

The Wednesday Reader
March 21, 2018

Please note there will not be a Wednesday Reader next week, March 28, as I will be on vacation and out of the office March 28-April 2.

CTE Perkins Intent to Apply and State VoEd/CTE Funding Application

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.

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 CTE web page of the OPI website inside the *Funding* tab under *Carl D. Perkins*.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief electronic form for the 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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 online link is located at <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1195733/1ddd/>.

The **DEADLINE** for submission of the combined application is **April 30, 2018**.

If you have questions, please contact Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist, at chendricks@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.9019.

2018-2019 Montana Career Pathways Professional Development Survey—Please Complete by April 2

Montana's Perkins-eligible Post-secondary campuses are seeking input from Montana's secondary Career and Technical Education teachers as they plan pathway and professional development activities for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The campuses are looking for ideas/input regarding desired professional development as they prepare their Perkins grant applications. As per the Montana Career Pathways initiative, the campuses will be hosting professional development opportunities for the Montana's secondary CTE teachers and/or students.

To help provide campus coordinators with ideas and direction, please complete the survey below by indicating your areas of interest. Possible options/topics are listed by pathway area. Please note, not all options may be offered and location (campus) will depend on faculty, resources, and scheduling.

Campuses include Bitterroot College, City College, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College, Gallatin College, Great Falls College, Helena College, Highlands College, Miles Community College, Missoula College, MSU Northern, Salish Kootenai College, and UM Western.

Please indicate all topics in which you have an interest; more than one topic can be marked for each pathway.

The survey can be completed at <https://goo.gl/forms/V62DYktwEZqveYoc2>.

Please complete and submit your survey by 5 pm on Monday, April 2. Results will be shared with campus coordinators after the survey closes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey or have issues accessing the survey via the above link, please let me know—eswenson@mt.gov.

See for Yourself—Entrepreneurship Flourishing Among Montana Teens

Twenty-three students submitted fifteen innovative business ideas to the *2017-2018 Montana Teenpreneur Challenge*. You can watch their videos in our [Business Pitch Showroom](#) and use the thumbs-up icon to select your favorite ones. This can be a fun, quick activity for your business education students to see what their peers are thinking in Montana's rural and urban schools.

These 23 students are now eligible to earn \$2,500, attend a free accelerated entrepreneurship startup weekend hosted by MSU's Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship, and receive mentoring from Montana's business leaders. For more information about [Montana Teenpreneur Challenge](#), visit our homepage www.OneMontana.org.

Early Bird Registration for ACTE's 2018 VISION in San Antonio is Now Open

The premier event for CTE professionals to connect and collaborate, the Association for Career & Technical Education's [ACTE CareerTech VISION 2018](#) features high-quality CTE programs, strategies for successful collaboration and innovation in the classroom.

This November 28-December 1, thousands of educators, business leaders and industry representatives will gather in San Antonio, Texas, to learn and inspire.

[Register](#) by July 13, 2018, and save on your registration.

Hotel reservations can also be made for CareerTech VISION 2018 at the [Grand Hyatt San Antonio](#). The conference room rate is \$189 plus taxes and fees. Reservations can be made at <https://aws.passkey.com/go/2018ASSNCAREERTECH>.

Also, check out the CareerTech VISION 2018's [Travel page](#) for Delta and United discount codes for airfare.

Montana Contractors Association Construction Trade Awareness Grants – Academic Year 2018/19

Developing a skilled, reliable workforce to build Montana is a priority of the [Montana Contractors' Association](#) (MCA), www.mtagc.org/. As MCA member companies struggle to fill their open positions to build Montana's public infrastructure and commercial facilities, MCA is looking to you—Montana's high school industrial arts instructors—to help meet this need.

It is by working together that awareness will be raised among your students of careers in construction, and develop their skills so they are prepared to enter the workforce after high school or pursue postsecondary education related to the trades.

What are MCA Construction Trade Awareness Grants?

The MCA will be distributing five (5), \$1,000 mini-grants to help industrial arts instructors at Montana high schools fund events or projects that bring attention in your school and community to careers in construction.

