

The Wednesday Reader
March 6, 2019

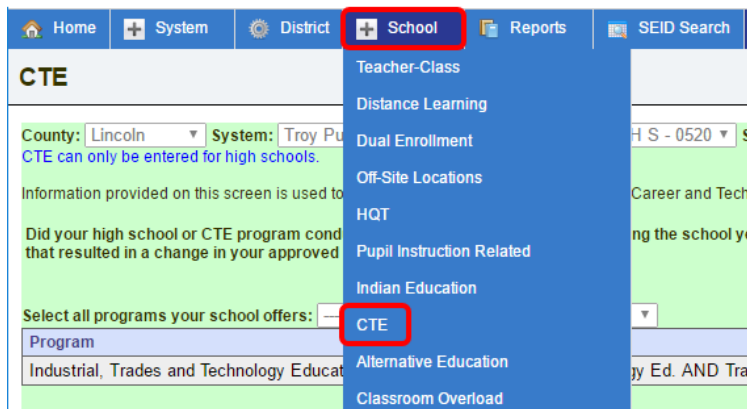
Spring Forward Saturday Night—Remember Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend.

Friday, March 8, is Deadline to Time to Verify Spring CTE Data in TEAMS for State CTE/VoEd Funding

The 2018-2019 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Report Information used for CTE program approval and CTE State funding allocations will continue to be extracted from the TEAMS (*Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule*) information already submitted and on file at the OPI.

A few items on the CTE tab will require each districts' attention now. **The deadline for changes to be made is March 8, 2019.** Since this data was due by December 31, this will be the only reminder to verify your data. Please share this information with your CTE staff.

The CTE screen is open for edits to the CTE course information offered at your district this year. To navigate to this screen, once logged into TEAMS, hover over the School menu and click on CTE.



NOTE: Your screen will not have the mint green background, this is our test environment.

The information in the third table with course information can be updated. To edit the information, find a course with information to update and click Select. You will see the fields that can be updated directly below the table.

The following list of courses includes every CTE course being taught by an educator with a CTE endorsement, as listed in the school's Teacher-Class screen. The remaining fields must be edited with the following information:

Show 5 items per page

	Course	District Course	Instructor Name	Section	Total Enrolled	Males Enrolled	Females Enrolled	Grades	Term	Class Minutes	Off-Site
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	13003 Industrial Arts	Vocational Exploration	Thill, Jeff	4385	11	9	2	09-12	SM 1	4740	N
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	13003 Industrial Arts	Manufacturing II	Thill, Jeff	4881	12	7	5	09-12	SM 2	4890	N
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	13003 Industrial Arts	Vocational Exploration	Thill, Jeff	4880	10	5	5	09-12	SM 1	4740	N
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	13003 Industrial Arts	Vocational Exploration	Thill, Jeff	4386	4	3	1	09-12	SM 1	4740	N
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	13003 Industrial Arts	Manufacturing II	Thill, Jeff	4169	5	3	2	09-12	SM 2	4890	N

total number of students enrolled in the course, as of the October AIM count date:

Class Minutes:

total number of males enrolled in the course, as of the AIM count date:

taught at an off-site location: Yes No

The fields that can be changed are:

1. Total number of students enrolled. If the number of students enrolled increased or decreased, you can make the change here. If the course was cancelled, enter 0 for the enrollment.

- 2. Class minutes. The class minutes should fall within a reasonable range for the term given, minutes listed are typical minimums.
- Year-long: 8100
- Semester: 4050
- Trimester: 2700
- Quarter: 2025
- Total number of males enrolled. If the course was cancelled, enter 0 for the enrollment.
- Taught at an off-site location. If the district has a secondary location where CTE courses are offered, even if they are tied to a specific school, the courses taught at that secondary (off-site) location should be marked "Yes". All other courses would be marked "No". An example of this is the Billings Career Center. This is **NOT** the same as an Alternative Education Program.

NOTE: Courses cannot be added or deleted during the spring update.

Once you make the necessary changes, click Save Course.

