.

Please note: this is an application Authorized Representatives (AR) complete, not teachers. ARs are typically the district superintendent or someone given authority by the district regarding money.

The online link to access and complete the combined Federal and State funding application is now available and listed below. It is also available on the Secondary CTE web page of the OPI website inside the *Perkins Federal Funding* tab.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief electronic application for the 2015-2016 E-Grants cycle.

All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are eligible to apply for funding. Elementary districts are not eligible for Perkins or State CTE/VoEd monies.

Districts will NOT receive a 2015-2016 Perkins allocation unless this electronic form is completed and submitted online at the OPI on or before the deadline. These designations are binding and cannot be changed once allocations have been downloaded into the E-Grants system.

The application link is located at <http://app.keysurvey.com/f/343718/10f4/>.

The deadline for submission of the combined application is **April 24, 2015**.

If you have questions, please contact Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist, at dfiedler@mt.gov.

2015 MIET Tech Days Registration is Now Open

The [2015 Montana Institute on Educational Technology](#) (MIET) Tech Days will again be offered this June for the 11th year in a row on the Great Falls College Montana State University campus Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24.

Although continuing the tradition, the conference does have some important changes which should be beneficial for everyone.

Changes and highlights for 2015 include

1. MIET will now be a concentrated two-day conference. There will be over 50 session options from which to choose along with two keynote speakers.
2. Classes will be open enrollment, similar to MEA, and will be on a first-come, first-serve in rooms with a cap at 30 attendees per session

3. An Open Session will be offered—if you missed a session or an offering you needed was not offered, the last sessions on Wednesday will provide it. The talented instructors will survey attendee needs and then offer what you asked for!
4. BYOD—Bring Your Own Device so you have the opportunity to have more practical, hands-on learning with your own device and access will not be limited to 18 computers per lab.
5. College credit of your choice will be offered for an additional fee—one (1) or two (2) masters-level continuing education credits. Participants must attend both full days to be able to earn college credit. The one-credit course includes full attendance and a reflection assignment or project. The two-credit course includes full attendance, a two-hour evening session, a 13-hour online course after MIET, and a reflective paper.
6. Lunch is included both days.

Early-bird registration is \$100 and ends May 22—save \$25 when you register by the deadline. Registration details can be found and completed at miettechdays.weebly.com/register.html.

For more information or to get questions answered, please visit the 2015 MIET website at www.miettechdays.weebly.com.

An informational flyer can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/EkMYII>.

OneMontana – Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide

[OneMontana](http://www.onemontana.org) (www.onemontana.org) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Bozeman and works statewide to build and sustain basic connections between rural and urban Montanans. The goal of One Montana is to change the way we think and act about rural and urban communities from “divide” to “connect.” It can serve as a national model for collaboration and community development.

One of the key programs of [OneMontana](http://www.onemontana.org) is their [Rural-Urban Student and Entrepreneur Exchange](#). The [Rural-Urban Student and Entrepreneur Exchange](#) is a program between high school students and local entrepreneurs to develop entrepreneurial spirit and skills, innovative ideas for economic development, and new understanding of rural and urban communities.

The program allows students from Montana’s rural and urban communities to participate in an exchange program where they get first-hand experiences with local entrepreneurs as well as experience student life in the partnering schools.

To help facilitate exchanges and opportunities for students to make entrepreneur connections and develop project development skills, [OneMontana](http://www.onemontana.org), provides funding to cover the costs of Rural-Urban Student and Entrepreneur Exchange events.

For more information about [OneMontana](http://www.onemontana.org) and to view the many Rural-Urban Student and Entrepreneurship Exchange partnerships which have taken place, visit www.onemontana.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OneMontana1.

DNRC Mini Grant Opportunity to Student Learning Activities

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is offering \$500 mini grants to support student or adult activities that focus on conservation and natural resources.

Examples of fundable projects include the following:

- Water
- Riparian and Rangeland Ecology
- Aquatic Micro- and Macro-Flora and Fauna
- Soils
- Wildlife
- Outdoor Classrooms/Field Trips
- Community Gardens

Access the grant criteria and application at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/LoansGrants/500Minigrants.asp>.

Applications must first be approved by your local conservation district. If the conservation district agrees to sponsor the project, it submits the application to the DNRC. Find your conservation district at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/ConservationDistricts/CDdirectoryBinder.pdf>.

The deadline for applying for fiscal 2015 funds is April 30, 2015.

If you have questions, please contact [Linda Brander](mailto:llbrander@mt.gov) at llbrander@mt.gov or at 406.444.3337.

Today is Deadline to Respond to Proposed "Programming for Teachers" Course at UofM Next Fall

The University of Montana in Missoula is proposing a course for fall 2015 titled "Programming for Teachers."

