The Wednesday Reader
December 13, 2017

With various events and travels taking place next week, this will be the last Wednesday Reader for 2017. Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a restful break. See you on Wednesday, January 4, 2018.

Fun Vacation Homework? What about Filming their Montana Teenpreneur Challenge Pitch?

Are you kidding?! We at One Montana know stringing together fun, vacation and homework in the same sentence will be met either with hardy guffaws or icy stares from your students. But what if that "homework" could lead to a $500 prize, an all-expenses-paid 4-day accelerated entrepreneurship bootcamp, one-on-one mentoring by business experts, and statewide recognition for being a member of Montana's next generation of business innovators?

Montana Teenpreneur Challenge is looking to find and reward students who already make money running small businesses AND those who have creative ideas for new businesses. This could include students who run a business for their CTSO club OR hypothetical businesses students develop for your CTE classes.

Submission requirements include a 2-minute video pitch and a 1,000-word business summary. Students can use their smartphones to film their pitches...nothing fancy is required.

Your students can learn more about the contest and watch video pitches submitted by last year's winners by going to www.OneMontana.org.

December 31 is Deadline for Fall 2017 CTE Data Collection for Perkins Funding

The Fall 2017 CTE Data Collection began on October 1 and ends December 31, 2017.

The Fall CTE Data Collection is a follow up to last year's Spring CTE Data Collection. Students identified as CTE Concentrators last year (2016-2017) and graduated in the spring of 2017 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 2016-2017 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 AIM User Guides and also on the CTE web page under the *'Data Collections'* button.

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 opiaimhelp@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.

After Hour of Code, are Your or Your Students Looking for More Web-Based Coding Options?

During last week's Computer Science Week, business educators and their students all across the state of Montana participated in various organized activities—including the Hour of Code.

After completing the variety of coding activities, are you our your students looking additional resources to either gain or enhance their coding skills? Below are three, web-based, options you may want to check out.

Repl.it: https://repl.it/
The mission of repl.it is to make programming more accessible. Repl.it builds powerful, yet simple, tools and platforms for educators, learners, and developers. Repl.it offers a cloud-based development environment to work with Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and C++ to name a few.

At repl.it, teachers provides everything you need to teach coding in your classroom via the new Repl.it Classroom (epl.it/site/classrooms). In Repl.it Classroom, courses and sections can be created and your students can join or be enrolled. Assignments can be built right in the Repl.it Classroom and can be graded manually or automatically. You can track student progress and connect to your students directly through the notification tools.

All work is completed within a browser—no software needed. Students can complete their work on a PC, table, Chromebook, or even on their smartphones.

Pythonroom: https://pythonroom.com/
Pythonroom is a free, online curriculum and learning management system that makes it easy for teachers of any background to get code into the classroom. Pytonroom's curriculum is developed by programming instructors that have taught coding to thousands of students and educators. The unique problem-based approach to computer science is the best next step after block-based programming environments like Scratch, Tynker, and code.org.

Wanting to teach a coding, or python, class for the first time? Pythonroom is designed to take the role of the teacher, while providing the instructor with real-time analytics and extra resources to facilitate the student learning experience.

Pythonroom's features custom curriculum, grade book, learning management system, and helpful error messages.

Pythonroom works great on any device with an Internet connection, including Chromebooks, tablets and smartphones.

Discover Financial Services and Discovery Education Unite to Empower High School Students

Millions of Americans do not understand financial basics. With a recovering economy and rising debt, this issue is too important to ignore. Providing our children with financial education gives them the ability to make good financial decisions and achieve their personal goals.

This is why Discover created Pathway to Financial Success (pathwaytofinancialsuccess.org) to help bring financial education into classrooms across the country in a fun, exciting and interactive way and help children graduate understanding personal finance as well as science. Helping people achieve brighter financial futures is at the core of Discover's mission.

The five-year program launched in 2012 and brought financial education curriculum to more than 1,900 high schools and more than one million students through $13 million in grants provided to the schools.

Discover is continuing this commitment to financial education through a collaboration with Discovery Education, the leading provider of digital content and professional development for K-12 classrooms. Together, they launched Pathway to Financial Success in Schools, a new and exciting financial education program that will offer a standards-aligned suite of materials that provides students, educators, and their families with tools and expertise to make intelligent financial decisions and achieve their personal goals.

Discovery Education's established network of schools, teachers and guidance counselors will enable Discover to continue to deliver free financial education, reaching additional schools and students.

Pathway to Financial Success in Schools aims to increase financial literacy for high school students through interactive instruction and practice exercises. The free, multi-year program offers a comprehensive curriculum of resources to families and classrooms nationwide. Providing unique e-learning experiences, organized into eight financial literacy themes—each crafted for flexible use as single-class learning experiences or thematic lessons—Pathway to Financial Success in Schools teaches financial education to students from 9-12 in a fun and engaging way.

