

## The Wednesday Reader

April 22, 2020

### Cengage Offers Free Access to Digital Learning Materials, Other Resources

Cengage, an education and technology company, is offering free access to its digital learning materials and platforms, as well as other resources, for those impacted by COVID-19.

"The health and safety of our employees and customers around the globe are paramount. Millions of them have had their lives thrown into turmoil as a result of this unprecedented public health crisis," said Michael E. Hansen, CEO, Cengage.

"We want to do everything we can to support students and educators as they shift to online learning environments," Hansen continued. "Each of our businesses is taking a tailored approach based on the individual circumstances of their customers. For example, in the United States, we are giving college students at impacted campuses free access to our eTextbooks and digital courseware for the remainder of the Spring semester, regardless of whether their instructor uses Cengage materials. In K12, we are also offering free access to our learning platforms and eBooks."

At the K-12 level, [National Geographic Learning \(ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19\)](http://ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19) is providing all U.S. K12 teachers with free access to its learning platforms and eBooks. Additionally, Cengage is extending access where it is needed for current digital users and providing training and support for teachers transitioning to online teaching.

Visit [ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19](http://ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19) for more details and to request access to materials and resources.

### AIM Montana Edition Users 9th & 10th Grade CTE Upload Error

**For Montana Edition users:** There is a validation error occurring when users are uploading their external student information system CTE data into Infinite Campus.

When attempting to upload high school students' 9, 10, 11, & 12th grade CTE data, the upload is rejecting the 9th and 10th grade data with this error message:

*CTE Concentrator must not be specified for student with stateID (xxxxxxxx). This field should only be specified if the student's grade is 11, 12, or UH.*

Montana Edition Users may still upload 11th & 12th grade CTE data, however, 9th and 10th grade CTE data must be manually entered. AIM is currently working on fixing this validation error with Infinite Campus and expect it to be available this summer. The OPI apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

For questions or assistance with AIM, please contact the AIM Helpdesk at [OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov) or by phone at 877.424.6681 or 444.3800.

### Students Can Take a Code Break with Bill Gates Today, Wednesday, April 22, at 11 am

One billion students are at home, and schools are struggling to support them. To help parents during this difficult time, Code.org has launched [Code Break \(code.org/break\)](http://code.org/break): a global, live-interactive classroom, where the [Code.org](http://code.org) team will teach students of all ages, with and without computers. Code Break offers a weekly dose of education, community, and computer science, and has brought together students from as far as Africa, China, India, and South America.

As the next special guest, Code Break welcomes the world's greatest philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder, Bill Gates, for a unique experience that connects computer science to current events. You do not want to miss this one.

Code Break is about more than education and computer science. It's about offering inspiration and community at a time when families are alone. To join our live classroom and receive the weekly challenges for students of all ages, visit [Code.org/Break](http://code.org/Break).

You can also watch past episodes, with different activities and guests every week:

- [Algorithms](#) with Hill Harper
- [Prototypes](#) with Mark Cuban and Lyndsey Scott
- [Encryption](#) with Ashton Kutcher and Mia Gil Epner
- [Digital Information](#) with Mike Krieger and Alice Keeler

Code Break is looking forward to future appearances from “Father of the Internet”, Vint Cerf, actor, producer, and writer, Keegan-Michael Key, and other world-renowned guests. Join [Code Break](#) to learn more.

Check out the [Code.org resources for students at home](#) and take a weekly [Code Break](#) every Wednesday.

### **Perkins & State CTE/VoEd Funding Intent to Apply for 2020-2021 School Year Due Thursday, April 30**

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 here. <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1471437/5a42>.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief electronic form for the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 Perkins or State CTE/VoEd 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/1471437/5a42>.

***The deadline for submission of the combined application is Thursday, April 30, 2020.***

If you have any questions please contact Ian Beagles, CTE Data Control Specialist, at [ian.beagles@mt.gov](mailto:ian.beagles@mt.gov) or by phone at 406.444.9019.

### **Perkins Spring CTE Now Collection—Identification of CTE Concentrators—Due April 30**

The Spring CTE Collection began March 2 and closes April 30, 2020.