The instructor for the course will be Michael Cassens with instruction being held online with web-based face-to-face times to be determined.

The course will be offered for three (3) credits through Continuing Education. The total cost for the credits has yet to be determined.

The course will focus on either [Python](#) or [Java](#); whichever is the consensus. The goal of the course is to teach the language and pedagogy for teaching programming. Programming education in Montana is expanding. The number of students requesting a programming course or considering a computer science direction at the university level is increasing. At the moment there is no course in Montana to teach teachers programming and this course is an attempt to fill that need.

"Programming for Teachers" is intended for anyone interested in teaching programming. Prior knowledge of some programming language would be useful but considering the lack of experience in the state beginners can be accommodated. There should be more than enough experienced programming teachers enrolled to help those totally new to the subject.

Since this is a first-time offering the first-time takers will be involved in writing the course. If you have particular things you would like to see in the course be sure to suggest them to either Garth Flint

(gflint@mcsmt.org) or Michael Cassesn (michael.cassens@mso.umt.edu). They have a concept of what they want in the course, a “Java for Teachers”, but the course direction is open for discussion.

If you are interested in the course, have suggestions for course content, please contact Garth Flint, Technology Coordinator for Missoula Catholic Schools, at gflint@mcsmt.org by April 1.

Nominations Now Being Accepted for Superintendent’s 2015-2016 Student Advisory Board

Superintendent Juneau is starting her search for new 2015-2016 Student Advisory Board members. Students who are selected for the board will attend two annual board meetings, serve a two-year maximum appointment, have the opportunity to network with state leaders, and experience professional and leadership development.

All students who are nominated should be highly interested in the purpose of the Student Advisory Board.

Students must complete an online application and have an adult who has completed the nomination form to be eligible.

To access the nomination form and the student application form, go to the [Graduation Matters website](#).

The deadline for Student Advisory Board applications process is Monday, April 13. Both nomination forms and student applications must be completed by midnight.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bezanson at jbezanson@mt.gov or 406.444.3526.

Financial Education Resources Available from the American Bankers Association

The [American Bankers Association](http://www.aba.com) (www.aba.com), ABA, provides teachers, students, and parents resources for teaching and gaining financial literacy skills. Through the [ABA Community Engagement Foundation](#), the ABA offers materials for three different financial education programs: [Teach Children to Save](#); [Lights Camera Save](#); and [Get Smart About Credit](#).

Visit the ABA Community Engagement Foundation site at www.aba.com/Engagement/Pages/financialed.aspx to learn more about the programs as well as to download a copy of [The Road to Financial Responsibility](#).

Check Out the New Montana Career Resources Website & Explore the Info & Resources Available

The newly redesigned [Montana Career Resources](http://www.careers.mt.gov) website (www.careers.mt.gov) is up and running. Just click on the symbol that matches your user type to find the career information you’re looking for.

The newly designed [Montana Career Resources](http://www.careers.mt.gov) website includes new menus for Montana labor market information including Industry, Wage, Occupation, Employment, Career Resources, Publications, and Data Search Help.

The newly designed [Montana Career Resources](http://www.careers.mt.gov) website also provides career resources organized by age group/target audience—grade school, middle school, high school, college/adult, and even teacher/counselor.

Of course, the site provides a quick link to directly log into the Montana Career Information System (MCIS).

Check out the new site at www.careers.mt.gov.

Learn about Google Tools & Google Apps for Education at the EdTechTeam Wyoming Summit

The [EdTechTeam Wyoming Summit](#) will be held in Cody, Wyoming, June 9 and 10 at Cody High School. The two-day professional development event will focus on deploying, integrating, and using Google Apps for Education (and other Google tools) to promote student learning in pre-K-12 and higher education.

All presenters are Google Certified Teachers, Google Education Trainers, Google Employees, or teachers with local successful stories.

The early bird registration rate is \$275 per person, ending April 9. Group rates are also available.

To check out the schedule, workshop offering, and to get more registration details visit <https://wy.gafesummit.com/2015/>.

Should you opt to attend, be sure to submit the OPI [Pre-Approval Form](#) at least one week prior to the Summit to be able to earn Montana OPI renewal units.

CTE Spring Data Collection For Perkins Funding Now Open – Time to Identify Concentrators

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection began March 1, 2015 and ends April 30, 2015. This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who were enrolled at any point during the current 2014-2015 school year who meet the definition of a CTE Concentrator.

CTE Concentrators are 12th graders who have earned three (3) or more credits in any CTE program in any combination during their years of high school. Currently enrolled CTE courses count toward credits earned.

CTE Concentrators must have the '*CTE Concentrator*' box checked and an '*Area of Concentration*' entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system. If the student has a child or shares the parenting of a child, the '*Single Parent*' box should also be marked.

