

## The Wednesday Reader

November 9, 2016

### Early-Bird Registration for 2017 Western Business Education Association Ends December 1

The Western Business Education Association's [2017 Conference](#) will be hosted by the Montana Business Education Association and held in Bozeman, February 16-20, 2017, at the Best Western GranTree Inn.

Online registration for the WBEA 2017 Conference can now be completed at <https://bozeman2017.wufoo.com/forms/zxtgf2905hyxuy>. Registration is \$200.00 for NBEA/WBEA members and includes all general and breakout sessions, the Exhibitors' Reception Friday evening, the Saturday afternoon WBEA Luncheon and General Session, and the Awards Dinner and Closing Session on Sunday.

In addition to the breakout and general sessions, you can also register for a variety of hands-on computer workshops, Bozeman-area tours, and be sure to register to attend Saturday night's Montana Special Event to be held at the world famous Museum of Rockies.

One (1) Graduate-level credit will be available from MSU Billings (\$99 payable to MSU Billings) as well as OPI Renewal Units.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Best Western GranTree at 406.587.5261 and refer to **Group Code 806427** (Montana Business Education Association). Rooms for the conference are available at the \$92 group rate (plus tax) which is valid from Tuesday, February 14 to Tuesday, February 21, and includes breakfast and free WiFi.

Please visit the [WBEA 2017 Conference](#) page for more information including the conference timeline, computer workshops, and tours.

### Graduate Credit Available for WBEA 2017 Conference – Only \$99

The 2017 Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference will be held in Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20, 2017, and the WBEA 2017 Conference Committee is excited to provide attendees with an added benefit. Attendees of the WBEA 2017 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 Business Education Association has partnered with Montana State University Billings to provide WBEA 2017 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/IEkuA1>.

The credit, EDCI 589-450, 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.

WBEA 2017 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), a 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 WBEA 2017 Conference are implemented. All materials will need to be submitted by March 1, 2017.

For complete details about the credit offering, including 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 WBEA 2017 Conference website at <https://goo.gl/a0bd6d> along with other details regarding the 2017 event in Bozeman.

Questions regarding the graduate credit offering can be sent to Eric Swenson at [eswenson@mt.gov](mailto:eswenson@mt.gov). See you in Bozeman.

### **W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Available at WBEA 2017**

W!se developed a Financial Literacy Teacher Certification Program in 2008. Teachers prepare for the assessment through self-guided study using the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual. After preparation teachers take the W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test. Testers have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the comprehensive 75 multiple-choice question assessment. The test evaluates instructor's knowledge on topics that are aligned to state & national standards.

Teachers who pass the test earn a Certification in Personal Finance (CPF). The CPF demonstrates proficiency in personal finance. Certified teachers are subsequently encouraged to enroll their schools in the W!se Financial Literacy Certification Program for students.

The W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test will be offered during the 2017 WBEA Conference in Bozeman Montana. Certification will be available on Saturday, February 18, beginning at 1:45 pm. Details regarding certification testing and the WBEA 2017 testing schedule, please visit <https://goo.gl/XcmRR4>.

Testers MUST bring a personal WIFI enabled device (laptop, iPad, Chromebook...) to test upon. The cost of testing is \$50. To participate teachers must register prior to the conference. To register please visit SurveyMonkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZLJ8TZ> and complete the registration survey.

Payment for the test can be submitted through PayPal, via the link included in the survey, or by contacting David Anderson of w!se ([danderson@wise-ny.org](mailto:danderson@wise-ny.org), 212-421-2700). Once registration is complete and payment has been submitted testers will receive the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual via email.

Working in Support of Education (w!se) was founded in 1998 with a mission to improve the lives of young people through programs that develop financial literacy and readiness for college and the workforce.

### **EverFi Hiring Montana Schools Manager**

[EverFi \(everfi.com\)](http://everfi.com) is bringing its online curriculum to thousands *more* students throughout the U.S., and the need a dynamic, tireless and passionate schools manager in Montana to help [EverFi](http://EverFi) do so.