The 2019-2020 Spring CTE Collection will be different this year for all districts. As per the new Perkins V rules starting this year, there are some significant changes to be aware of when reporting CTE concentrators to the OPI:

- All high school students can now qualify to be CTE concentrators (not just 12th grade students).
- Data is only being collecting if a student is a concentrator and/or if they are a single parent in Infinite Campus.
- The Montana Career Pathways (no longer areas of concentration) are to be identified for each student. A student can have multiple pathways. OPI is providing a separate [Perkins MT Career Pathways template](#) to identify these.
- The number of credits to qualify for a CTE concentrator is now two (2) credits or four (4) semesters of CTE courses.

Due to these changes in CTE definitions with Perkins V, an interim user [AIM guide](#) has been created to assist with the data collection process for this year only. (OPI is expecting screen updates in AIM to accommodate these changes for next year's spring collection.).

For this year only, after identifying the CTE concentrator students in Infinite Campus, all districts will need to extract their CTE concentrator data from Infinite Campus and copy it into a new 'Perkins MT Career Pathways' template. All districts will use this template to mark each student's Career Pathway(s). Then, all districts will send this completed template containing their CTE concentrators marked with their career pathways using the secure Montana [ePASS](#) system to Ian Beagles at the OPI.

The links to the interim CTE user guide for 2019-2020 and the new Perkins MT Career Pathways template for all districts are below.

Links to the 2019-2020 Spring CTE User Guide and Perkins Template:

- [2019-2020 Spring CTE Collection User Guide](#)
- [Perkins MT Career Pathways Template](#)

Links to Montana Career Pathways and Secondary Programs of Study:

- [CTE Montana Career Pathways Secondary Programs of Study](#)
- [Montana Career Pathways Website](#)

For questions relating to this process, please contact the AIM Help Desk at [OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov) or by phone at 877.424.6681 or 406.444.3800.

### **EVERFI Courses and Materials to Support At-Home, Online, and Remote Learning**

EVERFI ([everfi.com](http://everfi.com)) is here for your remote-learning needs, and many districts across the US (and Montana) are partnering with EVERFI to support distance education in this time of at-home learning.

With 20 different courses for K-12 that are standards-aligned, state recommended, and always free, EVERFI provides full local support for you to get set up and use our digital resources with your students. Creating a teacher dashboard and giving your students access to these self-guided, self-grading materials is quick and easy.

Through this unique circumstance, EVERFI has been hard at work creating material to support you.

Check out:

- [The full list of courses](#)
- [The Teacher Portal](#) (for more information, and to get signed up on your own)
- [A 2-week learning plan guide](#) (interactive pdf)

Additionally, EVERFI pairs very well with Google Classroom.

To get set up, or for tips and tricks for using EVERFI with Google Classroom or for remote learning in general, contact your local support, Sean Thomas at 208.731.7746 or [sthomas@everfi.com](mailto:sthomas@everfi.com).

### **Online Resources for Remote Instruction for Teachers, Students, and Parents from ISTE**

The [International Society for Technology in Education](#) (ISTE) has partnered with more where more than 30 organizations to curated free tools, strategies, tips and best practices for teaching online at [Learning Keeps Going](http://Learning Keeps Going), [learningkeepsgoing.org](http://learningkeepsgoing.org).

[Learning Keeps Going](#) offers guidance, best practices and strategies from experts in the field to assist teachers in online learning. At [Learning Keeps Going](#), hundreds of companies are making their digital education tools free to schools and students during extended closures.

Visit [Learning Keeps Going](#) for lessons, ideas and tips to help you guide your students as they make the shift to online learning.

### **Compiled Listing of Resources to Support Teaching from CSTA**

With the outbreak of COVID-19, the [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) knows that many teachers will be supporting their students remotely. Teaching CS is already difficult, and moving to a virtual environment can be challenging, so they have compiled a list of resources to help teachers support their students during this time.

The following link provides resources for taking care of yourself, teaching about coronavirus, preparing for online learning, online professional learning for teachers, and online learning resources for students. Please check out all the resources at [csteachers.org/page/csta-compiled-resources-to-support-teaching-during-covid-19](https://csteachers.org/page/csta-compiled-resources-to-support-teaching-during-covid-19).