A screenshot of a web form for updating course information. The form has a light green background and contains the following fields:

- Total number of students enrolled in the course, as of the October AIM count date: 15
- Class Minutes: 4740
- Total number of males enrolled in the course, as of the AIM count date: 10
- Taught at an off-site location: Yes No

 At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Save Course" (highlighted with a red box) and "Cancel Course".

Confirm the information was updated in the table.

Select	Course	District Course	Instructor Name	Section	Total Enrolled	Males Enrolled	Females Enrolled	Grades	Term	Class Minutes	Off-Site
	13003 Industrial Arts	Vocational Exploration	Thill, Jeff	4385	15	10	5	09-12	SM 1	4740	Y

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 (2019-2020) should submit the additional data in TEAMS for all current CTE programs at their high school.

Technical TEAMS questions should be directed to the OPI Team at: OPITEAMS@mt.gov. Questions regarding the Perkins Federal Grant Program data requirements or CTE-related questions should be directed at Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Specialist, by phone at 406.444.9019 or send her an email at chendricks@mt.gov.

2018-2019 CTE Spring Data Collection—Time to Identify CTE Concentrators for Perkins Funding

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection begins March 1, 2019 and ends April 30, 2019. This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who were enrolled at any point during the current 2018-2019 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 [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.

Thank you so much for all you do from everyone at the Career and Technical Education Division of The Office of Public Instruction.

You're Invited to the 2019 MountainMoot in Helena

Do you use Moodle in the K-12 classroom? Are you interested in learning how or teaching your colleagues all of your tricks? If so, we'd like to invite you to the [2019 Mountain Moot](#). This year's Moot will be held at Carroll College from July 17-19.

Registration for the conference is not open just yet, but save the date and check the website for updates. The cost will be \$99 for K-12 Educators and \$50 for [presenters](#).

Each day will be filled with sessions about how to use Moodle, Moodle course design, unique uses of Moodle, and more. It will also be a great opportunity to network with Moodle users inside and outside of the K-12 classroom. Sessions target advanced and beginner users, so don't shy away if you are just getting started.

Perkins V/Career and Technical Education Stakeholder Survey for New Montana Perkins State Plan

The Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Office of Public Instruction are seeking feedback and input from Montana's Perkins and Career & Technical Education stakeholders as the process for developing the new Montana State Plan for Career and Technical Education begins

On July 31, 2018, the President signed the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* into law. This bill reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins) and is referred to as Perkins V. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which provides roughly \$1.3 billion annually in Federal funding, administered by the U.S. Department of Education, for career and technical education (CTE) for our nation's youth and adults.

With the passage of Perkins V, all states, including Montana, must now develop a multi-year plan to guide and implement Perkins V. The Perkins V/Career and Technical Education Stakeholder Survey seeks to gather feedback, ideas, and input from Montana's Perkins and Career & Technical Education stakeholders—including CTE teachers, students, school/district administrators, counselors, and parents.

The survey can be completed at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MontanaCTE. You can share the link with students, school/district administrators, counselors, and parents in your school/district. The survey will be open through June 15, 2019. The survey can be completed in about 5-10 minutes.

If you have questions regarding the survey, please contact Jacque Treaster, State Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education at OCHE, at jtreaster@montana.edu or T.J. Eyer, Division Administrator for Career, Technical, & Adult Education at OPI, at teyer@mt.gov.

Save the Date—MCEE FREE Summer Training in Bozeman, August 8-9

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is excited to announce the 2019 Economics Seminar for Teachers will be held on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman on Thursday and Friday, August 8 and 9, 2019.

The Economics Seminar for Teachers is a FREE great opportunity for teachers to improve their skills teaching economics at the high school level. With the support of sponsors, MCEE is pleased to be able to cover all expenses as MCEE meets its mission to improve economics literacy for Montana's youth. MCEE and sponsors will cover expenses for lodging, mileage, meals, parking, and class materials.

Classes will be offered in Linfield Hall and teacher's lodging will be on campus.

OPI teacher renewal unit credits will be provided for hours completed. Registration for the August 8-9 event will open next week.

For more details, please visit the MCEE website at econedmontana.org or email mcee@montana.edu if you have any questions.

Computer Science Curriculum from Minecraft—Free Download for Teachers

Teaching Computer Science at school just got easier as Microsoft is making a 30-hour curriculum, targeted at students in the age range 11 to 16, available as a free download.