[EverFi](http://EverFi) is a fast-growing, venture-backed company that teaches kids critical skills (e.g., financial literacy, digital awareness) that help them succeed outside the classroom and later in life. [EverFi](http://EverFi) schools managers establish partnerships with school districts by developing high-level relationships, training teachers, providing counsel and support—and driving towards ambitious usage and satisfaction objectives.

If you or someone you know is interested, apply [here](#). To discuss the position further, feel free to contact Mick Karls of EverFi at 406.204.1148 or [mick@everfi.com](mailto:mick@everfi.com).

## UPDATE Regarding Perkins 2016 Fall CTE Data Collection

Due to changes in our collection dates from the Federal Department of Education, the Fall 2016 CTE Data Collection needs to be completed by all schools no later than **November 18, 2016** to ensure we have the most accurate data in our Consolidated Annual Report. The Fall CTE Data Collection is a follow up to last year's Spring CTE Data Collection. We at the OPI realize this is a last-minute change to a deadline and sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

Students identified as CTE Concentrators last year (2015-2016) and graduated in the spring of 2016 should be contacted and asked their current post-graduation status. After contact, the appropriate post-graduation status code must be entered into the AIM/Infinite Campus data system for each CTE Concentrator.

All high schools that received funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program in 2015-2016 are required to complete this fall follow up collection to maintain their eligibility to receive Perkins funding.

The OPI CTE and AIM staff will be calling schools, as well as sending lists of records (via the ePass Montana File Transfer Service) that need attention today and tomorrow. There may also be records that are missing Concentrators and Area of Concentration on 2015-2016 Seniors.

Click [HERE](#) to go to ePass Montana to sign up for an ePass account or login to ePass. Once you are logged in, go to the File Transfer Service area and click on the 'received file' tab to see the file from the OPI and then download it.

Tip: The ePass system will send you periodic email notifications on the status of that file and when it will be automatically deleted in ePass. After the file has been downloaded and saved to your environment, it can be deleted from the ePass system, which will stop these periodic email notifications.

Instructions for completing the Fall CTE Data Collection—called the *'Quick Reference Guide' for the Fall CTE Data Collection*—are located in two places on the OPI website: on the AIM web page listed in Reports and Data and also on the **Secondary CTE** web page under the *'Data Collections'* tab. The Instructions can also be found here: [Fall AIM CTE Collection User Guide](#).

**PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to verify the list of CTE Concentrators** from what your district submitted last spring. Any additions, corrections, or changes to the list of CTE Concentrators must be made no later than **November 18, 2016**, to be accurately reflected in federal reporting and used to compute Perkins Performance Indicators for your school.

Technical AIM questions regarding the Fall CTE Data Collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1.877.424.6681 (toll-free) or email [opiainhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiainhelp@mt.gov). Questions regarding the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program data requirements should be directed to Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist at 406.444.9019 or email [chendricks@mt.gov](mailto:chendricks@mt.gov).

## Montana Teenpreneur Challenge Update

December 1 is the deadline for students to enter the *Teenpreneur Challenge*, a business development contest that will shine a spotlight on Montana's next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders.

With recent sponsors joining the *Challenge*, 1st Place winners will now receive \$500, six months of business coaching by Blackstone LaunchPads at MSU and UM, and special behind-the-scenes tickets to attend the annual Made in Montana Tradeshow this March. These tickets will allow winning students to shadow wholesale buyers, to see how deals are made, and to attend seminars for Montana producers.

Learn more about the *Challenge* at [www.OneMontana.org](http://www.OneMontana.org). Questions? Email [Challenge@OneMontana.org](mailto:Challenge@OneMontana.org).

### **EverFi Announces Six \$1,000 Scholarships for Financial Literacy**

Students completing the [FutureSmart](#) middle school financial literacy course are eligible for 5 \$1,000 scholarships through the [National Blog Contest](#). Additionally, another \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for students who have completed the course by March 31, 2017.

FutureSmart empowers students to effectively manage their finances, make sound decisions, and become stewards of their financial future. Through the story-based narrative, students play the mayor of a town as they help local citizens make real-life, personal finance decisions. Interactive exercises challenge students to make choices in real-life scenarios to achieve important goals around saving, education and career planning, and budgeting.