Check out additional free online educational technology resources at [thejournal.com/Articles/2020/03/13/Free-Resources-Ed-Tech-Companies-Step-Up-During-Coronavirus-Outbreak.aspx?Page=1](https://thejournal.com/Articles/2020/03/13/Free-Resources-Ed-Tech-Companies-Step-Up-During-Coronavirus-Outbreak.aspx?Page=1). Here, you can get links to the Amazon Future Engineer curriculum, Discovery Education, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, K12 Inc, and the Smithsonian.

### **Free Access to CompuScholar Online Curriculum and Applications Open for Teacher Summer Professional Development**

[CompuScholar](#) ([compuscholar.com](https://compuscholar.com)) is offering free access to their online classes for schools impacted by COVID-19.

[CompuScholar](#) offers online turn-key courses for AP Computer Science A; Computer Skills; Introductory Programming with language options for C#, Java, and Python; Unity Game Programming, and Web Design.

Teachers interested in signing up can get more information at [compuscholar.com/schools/news/2020/03/16/free-access-for-schools-closed-by-coronavirus](https://compuscholar.com/schools/news/2020/03/16/free-access-for-schools-closed-by-coronavirus).

Additionally, CompuScholar offers [free skill building](#) professional development opportunities which are all web-based and can be completed without travel. Details about offerings and to apply for the summer session, please visit [compuscholar.com/schools/outreach/skill-building](https://compuscholar.com/schools/outreach/skill-building). Teachers interested in completing a CompuScholar skill building training may request approval for OPI renewal units from your local district.

### **Learn to Teach Stanford's Introduction to Logic in High Schools**

[Intrologic](https://intrologic.stanford.edu/homepage/index.html) ([intrologic.stanford.edu/homepage/index.html](https://intrologic.stanford.edu/homepage/index.html)) is a free Stanford-developed curriculum that can be taught as a standalone course or embedded in a course. It is suitable for grades 9-12.

The course addresses the Data and Analysis & Algorithms and Programming concepts in the CSTA Teaching Framework.

Logic is to Computer Science as Calculus is to Physics. So far, this essential mathematical training is not available to programmers being trained in high schools.

The course is well-tested as it has been taught at Stanford University for over 20 years, and it is now offered as a MOOC that has attracted over 625,000 enrolled students. The topics covered include propositional logic, relational logic, deduction, and proofs.

The course will be jointly taught by Stanford professor Michael Genesereth and award-winning high school teachers—Robert Luciano and Michael Towne.

The tuition is \$750 excluding any travel or lodging. A limited number of tuition scholarships are available.

Eight Different Locations

--[Chicago](#): June 22-26

--[New England \(Boston\)](#): June 29-July 3

--[Philadelphia](#): June 29-July 3

--[Atlanta](#): July 6-10

--[Houston](#): July 13-17

--[Seattle](#): July 20-24

- [Stanford](#): July 20-24
- [Los Angeles](#): July 27-31

### **Access to CodeHS Pro for Free Until June 30 Plus Virtual Resources and Events**

[CodeHS \(codehs.com\)](#) knows schools, communities, and families have a host of challenges adjusting to schools closing or moving to a virtual learning setup. Here are some free CodeHS resources available to better support teachers during this transition:

- CodeHS Pro is now available for free to teachers through June 30
- Check out the Virtual Learning Guide with best practices at [codehs.com/virtual](#).
- Join upcoming virtual events and meetups to connect with other CS teachers. Learn more and register at [codehs.com/virtualevents](#).
- Access over 40 computer science courses and supplemental materials to keep your students engaged.

To activate CodeHS Pro and access all the virtual learning resources, visit [codehs.com/virtual](#) or email [hello@codehs.com](mailto:hello@codehs.com). The CodeHS Team is here to support you and your computer science classes, whether that is virtually or in the classroom.

### **Online Resources from Oracle Academy**

As faculty across the globe work to engage with students in an online 21st-century environment, Oracle wants to let you know that [Oracle Academy \(academy.oracle.com\)](#) offers online resources for teaching and learning, anytime, anywhere for FREE.