The curriculum is based on Minecraft Education Edition, a version that offers special features for educators, and Microsoft MakeCode, a block- and JavaScript-programming editor as means for teaching the basics of coding and computational thinking skills.

The course is comprised of 10 units with each focusing on specific computer science concepts and programming skills. Teaching all units and lessons will require approximately 30 hours of instruction, with each unit including 1-4 lessons of approximately 45-60 minutes each.

The lessons are comprised of activities that introduce core CS concepts and give hands-on coding experience, as well as a number of independent projects suitable for applying the newly gained skills, and assessments for testing the knowledge and skill development acquired.

Additional details about the curriculum, including units and topics covered, can be found at www.i-programmer.info/news/150-training-a-education/12529-computer-science-curriculum-from-minecraft.html.

The complete curriculum can be downloaded from Microsoft at education.minecraft.net/class-resources/coding-with-minecraft.

Montana FCCLA Announces the Opening of their State Director Search

The [Montana Association of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America](http://www.fccla.org) (FCCLA) is seeking a State Director to perform the daily tasks of Montana FCCLA as well as manage the organization.

The State Director will oversee the operations of the entire organization, implement the strategic goals and objectives of the organization, work with the Board of Director's President to enable the Board to fulfill its governance function, and provide direction and leadership toward achievement of the organization's mission, strategy, and annual goals and objectives. The State Director will work closely with the FCS Education Specialist at the Office of Public Instruction to keep FCS and FCCLA aligned.

For complete details, please visit mtfccla.org/apply-today. The application review process will begin March 11 and continue until a suitable applicant is found.

Apollo 50 Student Challenge—Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing

Registration is open for [NASA's Apollo 50 Student Challenge](http://www.nasa.gov/apollo50), Apollo Next Giant Leap Student Challenge.

July 20, 2019 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the landing of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the Moon in Apollo 11. NASA's Northwest Earth and Space Sciences Pipeline (NESSP) will hold a 5th-12th grade student drone and robotic challenge to celebrate.

The Montana Learning Center is hosting the challenge on July 19 and 20, 2019.

The challenge is open to all students in grades 5 to 12. The students will build a replica of the Apollo Lunar Module and try to land it using a remote-controlled drone. Registration closes March 30, 2019.

Visit the [Montana Learning Center website](http://www.montanalearningcenter.org) for registration information and the student challenge manual.

The Grand Prize for the winning team is a trip to the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas.

Complete details about the Apollo Next Giant Leap Student Challenge can be found at nwessp.org/apollo50.

Attention First Time Region V Leadership Conference Attendees

If the 2019 conference in Bozeman, Montana, will be the first time you have attended a Region V Conference, be sure to apply for one of the stipends that are available. Up to ten \$500 stipends will be awarded for the 2019 Conference in Bozeman and the 2020 Conference in Lake Tahoe.

The stipend will be paid over two years with \$250 paid upon attending each conference. Awards will be made at the conference.

Applications can be found on the [Region V website](#). Deadline for submission is **March 15**.

Applicants will be notified by April 1 if receiving the stipend.

CTE Report Cards Update Based Upon 2017-2018 Data

The Career and Technical Education Division has updated the 2017-2018 Report Cards.

This Report Card tab allows Districts to view their schools '3-Year Report Card', their individual 'Report Card' as well as 'Report Cards' by Class Size and CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs). Each schools '3-Year Report Card' is broken down by performance indicators and includes visual graphs. Schools can also view the Montana State Report Card. The Report Cards are created from data collected from AIM.

If your school is not listed in the 'Individual School 3-year report card', it is because the school has less than 10 CTE Concentrators for all 3 years per our OPI policy regarding external release of data.

A Small Schools Exemption—10 CTE Concentrators or less—unfortunately, cannot apply to Perkins Performance Indicators. All schools receiving Perkins, regardless of their CTE Concentrator total, are required to develop an improvement plan.

The direct link to the Report Cards can be found at <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Career-Technical-Education-CTE#Programs>.

The Perkins Core Indicators, as well as explanations and Threshold Targets for each indicator, are available.