Built around the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies and the National Jump\$tart Standards for Financial Literacy, this online course provides students with engaging and educational 21st century skills.

To learn more, contact Mick Karls of EverFi at 406-204-1148 or [mick@everfi.com](mailto:mick@everfi.com).

### **Superintendent Juneau Releases Career Readiness Definition, Guidance for Schools**

Superintendent Denise Juneau, business and school leaders unveiled career readiness guidance to help public schools measure whether students are ready for the workforce. The guidance comes after a year of work from her Montana College and Career Readiness Standards Commission (MCCRS).

The career readiness guide addresses academic and technical skills, employability skills, and work ethic and professionalism skills. To view and download the complete Career Readiness Guide, please go to [http://opi.mt.gov/Media\\_Center/MCCRS.html](http://opi.mt.gov/Media_Center/MCCRS.html).

### **ACTE Region V's 2017 Leadership Conference Set for Next April**

Make plans to attend the 2017 [ACTE Region V](#) Leadership Conference April 6-8 in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Planning Committee has been organizing an exciting and educational conference for CTE teachers, administrators and other stakeholders. Pre-conference activities include:

- CTE Leadership 101
- A Leadership Strand for New
- Emerging Leaders (as well as anyone desiring a refresher course)
- A Scavenger Hunt of downtown Rapid City
- An informal reception.

Dr. David Jones from North Carolina State University will kick off the opening session discussing leadership with breakout sessions to follow. Education tours including dinner are planned for Thursday afternoon and

evening. Friday includes more breakout sessions and a return of the round tables as a time for participants to gather great information and share best practices.

The awards brunch is tentatively planned for Mt. Rushmore on Saturday morning. Watch for more details and information at the Region V Business Meeting at VISION.

View the [Call for Presentations](#) and download the [Conference Brochure](#).

### **FAFSA: Big Changes are on the Way for 2017-2018 Academic Year**

Now is the time for Montana students and their families to focus on how to get the resources needed in order to pay for college.

Families can now fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid – or FAFSA, beginning this fall. The resources at [www.reachhighermontana.org](http://www.reachhighermontana.org) include free information necessary to learn how to fill out your FAFSA and a listing of events scheduled in almost every Montana community this fall and winter to help students and their families access federal student aid.

In addition to being able to file their FAFSA earlier, students and parents are now able to use their 2015 tax information for the 2017-2018 school year.

The priority filing date at most Montana post-secondary institutions is December 1, but November 15 for the University of Montana and Missoula College. This does not mean that a student cannot fill out the FAFSA after these dates; however, the priority deadline is used by these institutions for the majority of their student aid decisions.

### **5 Ways to Use Bank On It® in Your Classroom**

Heard of Bank On It? It's our online game designed to help students master accounting concepts and trivia. It's been recently revamped to be more mobile friendly, so students can play anytime, anywhere -- but that doesn't mean there aren't still plenty of ways to use it in the classroom. In fact, we've got five examples right here:

**As a Class Tournament** - With more than 700 tournaments created so far, the Bank On It game is a great way for students to use their accounting knowledge for class-wide bragging rights.

**To Gain Financial Literacy** - Try out the Financial Literacy version to help your students get a better grasp on how to make smart decisions managing their own money.

**For Team Building** - Have students play one on one, in small groups or even as a class to help them cultivate the soft skills they'll also need to excel in a career in accounting.

**To Challenge Them** - Add an extra level of difficulty by having students play (and beat) the computer. Or up the ante with "CEO level" - where students have the added challenge of tracking their balance.

**As a Reward** - Keep students who finish in-class assignments early engaged with a game of Bank On It. You can even serve it up as a way for students to earn extra credit.

Create your account to get your unique classroom code, if you haven't already, so you can track students' game play. Get started now at [BankOnItGame.com](http://BankOnItGame.com).