The development of this 21st century curriculum that incorporates parental involvement will help teachers across the country give both students and families the tools they need to make good financial decisions.

Pathway to Financial Success in Schools resources are available at PathwayinSchools.com and will become available through Discovery Education Streaming.

Montana ACTE Announces CTE PSA Contest for Students
What is the goal? To promote career and technical education by creating a video public service announcement (PSA) incorporating the CTE Month logo and 2018 tagline, "Celebrate Today, Own Tomorrow!"

Who can enter? The contest is open to secondary and postsecondary CTE students in film and video production classes or in other CTE courses. Students may enter as individuals or as a group.

What do I win? Montana ACTE will announce the winning PSA by **February 1, 2018**, and will notify the winners individually. The school CTSO that the winning student or team attends will receive $500. The school that the second-place student or team attends will receive $250. First- and second-place videos will be publicized on the Internet through Montana ACTE social media channels and shared with Montana ACTE's members to use during CTE Month in their schools and local areas. Winning PSA will be recognized at state CTSO events. **Note**: Winning entries must meet a score of a minimum of 70 to be considered.

What's required?
--Video entries must be 29 seconds in length.
--Entries must incorporate the CTE Month 2018 logo and 2018 tagline into the PSA video. Email us if you would like to request a different image format.
--Entries must incorporate the following message, presented as text on-screen and/or spoken by talent: "Learn more about career and technical education at www.ctemonth.org", and must display the CTE Month web address on screen: www.ctemonth.org.

--Successful entries will NOT say "learn more about Montana ACTE or ACTE" or reference the Association for Career and Technical Education by name in the PSA. The videos are not intended to be an advertisement for ACTE, but a PSA for career and technical education.
--Successful entries will use no other logos or web addresses in PSAs.
--Entries that contain music, images, or other copyrighted media must be accompanied by proof that the creators of the entry have the expressed permission of the original copyright holder.
--Submissions must adhere to the technical specifications listed below.

Submitting your PSA entry:
--PSA submissions must be completed by **January 19, 2018 at 5 p.m. EST**.
--Sound cannot be over 0 dBFS.
--Videos must be submitted in .mp4 or .mov format.
--Videos must be in 16:9 aspect ratio.
--PSAs can be submitted in standard or high definition.
--In addition to the 29 seconds of video content, please include at the beginning of the video 5 seconds of black, followed by 5 seconds of bars and tones, and then a slate with the title, the name of your school and the year, **2018** (names of video creators and participants optional.) The slate should be on the screen long enough for it to be read comfortably by viewers.
--PSA are to be submitted via Dropbox. Participants should create a Dropbox account free of charge, upload their submission, and email the link to mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us.
--Participants must submit a talent release form from each participant whose image and/or voice is used in the PSA. Students under 18 must have a parent's or guardian's signature on the form.
--To finalize a submission, email the video link and talent release forms to mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us. A phone number and mailing address for at least one contact must also be provided. This contact can be the educator responsible for the students who submitted the video and the mailing address can be the school's.

Who will be judging my PSA? PSAs will be judged by the Membership/Public Relations Committee of Montana ACTE, who will evaluate submissions according to an impartial rubric. The three highest scoring entries will be shown to Montana ACTE's Executive Board of Directors prior to 2018 Montana ACTE Fall Institute, and winners will be notified before the conference. All entrants are encouraged to share their PSA with their community, school and friends.

What's the fine print? Montana ACTE retains the copyright on any submitted material and reserves the right to use the material in any way or format it sees fit. Montana ACTE is not responsible for lost, damaged, incorrectly encoded, incorrectly uploaded, mislabeled or misdirected entries. Entries will not be returned and will become the property of Montana ACTE. Entries cannot be used for any commercial activity.

Additionally, your use of the CTE Month 2018 logo and tagline for this PSA does not authorize you to use it for any other purpose. If you would like to use the logo and tagline for anything else, please read our Logo Use and Restriction Agreement and follow all regulations therein. If you would like to use the logo for a purpose *not* covered in that agreement, email us for permission.

Do you have any tips for my PSA? The first step for making a great PSA is to learn about career and technical education (see the next section)! In addition, the winning videos for the CTE Month 2018 Video PSA Contest should strive to:

--Engage and inform about CTE in Montana.
--Show that CTE leads to a successful career for Montana students.
--Show the role of CTE in a strong national and state economy.
--Depict a variety of CTE fields in Montana.
--Depict the diversity of students involved in CTE in Montana.
--Show CTE as relevant to the general public
--Incorporate the CTE Month 2018 logo and tagline, the CTE Month web site address and the message about CTE Month as defined above (see the "What's required?" section above).
--Be technically well-made and suitable for broadcast on the internet.