The state goals for each core indicator are determined by the United States Department of Education.

Schools receiving Carl D. Perkins funding, are required to meet at least 90% of the state adjusted level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance.

If a school's score falls below the State minimum (Threshold Target) for three (3) consecutive years, the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant requires the school to develop an improvement plan to address how the school plans to increase their scores in the core indicator they did not reach which is documented in the *End-of-Year Report* section of the Perkins application.

If you have any questions about the report cards, please contact Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist, at 406.444.9019 or via email at chendricks@mt.gov.

Attending ACTE Region V Conference in April? Earn a Graduate-Level College Credit for Only \$99.

The [ACTE Region V's 2019 Conference](#) will be held in Bozeman, Montana, April 10-13, and Montana ACTE is excited to provide attendees with an added benefit. Attendees of the ACTE Region V 2019 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 Association for Career and Technical Education has partnered with Montana State University Billings to provide ACTE Region V 2019 Leadership 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/7k4WRi>.

The credit, EDCI 589-400, is not applicable to a Master's degree offered by MSU Billings; however, the credit may be used to fulfil K-12 licensure requirements, "lane changes," or other continuing education requirements for professionals.

[ACTE Region V 2019 Leadership 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 ACTE Region V 2019 Leadership Conference are implemented. All materials will need to be submitted by May 3, 2019.

For complete details about the credit offering, including a syllabus, 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 ACTE Region V website at www.acteonline.org/region-page/region-v-events along with other details regarding the 2019 event in Bozeman.

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

Save the Date--MIET Tech Days 2019 will be held Wednesday, June 12 in Great Falls

The 2019 edition of the Montana Institute on Educational Technology (MIET) Tech Days will be held on Wednesday, June 12 in Great Falls.

This will be the final year for MIET.

MIET Tech Days 2019 will only be a one-day event this year and will feature a keynote by Dr. Jason Ohler, author of *Four Big Ideas for the Future* and *Digital Community*.

Registration for MIET Tech Days 2019 will be \$50.

More information can be found at mietetechdays.weebly.com.

Special Details for the 2019 Edition of the Montana Business Education Summer Update

This coming summer, three special events will take place for Montana's Business Education professionals—the [APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) training (June 24-26), the updating of the Montana Career & Technical Education Standards/Workplace Competencies (July 24-26), and standards revisions for Computer Science, Technology, and Library Media (July 31-August 2).

Therefore, instead of the three (3) regional workshops usually held the end of July/first of August, the *FREE* [APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) training in Helena at Helena College will serve as the 2019 Montana Business Education Summer Update.

The registration for the [APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) can be completed at startheregoplaces.com/teacher/apbp-advanced-accounting. In addition to training materials, breakfast and lunch will be provided each day.

The AICPA is working to secure discounted lodging for attendees. Costs associated with participating in the [APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) training can be covered via Perkins and/or State CTE/VoEd funding.

A word from a 2018 trainee:

“By having a high school teacher, who currently teaches the course, a college professor, who is a CPA and author of the text, and a representative from AICPA teach the Advanced Accounting material, this workshop bridged teaching strategies to be used with high school students with generating a stronger understanding of the content for the classroom teacher. This in-depth, fast-paced workshop left me wanting to attend it again!” – Beth Huguet, Hellgate High School in Missoula, MT.

Graduate-level college credit from Montana State University Billings will be available as well as up to 22 OPI renewal units. Details and a link to register for the MSU Billings credit will be available shortly. The cost for the credit will be \$99.00 and will require the submission of a lesson plan utilizing materials gained from the training.

Information regarding the revision of the Montana Career & Technical Education Standards/Workplace Competencies and Computer Science, Technology, and Library Media standards can be found on the OPI website at opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/K-12-Content-Standards-Revision.

Teacher Learning Hub Looking for Course Designers

The Office of Public Instruction is looking for Social Studies, CTE, and Computer Science educators to help us expand the OPI's Teacher Learning Hub offerings.

Compensation varies based on the length of the course. [Fill out this form to apply](#). Contact Jessica Bryant (jbryant3@mt.gov) or Cari Russell (cari.russell@mt.gov) with questions.