Using a browser, faculty and students can access Oracle Academy resources including:

- Free [curriculum and learning resources](#) with exams, quizzes, and answer keys to show evidence of learning, plus How To Guides, all available to members through the Oracle Academy [learning management system](#) platform
- [Oracle Academy Education Bytes](#): diverse learning experiences that reinforce key concepts and include hands-on labs, projects and challenges, and videos and presentations
- Fun [Oracle Academy Workshops in a Box](#) that make computing fun and engaging while leveraging best academic practices like project-based learning and assessments
- Free online [Resource Library](#), offering a variety of forums, sites, and learning materials

Thank you for joining Oracle Academy in their mission to advance computing education globally to increase knowledge, innovation, skills development, and diversity in technology fields.

### **Guidance Regarding 2019-2020 Perkins Spending & CTE Distance Learning Resources**

Now that all scheduled conferences have been cancelled through the end of the school year, many schools have been asking about Perkins funds that were set aside for professional development. We have NOT received any guidance from the Department of Education about extending Perkins spending past June 30, so we recommend the following:

- You do not have to use your funds for professional development. If you choose to use monies for other purposes, you will need to submit an amendment to move funds to another budget category. All CTE Specialists are available to assist you.
- You may need additional supplies/equipment to address online learning.
- While Perkins requires schools to spend their allocation on items needed for the current school year, you may purchase CTE textbooks, equipment, or supplies for a new course or emerging pathway in order for your teacher(s) to train this year for the new course or pathway.

If you choose to offer professional development for teachers, the Montana Association of Career & Technical Education (Montana ACTE) has the following online programs available. These are currently being offered at no cost.

Distance learning resources from the Association for Career & Technical Education: [acteonline.org/professional-development/opportunities/distance-learning-resources](https://acteonline.org/professional-development/opportunities/distance-learning-resources).

Transition to Teaching Online: Go to [Online Teachers](#) on CTE Learn and click on *Delivering Online Instruction*. You'll see the following online courses that you can access for free.

- EL102 Online Teaching Techniques
- EL103 Teaching Online: A Student-Centered Approach
- EL104 Teaching and Organizing a Virtual Learning Environment
- EL105 Online Language: Communicating with Students
- EL108 Preparing Students to Become Good Online Learners
- EL112 Workload Management Strategies for Teaching Online

Register/login on the [CTE Learn](#) site and enter the master key "MK-ACTE" to enroll in any of the above courses. This complimentary key is valid through May 1. Contact [support@ctelearn.org](mailto:support@ctelearn.org) if you have any questions.

CTE Learn courses are self-paced and each course takes approximately four hours to complete. Designed and developed specifically for the CTE community, our courses focus on practical strategies and techniques that participants can apply right away.

### **Information to Access No-Charge Resources from B.E. Publishing for Online Instruction thru June 30**

With schools all across America rapidly closing due to the Coronavirus crisis, [BE Publishing \(bepublishing.com\)](#) recognizes the need for quality online instructional material is critical during this trying time.

Therefore, [BE Publishing](#) is offering free access to their resources for use in online instruction. Below is important information on how to obtain their online programs and curriculum for students and teachers at no charge through **June 30, 2020**. It is their way of 'pitching in' during these unsettling times, as schools across America rely on online instruction.

These resources provide teachers with a host of CTE content including eTexts, instructor resources, student worksheets, and a lot more. It is [BE Publishing](#)'s hope that this will give you and your students the tools for effective and engaging online instruction and learning.

Please click the following link and complete a short form that will link to a document with instructions to access the free materials: <https://mailchi.mp/bepublishing.com/get-resources>.

BE Publishing would like to hear some short stories about you are using their resources with your students. Stories can be submitted directly to Michael Gecawich, President and Founder of BE Publishing, at [michael@bepublishing.com](mailto:michael@bepublishing.com).

### **Energize Your Classroom with Real-World Lessons from the Wall Street Journal**

This Spring, energize your classroom with fresh, real-world lessons from [The Wall Street Journal's Critical Thinking Resource](#).

Curated by specialized faculty members—the newly updated collection of WSJ articles can be easily integrated into your classes with tangible examples of course concepts that students can apply in the real world.

Save time preparing for your lectures with relevant and timely articles and thought-provoking questions that can be used in assignments, quizzes and discussions.

Visit [go.dowjones.com/critical-thinking-resource-business/?mod=wsj\\_ctrlaunch](https://go.dowjones.com/critical-thinking-resource-business/?mod=wsj_ctrlaunch) to gain access.