How can I learn more about CTE?
Learn what CTE is and what kinds of courses it encompasses with ACTE's "What is CTE?" page and our Fact Sheets:

--Learn about the effectiveness of CTE in preparing students for further education and careers.
--Learn how investment in CTE yields positive results for communities in Montana and around the country.
--Think about the role of CTE in the state economy: CTE students grow up to become highly skilled technicians, medical professionals, IT specialists, businesspeople, engineers and more. The career fields that CTE students prepare for are the career fields that keep our state and nation growing.

Can educators help with their students' projects?
Educators may advise students, but should not take a significant role in creating the PSAs. For more information or questions about submissions, please contact Mark Branger at mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us or call 967-2540 x360.

Organizers Launch Expanded Montana Teenpreneur Challenge
Calling all Business Education teachers who believe their students have the potential to power Montana's future!

Montana Teenpreneur Challenge is our state's premier entrepreneurial competition and advanced training experience for high school students and dedicated educators, like you, who inspire them to dream big about their future. The contest is hosted by Bozeman-based nonprofit One Montana.

The goal of *Montana Teenpreneur Challenge* is to shine a spotlight on Montana's promising high school entrepreneurs, to reward their innovative spirit and to accelerate their business know-how. Top-scoring finalists are eligible for an all-expenses-paid entrepreneurship bootcamp, cash prizes totaling $2,500, lunch with the Governor, and mentoring by business professionals.

Individual students or teams who already run small businesses at home or in school OR who have ideas for new businesses can submit their entries online between December 1st and February 18. Students may consider submitting their classroom or BPA or DECA projects.

To learn about submission requirements, watch video pitches from last year's winners and to get more information about One Montana's 2017-2018 *Montana Teenpreneur Challenge*, visit our webpage and Facebook page. Email questions to Challenge@OneMontana.org.

Registration for 2018 NBEA Convention—March 27-31 in Baltimore—is Now Open

Register now for the National Business Education Association (NBEA) 2018 Convention & Trade Show in Baltimore, March 27-31, 2018. You won't want to miss this cutting-edge, energizing convention focused on the advancement of business education.

The NBEA 2018 Convention will provide over 70 exciting and cutting-edge educational sessions, more than 20 technology workshops that will expand specific skills and introduce new technology, and general session speakers who will educate and inspire.

In addition, the Business Education Research Conference will be held in conjunction with the NBEA 2018 Convention. Do not miss this amazing opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills as a business educator, take part in networking opportunities, and be challenged to return to your classroom ready to educate, empower, and energize your students.

With more than 130 attractions, museums, historic sites, and performing arts groups, Baltimore promises something for everyone. From "The Star-Spangled Banner" to African American history, to The Baltimore Basilica (America's first cathedral), there's something exciting around every corner.

NBEA is excited to offer pre- and post-convention tours as well. Come early and stay late to be involved in all that the NBEA 2018 Annual Convention has to offer.

Visit the NBEA 2018 Convention site (www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/convention.html) to access the complete convention details, including general convention information, session descriptions, professional development seminars, technology workshop descriptions, and information on pre- and post-convention tours.

$1000 529 College Savings Scholarship Opportunity

The EVERFI Scholarship Contest has begun! Take advantage of our Financial Literacy and Career Exploration resources, provided at **no cost** by generous national sponsors, and your students will have the opportunity to submit an entry into the contest.

Students who complete either FutureSmart, a 6th-8th Financial Literacy course, or Endeavor, a 6-9 STEM Career Exploration course, are eligible to win! All entries must be submitted here by **January 19, 2018**.

Reach out to Sean Thomas, sthomas@everfi.com , for more information about how to register and get students started!

Fun Facts and Trivia

The meerkat, also called a suricate, is a mammal in the mongoose family and is the only member of the mongoose family that doesn't have a bushy tail.

Meerkats live in areas of clumpy grassland and deserts in the southern area of the African continent, including the Kalahari Desert in Botswana, the Namib Desert in Namibia and southwestern Angola, and in South Africa.

A family group of meerkats can be called a 'mob', 'gang' or 'clan' and usually contain around 20 meerkats but sometimes have as many as 50.

Meerkats live on average 7-10 years in the wild, and 12-14 years in captivity.

Adult meerkats are about 9.8-13.8 inches tall when standing upright.

The meerkat uses its tail to balance when standing upright and often stand up in the morning to absorb heat on their bellies after a long cold desert night.

Meerkats mainly eat insects but also lizards, snakes, scorpions, spiders, plants, eggs, small mammals, centipedes and fungi. They are immune to certain types of snake and scorpion venom.

Meerkats have excellent eyesight, they can spot predators in the air from more than 300 m away.

They have great peripheral vision and the dark patches around their eyes cut glare from the hot desert surface.

A clan of meerkats will always have one "sentry" on guard to watch out for predators while the others forage for food.

Consumption of poisonous creatures cannot harm their body and digestive system as million years of development has made them immune to poison.

They are known for their bold and flamboyant diet and can eat any venomous animal ranging from cobras to scorpions.

Every meerkat has a crucial duty to perform. Some take care of the pups, some collect food, and others keep the danger at bay.

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