Requirements:

- Expertise in 1 of the 3 content areas
- A little free time
- Comfort with technology
- Completion of required Hub designer training
- LLC, Independent Contractor's License, or willing to obtain either

Summer Computer Science Course Offerings from University of Montana

The University of Montana will be offering professional development opportunities in both Joy and Beauty of Computing and Mobile Computer Science Principles during the summer of 2019. Both classes are geared towards high school teachers who would like to offer these curriculums in their local schools.

Professional development will run from June 24-28, 2019, at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana.

Limited stipends and travel money is available for accepted participants.

For details, please visit <http://hs.umt.edu/cs/research/reimer/NSF%20CS10K%20Project/Professional%20Development/default.php>.

Update Regarding Montana Content Standards Development for Career & Technical Education and Computer Science

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is currently under the Research and Review stage related to the update and development of Montana Content Standards for Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, Library Media, Social Studies, and Technology. Following the close of the Research and Review stage, revision and writing teams will be assembled and will meet in Helena in July 2019.

As part of the Research and Review stage, the Office of Public Instruction is currently gathering analysis and feedback on

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

The Revision stage will take place May-October 2019, which includes the development of Content Standards Revision Teams.

The Office of Public Instruction is seeking applicants/nominations for participants in the revision of content standards. Applications should be submitted via the following Google Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJNDghtR9Q_9h6CBx9RTZyDp5iIHLQ23aTni-WECWP4Clqw/viewform. If you require an alternate version of the form, please contact Colet Bartow, cbartow@mt.gov.

The deadline for applications is Friday, May 3, 2019. Successful applicants will be notified via email before June 1, 2019.

The selection criteria for participants include:

- representation from PK-20 teacher experts in each of the content areas
- geographic distribution
- large/small district representation

--cultural diversity and special populations' representation
--at least one administrator

For additional information, see Content Standards Revision Guidelines
<https://sites.google.com/opiconnect.org/mtstandardsrevision/standards-revision-guidelines>

Individuals seeking to be a member of a Content Standards Revision Team are required to complete the [Montana Content Standards 101](#) course via the [OPI Teacher Learning Hub](https://learninghub.mrooms.net) (<https://learninghub.mrooms.net>). After completing the Montana Content Standards 101 course, you will receive a Certificate of Renewal Units for one (1) unit.

All writing team members MUST be available to attend the scheduled work sessions in July 2019. Additional online work sessions may be scheduled by the individual teams between August and November 2019.

In order to participate on a revision committee, you must be available to travel to Helena during the dates below.

--July 24-26, 2019: Career and Technical Education/Workplace Competencies; Social Studies,
--July 31-August 2, 2019: Computer Science; Technology; Library Media

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

NBEA 2019 Convention—Chicago, April 16-20—Now Ready for You

The [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA), nbea.org, is excited to share with you the tremendous educational sessions that will be offered at the [NBEA 2019 Annual Convention](#), which will be held April 16-20, in Chicago, Illinois. The NBEA Convention is consistently rated as the most valuable conference for business educators.

With over 90 educational sessions, you will find new and creative ways to enhance your classrooms and business education programs. Access a complete listing of all concurrent sessions by [clicking here](#) for the convention program brochure and the convention registration form.

The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile will be the host site for the [NBEA 2019 Annual Convention](#). Conference room rates are \$165 Single; \$165 Double; each additional person in room is \$20. Online reservations can be completed at <https://book.passkey.com/e/49816955>.

Please note the following dates & times as you plan to attend the NBEA 2019 Convention:

--Technology workshops begin on Tuesday, April 16, at 9:00 a.m. and conclude on Friday, April 19, at 11:00 a.m.

--The Business Education Research Conference will hold a Wine & Cheese Expo on Tuesday, April 16, at 4:00 p.m. Sessions (including more than 20 "My Favorite Assignment" sessions) begin on Wednesday, April 17, at 8:00 a.m. and conclude on Friday, April 19, at 11:30 a.m.

--A full array of concurrent sessions begin on Wednesday, April 17, at 10:30 a.m. and conclude on Friday, April 19, at 4:45 p.m.