MCA is leaving it to your imagination to shape an event or activity that accomplishes this goal, whether it is a career day, field trip, construction math course, etc. They are looking forward to hearing your ideas.

A few items to think about:

- * Proposals that involve a partnership with an MCA member company will get special attention.
- * Events/activities that take place during Construction Week 2018 (October 1-5) will get extra points.
- * MCA wants to spread the word about careers in construction far and wide, so the more people you touch through your project, the better.
- * Mini-grants funds may not be used to fund the purchase of classroom equipment, etc.

The deadline for MCA Construction Trade Awareness Grant applications is Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

Apply online at www.mtagc.org <<http://lists.opi.mt.gov/link.php?M=10088&N=3762&L=1102554&F=H>> or by clicking on this link: <https://mseilstad.wufoo.com/forms/wr1rmek18e96c3/>.

Members of the MCA's Workforce Development Committee will review the applications and select award recipients by Friday, June 1.

Contact Carolynn Bright, MCA, at 406.422.4162 or carolynn@mtagc.org if you have any questions.

Oracle Academy Scholarship for 1st Time CSTA Attendees Returns for 3rd Year

CSTA and Oracle Academy are delighted to announce that applications for [Oracle Academy Scholars - CSTA Conference Scholarships](#) are now open.

For the third consecutive year, Oracle Academy will be helping to send outstanding first-time conference attendees to the annual [Computer Science Teachers Association 2018 conference](#) in Omaha, Nebraska, July 7-10. Thirty three scholarships will be awarded.

To be eligible for the scholarship, teachers must fit the following criteria:

- * Applicant is a first time K-12 teacher attendee of the CSTA Annual conference
- * Applicant may be, but does not have to be, a teacher at an Oracle Academy member institution
- * Must apply for the scholarship no later than May 1, 2018

Winners will receive a scholarship funded by Oracle Academy to attend the [2018 CSTA Annual Conference](#), up to \$1,000 per awardee, to include:

- * Conference registration;
- * Up to 3 nights of lodging at the conference venue (or comparable location if the conference venue is sold out);
- * Travel expense support (toward transportation and meals);
- * Special recognition as an Oracle Academy Scholar at the conference.

Apply today at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1nJ8aZkYPV_Z1E3YmKrHhQPTNNKZu9u5s0neaSM1RyAK9PA/viewform.

Feedback Needed as Standards Review Begins—Including Career & Technical/Vocation Education

The Montana Office of Public Instruction's Division for Career, Technical and Adult Education, in partnership with the Content Standards and Instruction (CSI) Division, is looking for your feedback to inform the round of standards review that is underway.

The following content areas are on deck:

- [Career and Vocational Technical Education and Workplace Competencies](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Technology and Library Media/Information Literacy](#)
- [Social Studies](#)

Please visit any or all of the above linked page for the current state and national standards in the four areas.

Do not hesitate to contact [us](#) with any questions you may have.

More information about the standards revision process can be found on the [K-12 Content Standards and Revision page](#) of the OPI website.

2017-2018 CTE Spring Data Collection—Time to Identify CTE Concentrators for Perkins Funding

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection begins March 1, 2018 and ends April 30, 2018.

This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who were enrolled at any point during the current 2017-2018 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 towards 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 as well as inside the `Data Collections` tab on the CTE webpage located at this link:

[CTE Spring Data Collection: Quick Reference Guide](#)

Questions regarding this data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 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 Christy Hendricks at 406-444-9019 or email her at: chendricks@mt.gov.

Scholarship Opportunity for Juniors & Seniors--\$2000

The Virtual Business Scholarship application is available online at knowledgematters.com/about/scholarships. The scholarship is for high school business, marketing and personal finance students currently enrolled in their junior and senior years of high school throughout the United States.

To be eligible for nomination by their teachers, students must exhibit excellence in business, marketing or personal finance classes and show interest and accomplishment in the use of technologies in these subjects.

This scholarship is intended to help eligible applicants defray the costs of their continuing education.

The scholarship applications will be judged nationally and the winner will receive \$2,000.

The application deadline is April 1, 2018.