High schools who receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program must complete this CTE Spring Data Collection.

Instructions for completing the CTE Spring Data Collection can be found on the AIM webpage located at this link: <http://opi.mt.gov/Reports&Data/AIM> entitled Spring CTE Collection.

Questions regarding this data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 877.424.6681 or send an email to opiainhelp@mt.gov.

Questions regarding CTE programs and/or the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program should be directed to Diana Fiedler at dfiedler@mt.gov or 406.444.9019.

EverFi - Critical Skills Curriculum Available at No Cost to Schools

You may have heard of EverFi and their financial literacy platform being used throughout the state. EverFi also has a number of STEM, Civic Engagement, Digital Literacy, Career Success, and Health/Wellness courses also available at no cost to schools.

Through unique private-public partnerships, EverFi brings critical skills curriculum to schools at *no cost*. This online platform is easy to implement, engaging for students, and EverFi has a staff member based in Helena dedicated to supporting Montana schools.

To see the various courses, visit info.everfi.com/K12LearningPlatform.html. You may also contact Mick Karls, of EverFi, at mick@everfi.com or 406.204.1148.

Do you have students interested in a \$500 scholarship? Enter the Montana Bankers Association Blog Contest at <http://info.everfi.com/MontanaBlogContest.html>.

CTE Student Participation Reports – Now Collected from TEAMS

The 2014-2015 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Report information used for CTE program approval and CTE State funding allocations will be extracted from the TEAMS (*Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule*) information already submitted and on file at the OPI. This change means that CTE teachers and/or other district personnel will NOT be submitting participation report information via an online link as they have in the past. Good news!

Because the CTE tab in the TEAMS data system had not been activated prior to the November deadline, **a few items on the new CTE tab will require each districts' attention now**. The CTE tab has just been made available and is ready for input from high school districts.

The items needed are: CTE programs offered, CTE teachers with an extended contract, and identifying the number of males enrolled in each CTE course (only enrollment totals were reported). Next fall, all CTE information will be added at the same time as the rest of the TEAMS fall data input.

To add the additional CTE information into TEAMS, a password is required to log in. Authorized Representatives (AR's) will either ask those personnel in their district who already have access to TEAMS to add the additional CTE information, or they will assign someone new to add it. For any new TEAMS users, AR's must submit a signed *TEAMS Security Form* to the OPI requesting School Level access for those new TEAMS users.

Once access is granted, follow the instructions found at http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolStaffing/15CTE_Help_Guide.pdf to find and fill out the CTE screen in TEAMS. The link to the TEAMS login is shown below and also posted on the OPI website under the 'Reports & Data' tab on the 'School Staffing Project/TEAMS' page, as a purple button labeled, 'TEAMS Login'.

TEAMS LINK: <https://apps3.opi.mt.gov/SSO/Login?Login.aspx>

The CTE information collected in TEAMS is used for Carl Perkins accountability reporting and factors that determine the State CTE (State VoEd) allocations. Therefore, it is imperative that the information submitted is complete and accurate. Any high school district planning to apply for Carl Perkins and/or State CTE (State

VoEd) funding for next year (2015-2016) should submit the additional data in TEAMS for all current CTE programs at their high school.

Technical TEAMS questions should be directed to Danielle Murphy, TEAMS Project Manager, by phone at 406.444.1625 or send her an email at dmurphy@mt.gov.

Questions regarding the Perkins Federal Grant Program data requirements or CTE-related questions should be directed to Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist, by phone at 406.444.9019 or send her an email at dfiedler@mt.gov.

Students Can Blog & Win Some \$\$\$\$ in the Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Blog Contest

The [Montana Bankers Association](#) and their member banks are encouraging students across Montana to speak up and share their stories about how financial education has and will impact their lives by launching the [Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Student Blog Contest](#).

Students are encouraged to tap into their creativity and get involved for a chance to win one of three **\$500 prizes** to be used toward their education.

Visit the [blog contest guidelines](#) to learn more about the contest and promote it to your students.

[Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Student Blog Contest](#) entries are a great opportunity for extra credit, for generating ideas for a class or group project, or can even be a homework assignment.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on May 11, 2015.

For further information about EverFi and the critical skills courses offered to schools at no cost or the blog contest, contact Mick Karls at mick@everfi.com or 406.204.1148.

Fun Facts and Trivia

In Utah, birds have the right of way on any public highway.

In Ohio, one must have a license to keep a bear.

In Tennessee, a law exists which prohibits the sale of bologna sandwich meat on Sunday.

In Virginia, the Code of 1930 has a statute which prohibits corrupt practices or bribery by any person other than political candidates.

In Providence, Rhode Island, it is against the law to jump off a bridge.

In the State of Kansas, you're not allowed to drive a buffalo through a street.

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