## **Adobe Offering Free Access to Creative Cloud for Students thru May**

Do you currently use Adobe Creative Cloud applications in your classroom or lab? If so, Adobe is offering free access to Creative Cloud tools through May for home use by students attending schools that currently only provide lab access through May.

To provide access to your students during school closures/online instruction, please go to [helpx.adobe.com/enterprise/kb/covid-19-education-labs.html](https://helpx.adobe.com/enterprise/kb/covid-19-education-labs.html). Schools/districts will need to enter their Adobe Admin Console URL within the application for access.

## **Start Here. Go Places.® Shares Free Virtual Resources for Taking Your Classroom Online**

As the nation responds to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), teachers across the country are being challenged to maintain a robust learning environment without physical access to a classroom.

One of the core guiding principles at the AICPA is to keep their members and students at the heart of everything they do. They believe that introducing high school students early into the accounting profession will help fill a talented pipeline with future CPAs. This is possible because of teachers, like you, who push and encourage students to start their journey in this profession.

To help keep your students engaged, inspired and informed from afar, AICPA and [Start Here. Go Places.®](#) pulled together a list of free online tools, games and resources that can be shared with both parents and students:

### **1. Virtual Classroom Support**

Looking for virtual classroom advice? [Accounting Is Analytics](#) - an online accounting teaching resource developed by accounting professors at Kent State University, the University of South Florida and Austin Community College, are hosting webinars this week for teachers who are moving classes online. Visit their website to sign up for their webinars today.

### **2. Bank On It Online Accounting Game**

If your students crave a little friendly competition, our [Bank On It](#) game is the perfect way for them to see who is most fluent in accounting principles. The game will put their knowledge to the test and present them with real, working-world scenarios. In the absence of college basketball's March contest, try the Bank On It tournament functionality and create a competition bracket within your classroom. For instructions on how to set this up, click [here](#).

### **3. Free Online Learning Platforms**

Students can continue learning about the accounting profession outside of the classroom with [Khan Academy](#) and [EverFi](#) -- two free online learning platforms with sections that explore accounting, finance, and business topics at a pace that's right for them. For learning in short spurts, students can also download [Accounting Bootcamp](#) by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on the [Apple App Store](#).

### **4. Virtual Field Trips**

Students can visit the wonderful world of accounting - all in the comfort of their PJs - with our [Virtual Field Trips](#). Since 2012, we've visited 14 CPAs across different industries to explore their roles and to give an inside scoop on what it's like to be an accountant.

### **5. Virtual Games**

Staying home doesn't mean students can't have a little bit of fun together - and learn along the way! Invite students to play a variety of games using video conferencing resources (like [Zoom](#) and [Webex](#)) that are offered free to K-12 schools. For those who love a good quiz show, Indiana University of Pennsylvania developed an [accounting Jeopardy](#) slide deck that also allows you to create your own questions. If your students are more into board games, Labyrinth Learning developed a way to learn [accounting through Monopoly](#). If you have the board game at home, you can serve as a game master while your students play along online.

### **6. Free Internet Access**

For some students, virtual learning may not be possible because of financial constraints. Internet providers, like [Spectrum](#) and [Comcast](#), are offering free internet access for 60 days and free installation to households with either K-12 or college students who don't currently use the service.

As always, AICPA and [Start Here. Go Places.®](#) are here to help support you during this uncertain time. If you need additional help or have an idea for a fun resource they can provide, feel free to email them at [startheregoplaces@aicpa.org](mailto:startheregoplaces@aicpa.org).

### **Grants and Personal Finance Simulation from Stukent**

[Stukent \(stukent.com\)](http://stukent.com) is a digital courseware provider in the high school and higher education space. Stukent's mission is to help educators help students help the world; it achieves this by developing and providing first-in-the-world courseware in the form of real-world simulations, up-to-date digital textbooks, video lectures from industry experts, and more.

Stukent's Mimic Personal Finance simulation ([stukent.com/mimic-personal-finance](http://stukent.com/mimic-personal-finance)) provides a safe environment for students to make some of life's most important decisions. Students make realistic financial decisions and see firsthand the consequences of acquiring debt, building credit, paying taxes, and buying stocks. Students will navigate a natural, differentiated learning experience to define financial success for themselves.

To further the goal of increasing financial literacy in young adults, Stukent is offering \$4 million in grants to provide personal finance courseware entirely free to the first 2,000 high schools nationwide that request free access for the 2019–2020 school year.