Montana Financial Education Coalition Bi-Annual Conference in Bozeman, April 3

“Financial Education MATTERS” is the theme for the 2018 Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) Conference. The [2018 MFEC Conference](#) will be held Tuesday, April 3, in Bozeman at the GranTree Inn.

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) strives to improve the personal financial knowledge and decision making ability of Montana citizens by promoting public awareness of the need for personal financial education, providing a platform for promoting the agenda of Montana financial education providers and building the capacity of their programs. This conference helps achieve this mission.

The [2018 MFEC Conference](#) is your opportunity to

Strengthen your partnerships and build new capacity for the delivery of financial education programs in your community and across our state.

Learn about best practices and discuss a variety of financial education programs, designed for all ages and demographics.

Attend numerous workshops to receive practical instruction for implementation.

Visit the resource fair to find a wide range of financial education resources that may help you broaden and strengthen your curriculum.

Discuss and compare curricula and products with other financial education experts.

Apply for a MFEC mini-grant that will allow you to facilitate a well-planned and promoted financial education program in your community.

Registration for the [2018 MFEC Conference](#) is FREE for high school and college students and teachers and can be completed online at https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/confreg2/index.cgi?CONFERENCE_ID=6963&ACTION=INTRO. For general attendees, registration is \$75.

Need lodging?? Contact the GranTree Inn directly (406.587.5261) to reserve a room under the MFEC conference block. Use the Group ID T52JJ6D3 to get the conference rate.

Last Week to Participate in the 2018 Personal Finance Challenge—Online Portal Closes Friday, March 23

The Montana Personal Finance Challenge is comprised of two parts: the preliminary online competition and the in-person state competition. Teams of 3-4 students will compete individually and as a team. Each team member is given a unique access code to compete in the preliminary online competition while being monitored by a teacher.

Each participant in the online competition has 35 minutes to answer 30 questions, and once begun, must be completed within a three-hour window. The questions are designed to test students' knowledge in 10 areas of personal finance: thinking economically, earning income, paying taxes, budgeting, saving, financial planning, investing, borrowing, banking and financial institutions, and insuring.

Each team's score will be determined by combining the scores of the three highest-scoring individuals in each category. The seven highest-scoring teams will be invited to compete at the state competition in Helena.

The state competition includes a team challenge wherein teams have 90 minutes to develop recommendations for a fictional family's financial situation. Teams will present their recommendations to panel of judges.

The judges will determine which team will compete in the National Personal Finance Challenge on May 11, 2018 in Nebraska.

Awards are earned on an individual and team basis. Trophies are awarded to the three highest-scoring teams. Additionally, individual winners are awarded cash prizes.

WHERE The Online Challenge will determine the top 7 teams to come to Helena, at the Federal Reserve Bank, to compete in the Montana Personal Finance Challenge.

WHO All high school students are eligible. Teachers may enter multiple teams. There is no registration cost to teachers or students to participate in the Challenge. The Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) will cover the travel costs for state finalists.

WHY Provide students interested in personal finance the opportunity to gain more knowledge and showcase their skills in a fun and competitive manner.

REGISTER your teams by going to financechallenge.unl.edu.

The Online Challenge will be held March 5-23, 2018, with the State Challenge on Monday, April 16, 2018, in Helena. The National Challenge will be held on Friday, May 11, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Resources Available for Practice:

Council for Economic Education - www.financechallenge.unl.edu

- Rapid-fire question practice
- Case Study scenarios
- Sample quiz questions

Minnesota Council On Economic Education - www.mcee.umn.edu

- Sample Case studies

EconEd Link - www.econedlink.org

- Personal finance lessons

Federal Reserve Education.org - www.federalreserveeducation.org

- Lesson plans
- Videos

Jump\$tart Coalition - www.jumpstartcoalition.com

- Basic management and personal finance materials

Montana Family Finance - www.familyfinance.montana.edu.index.php

- College curriculum and other training

It All Adds Up - www.italladdsup.org

- Online games and simulations

National Endowment for Financial Education Bureau- nefe.org

- Teacher resource section

For questions, please contact Rhonda Krieger at the Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis at rhonda.krieger@mpls.frb.org or by phone at 406.447.3871.