--A workshop with the culinary team at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile takes place on Wednesday, April 17, from 9-11:30 a.m.

--The WISE Certification for Personal Finance will be held on the morning of Friday, April 19.

Please review the program carefully before making your hotel and travel arrangements to Chicago, so you can take full advantage of the educational and networking opportunities. The Opening General Session take place on Wednesday, April 17, at 3:00 p.m. and the Closing General Session will be on Saturday morning, April 20.

Do not miss this dynamic convention dedicated to business education. NBEA looks forward to seeing you in Chicago.

FREE 2019 AICPA Advanced Accounting Trainings—Including Helena, June 24-26, 2019; Registration Now Open

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Career & Technical Education division of the Montana Office of Public Instruction are excited to announce a FREE three-day training for the [APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) (formerly known as Accounting Pilot & Bridge Project).

The registration for the [APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) training to be held in Helena at Helena College is now open. The Helena training will be held June 24-26, 2019.

As in past years, the 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 will enable you to level up your accounting class with more engaging, advanced content. Even better, registration is provided for FREE, courtesy of the AICPA Foundation.

Exclusively for high school accounting teachers, those that complete the full program will also receive:

- Daily lesson plans and assignments
- Pre-written exams with answer keys
- A textbook, including teacher's notes and PowerPoint presentations
- Refresher videos and webcasts
- Continuous support from APBP trainers

Graduate-level college credits and OPI renewal units will be available.

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 (startheregoplaces.com/teacher/apbp-advanced-accounting) to register for the Helena training. To see the topics to be covered in the training, download a [PDF of the sample rubric](#).

Fun Facts and Trivia

Yerevan (pronounced Yer-eh-vann) is one of the world's oldest cities and serves as the capital for the Republic of Armenia.

Armenia is a transcontinental nation, landlocked at the junction of Western Asia and Eastern Europe.

Located along the eastern border of Turkey, Armenia is also classified as a Middle Eastern nation by the Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook.

Armenia is a former Soviet republic, in the mountainous Caucasus region between Asia and Europe.

Armenia broke from the Soviet Union on September 21, 1991; therefore, Armenians celebrate Independence Day as a public holiday each September 21.

Yerevan is a very old city, founded back in 782 BC, 29 years before Rome.

An estimated 1.1 million people live in Yerevan.

Yerevanians enjoy a semi-arid climate with long, hot summers, followed by short and cold winters, a high temperature range and an average annual temperature of 54°F.

Yerevan is known as the 'pink city' due to the natural color of the historic buildings which were made from naturally colored volcanic rock.

The official currency in Armenia is the Armenian Dram.

The Armenian alphabet was created in 405-406 AD by a scholar and monk Mesrop Mashtots, consisting of 36 letters—seven letters convey vowel sounds and 29 letters for consonants.

More than one 1600 years later, the Armenian alphabet exists almost unchanged.

When the Armenian alphabet celebrated its 1,600th birthday in 2005, 39 stone statues depicting its letters were erected near the final resting place Mesrop Mashtots.

Scientists consider the Armenian alphabet one of the three most advanced in the world, along with Georgian and Korean alphabets.

Mesrop Mashtots' Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts in Yerevan is one of the richest depositories of ancient Armenian, Greek, Assyrian, Hebrew, Roman and Persian manuscripts and books in the world.

In 2011, chess became a required subject in public schools.

Most cars in Armenia run on methane gas, making them energy efficient and environmentally friendly; however, pumping that gas is extremely dangerous and all passengers are required to exit the vehicle when while the methane tanks are filled.

Armenians love to eat lavash which is this thin layer of flat chewy bread made from flour, salt and water and baked in a tonir.

A tonir basically refers to an underground earth oven.

Armenian cuisine is one of the oldest in Europe and the oldest in the South Caucasus with diverse and delicious dishes thanks to the use of lots of spices, herbs, and wild flowers.

Traditional Armenian dishes include spas, a creamy and low-calorie soup prepared from fermented Armenian yogurt (matsun), kyufta (meatballs), tolma, grape leaves stuffed with minced meat, juicy barbecue or khorovats, basturma (dried meat with spices), and gata, a dessert made from puff pastry.

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