If you are a Jump\$tart member and sign up for the free trial, you are automatically guaranteed a place among the 2,000 high schools.

Visit [stukent.com/jumpstart](http://stukent.com/jumpstart) to learn more, and enter promo code "Jump\$tart VIP" to automatically join the free trial.

For more information about Mimic Personal Finance and Stukent, contact vice president of marketing Garrett Brock via email at [garrett.brock@stukent.com](mailto:garrett.brock@stukent.com).

### **Resources from the Montana Career Lab and the Montana Career Information System**

Montana Career Lab has career education resources you can use with your K-12 students. Some of these are online and others are PDFs that can be printed out. Visit <http://lmi.mt.gov/career> to access resources and be sure to view the video tour of our site.

On the Montana Career Lab site, scroll down to the MCIS TOOL KIT and DAILY ACTIVITIES section. Once here

- Click on the [Welcome to Montana Career Lab](#) video to learn about the site.
- Click on the Learning Games image to see video games on careers.
- Click the "MCIS Tool Kit" heading for instructional videos and other resources to help you use MCIS.
- Click the "Daily Activities" button for daily activities on our Facebook page.
- To Order materials go to <https://lmi.mt.gov/Publications/PublicationOrders>.

MCIS has curriculum plans for nine different areas of study, including career and technical education. This curriculum includes grade-appropriate activities for 8-12 grades and step-by-step instructions on how to implement them in the classroom.

Links to the curriculum plans are included below.

- [Career and Technical Curriculum](#)
- [Health & P.E. Curriculum](#)
- [Science Curriculum](#)
- [English/Language Curriculum](#)
- [Studies/Social Science](#)
- [Financial Literacy Curriculum](#)
- [MCIS Advisory Curriculum](#)
- [Visual & Performing Arts](#)
- [Math Curriculum](#)

You can also access these curriculums in MCIS by logging in to your admin or staff account. If you do not have an account, or cannot remember your login credentials, please contact Donetta McDowell (406.444.709 or [mcdowell@mt.gov](mailto:mcdowell@mt.gov)) or Mary Ellen Earnhardt (406.444.1770 or [maryellen.earnhardt@mt.gov](mailto:maryellen.earnhardt@mt.gov)).



### **Early-Bird Registration Now Open for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2020 Conference in Nashville, December 2-5**

The Association for Career & Technical Education's ([acteonline.org](http://acteonline.org)) [CareerTech VISION 2020](http://www.careertechvision.com) conference will be held December 2-5, 2020, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Early-Bird registration is current open and will end July 10, 2020. The ACTE-member Early-Bird registration is \$395. After July 10, the rate increases to \$445.

Room rates at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center are \$198 plus taxes and fees. A link to book rooms will be provided within your VISION registration confirmation.

For complete CareerTech VISION 2020 details, visit [www.careertechvision.com](http://www.careertechvision.com).

### **New Perkins V Information Section Added to OPI CTE Website**

The Office of Public Instruction has a NEW Perkins V section on the [CTE webpage](#) to help you develop your Perkins V Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment for the upcoming 2020-2021 Perkins fiscal year.

This [link](#) will take you to the resources listed below.

There are several new posts:

--Are You Perkins V Ready? (A timeline to keep your district on track)

--A fillable-file Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) Manual. Please save your work as this will be uploaded to E-grants as the main section of your E-grant for coming year.

--Labor Market Dashboard designed by the Montana Department of Labor using Montana Career Pathways

--Montana's 16 Statewide Career Pathways website

--Templates for each pathway with possible course combinations

--New Work-based Learning Manual

--Course Codes to use when reporting Work-based Learning

--Dual credit courses for specific pathways and college campus contacts

Questions regarding Perkins V may be sent to Renee Erlandsen, [rerlandsen@mt.gov](mailto:rerlandsen@mt.gov), or call her at 406-994-6986.

### **Looking Ahead to June . . . Computer Science Professional Development Events in Great Falls, Billings, & Missoula**

Four computer science professional development courses for Montana's high school teachers have been announced for Summer 2020.

Generous stipends and travel support is available. To register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5446nl6>.