You, Your Students, & Your School can Win \$750 in No Kid Hungry Photo Contest

mt.nokidhungry.org wants to see *your* photos in the second annual [#MTSCHOOLEATS](https://twitter.com/MTSCHOOLEATS) Photo Contest.

Any Montana Public School staff, faculty, students, food personnel, or school volunteers are eligible to enter.

The aim of the contest is to showcase schools meals across the state that demonstrate good, healthy food being prepared by Food Service Staff.

\$750 First Place prizes and \$375 Runner-Up prizes will be awarded in three categories:

1. Breakfast Foods
2. Indigenous Foods
3. Everything Else

Submissions will be accepted from February 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018.

[CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND ENTRY FORM](#)

Summer Professional Development for Joy & Beauty of Computing and Mobile CS Principles in Butte

Montana Tech will be holding two Professional Development workshops for Montana high school teachers interested in adding computer science to their classroom and/or wanting to enhance current skills and curriculum.

[Joy and Beauty of Computing](#) and [Mobile Computer Science Principles](#) will be held June 25-29 on the Montana Tech campus in Butte.

[Joy and Beauty of Computing](#) will focus on Computational Thinking, and Python programming, Topics in CS with [Mobile Computer Science Principles](#) including App Inventor programming, computational thinking, data and information.

For details, requirements for participants, and to register please visit hs.UMT.edu/cs/summer-offerings/jbc.php if interested in [Joy and Beauty of Computing](#) and hs.UMT.edu/cs/summer-offerings/mobile-csp.php for [Mobile Computer Science Principles](#).

Apply Today for a FREE 2018 Advanced Accounting Training—Boise, June 19-21; Stipends Available

The application for the [2018 APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) (formerly known as Accounting Pilot & Bridge Project) training is now open. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) has partnered with state CPA societies and/or state departments of education throughout the country to bring you training sessions to equip you with higher order accounting curriculum that will increase your students' engagement.

Becoming a part of APBP is not only FREE, but also provides high school teachers with a \$200 stipend upon completion of the program.

More than 1,000 high school teachers in 42 states have attended the training, received their free materials and been provided ongoing support. Are you interested? Head over to the APBP website to find a training near you.

A 2018 training for Idaho, Montana, and Utah is currently scheduled for June 19-21 in Boise on the Boise State University campus.

Details about the [2018 APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) project can be found at www.startheregoplaces.com/teacher/apbp-advanced-accounting.

To see the topics to be covered in the training, download a PDF of the [sample rubric](#).

AICPA research has found the first accounting course high school students take greatly impacts their decision to pursue accounting as a major and career choice.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The Xerus is also known as the African Ground Squirrel.

Xerus live in open woodlands, grasslands, or rocky country.

Their diet includes roots, seeds, fruits, pods, grains, insects, small vertebrates and bird eggs.

They live in colonies similar to North American prairie dogs, and have similar behavior.

Kept as pets, they run free as house cats do, otherwise farmers consider them pests.

Gestation period lasts for 48 days, with one to three babies per litter, and the young ones are weaned after 52 days.

The South African ground squirrel does not hibernate

These squirrels are very social and live in groups with about 1 to 3 females and 2 to 3 males.

An interesting thing about Xerus is that mature males like to form their own groups and there can be 19 to 20 individuals in one group, called a band.

The South African Ground Squirrel is mainly found in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

National Squirrel Appreciation Day is January 21.

Perhaps squirrels regained popularity due to their reference in the movie *Up* and *Dug the Dog*.

Dug is an overweight Golden Retriever belonging to Charles Muntz.

Dug is the only dog owned by Charles Muntz not named after a Greek letter; however, there is not a dog named Delta in the film, so it is possible that Dug is Delta.

In the movie *Ratatouille*, as Remy runs through an apartment building, Dug's shadow can be seen on a wall. *Ratatouille* was released two years before *Up*, but *Up* was in production.

The voice of Dug was done by Bob Peterson, who was also a co-director and co-writer for *Up*.

Bob Peterson was also an animator for *Toy Story* and wrote the screenplay for *Finding Nemo*.

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