If your registration is accepted, there is no additional fee for you to attend. A limited number of participants will receive travel support and stipends, so you may be responsible for covering the cost of travel if you do not receive funding. Outreach activities are required in order for you to receive the full stipend (details follow upon registration acceptance). Registrations completed by March 1, 2020 will receive priority consideration for funding.

[Mobile CSP](#) will be offered June 15-19, in Great Falls. Based on the College Board's emerging Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles curriculum framework for introductory computer science. Students learn programming and

computer science principles by building socially useful mobile apps using MIT's App Inventor. Learn more about the Mobile CSP curriculum at [mobilecsp.org](http://mobilecsp.org). For questions, contact Stacy Dolder at [stacy\\_dolderer@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:stacy_dolderer@gfps.k12.mt.us).

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC) will be available June 15-19, in Billings. The course provides an overview of the world of computing, as well as a gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language. It examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition, and introduces exciting ideas and influential people. This course can be taught for dual enrollment. Contact Jeff Braun, [jb Braun@mtech.edu](mailto:jb Braun@mtech.edu), with any questions.

Python Modules for Math and Science will be June 22-26, in Missoula. Learn how to integrate modules that emphasize Python programming and computational thinking into high school science and math classes. Modules are fully developed and ready to go. They vary in length and difficulty. Opportunities to develop custom modules for your own classes will be provided and supported. For questions or more information, contact Yolanda Reimer at [yolanda.reimer@mso.umt.edu](mailto:yolanda.reimer@mso.umt.edu).

Game Programming will take place June 22-26, in Missoula. The training will focus on 2D and 3D game development using [Unity](http://Unity). Learn more about Unity at [unity.com](http://unity.com). Please contact Hunter Lloyd, [hunter.lloyd@montana.edu](mailto:hunter.lloyd@montana.edu), with questions or for more information.

### **Fun Facts and Trivia**

The açai berry, pronounced, ah-sigh-EE, is a Brazilian superfruit that is native to the Amazon region.

People native to the Amazon have been using these berries for hundreds of years and they are one of the essential parts of traditional medicine.

Acai berries also grow in Trinidad and larger parts of northern South America.

The small, round blue and purple fruit is similar to a grape in appearance, but much more interesting in character.

The fruit comes from the açai palm and its name derives from the Portuguese adaptation of the Tupian word *iwaca'i*, which translates to 'fruit that' cries or expels water.

The açai palm trees can grow over 60 feet.

Açai palms are located in swamps, floodplains, and Amazon rain forests.

The açai berry has become a worldwide craze since the early 2000s; things really took off for the açai berry in the U.S. when Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Oz dubbed it a superfood in 2008.

The United States and Japan represent 90% of the world's demand for the precious fruit.

The harvesting of açai berries is done by hand which means that the locals who are responsible for this task must climb up to dangerous heights just to get them.

Açai berries are shipped by boat and spoil rather easily so they must be harvested with a great deal of speed and then frozen or freeze dried.

The taste of an açai berry is a mouth-watering cross between dark chocolate and blueberry, with notes of hazelnut.

The açai berry has 10 times the antioxidant level of grapes and 2x that of blueberries.

It's believed that antioxidants help your body's cells from getting damaged by oxidative processes and remove the potentially damaging oxidizing agents from your body; therefore, they have the potential to prevent against heart disease, diabetes, and various diseases related to aging.

Açaí berries would not be considered a superfruit without their beautiful skin as, similar to most fruits, the skin of an açaí berry contains fiber and various nutrients, and a majority of the antioxidants.

The fruit contains huge amounts of antioxidants which promote cell growth and reduce the negative effects of premature aging as it the reason why the superfruit is currently used in beauty products worldwide.

Açaí berries have detoxification properties and eliminate toxins and other harmful substances from your body making it healthy and stronger.

Some use açaí to make an exotic hot chocolate: it is prepared with cocoa, milk, vanilla, cinnamon, chili pepper, honey or agave nectar.

Açaí pulp may also be cooked: with dried or fresh figs (plus ginger, honey, chocolate and vanilla) it makes a jam for serving hot or cold, possibly with toasted bread and cheese (vegan and not).

The açaí bowl first gained popularity outside of Brazil in the Hawaiian Islands and quickly spread to the US west coast and eventually across the county.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at [www.mbea.info](http://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*