### **Study Shows My Classroom Economy Builds Students' Financial Literacy**

Headquartered in Valley Forge, Pa., Vanguard is one of the world's largest investment companies, offering a large selection of low-cost mutual funds, ETFs, advice, and related services. Vanguard crew members employ their professional skills and expertise to benefit our clients and our communities. [My Classroom Economy, myclassroomeconomy.org](http://myclassroomeconomy.org), (MCE) is a financial education program created at Vanguard and developed by volunteer crew members. Vanguard's partners in these efforts include the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, school districts in all 50 states, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Financial Security.

[MCE](http://myclassroomeconomy.org) is available to students in kindergarten through 12th grade and uses materials that teachers and administrators may access online for free and are easy to download. By simulating an actual economy, MCE provides real-world lessons that can last a lifetime, and it does so in a way kids enjoy.

[MCE](http://myclassroomeconomy.org) is an innovative method for teaching elementary school students the fundamentals of financial decision-making and responsibility. The free K-12 classroom program was designed by Vanguard in partnership with educators to be experiential, in contrast with more traditional financial education programs based around lesson plans. Students participate in a classroom economic system and learn the importance of earning, saving and delaying gratification. The program has reached more than half a million students nationwide since its launch in 2011.

Students participating in [My Classroom Economy](http://myclassroomeconomy.org) show consistent gains in financial knowledge, budgeting behavior, financial socialization, and economic experience, according to the results of a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Financial Security, with funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury, and in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County Florida. The study also shows the MCE approach is appealing to teachers because it is easily integrated into the school day, helps minimize time away from core learning requirements, and does not require extensive teacher training. The results highlight the promise of financial learning programs for elementary school-age students.

For more information or to contact [My Classroom Economy](http://myclassroomeconomy.org), please visit <http://myclassroomeconomy.org/aboutus.html?contact>.

### **Online LEGO MindStorm Course--Introduction to Robotics using LEGO Mindstorms**

Montana State University's extended university has put together an online, non-credit, course to introduce robotics as a method for teaching STEM. The course is designed for pre- and in-service teachers, and is also appropriate for youth leaders, coaches or parents who are supporting FIRST LEGO League (FLL) robotic competition teams.

Through self-paced, instructor-led tutorials, you'll learn about:

- computer systems and programming;
- robot construction, locomotion and autonomy;

-sensors; and  
-common robot challenges.

The course uses the LEGO Mindstorms robotic platform and supports both the NXT and EV3 versions.

This self-paced course has an open registration so you may enroll at any time that is convenient for you. Registration is required along with a \$49 course fee. OPI renewal units can also be earned for a \$25 fee.

For more information about the course, please visit [www.montana.edu/news/15901/msu-online-course-introduces-robotics-for-stem-education](http://www.montana.edu/news/15901/msu-online-course-introduces-robotics-for-stem-education) and complete registration and course details can be found at [eu.courses.montana.edu/CourseStatus.awp?&course=16SWROBOTS](http://eu.courses.montana.edu/CourseStatus.awp?&course=16SWROBOTS).

### **Fun Facts and Trivia**

The Japanese name for Japan is “Nihon” or “Nippon” which means “sun origin”

Japanese cuisine is one of only three national food traditions recognized by the UN for its cultural significance

In Japan, rice is always present in every meal

The fortune cookie originated in Kyoto (Japan) during the 19th century..

The world’s most expensive tuna was sold in Japan and costs \$735, 000.

The word ‘sushi’ actually refers to vinegar rice, not fish. The word ‘sashimi’, on the other hand, means pierced flesh.

Standing chopsticks upright in rice is done only for a dead person; to do so while having a meal is considered a severe violation of Japanese’s eating manners.

Unlike other countries where a loaf of bread contains several slices, the typical Japanese loaf of bread only has six.

Ovens are not nearly as commonplace as in rice cookers Japanese households.

Japan imports approximately 85% Jamaica's annual coffee production.

The two most important holiday celebrations in Japan are New Year’s and Bon Obon; Obon is the Festival for the Dead usually celebrated in mid-August.

Mt. Fuji or Fujiyama is one of the most popular destinations in Japan for both Japanese and tourists. Japanese refer to Fujiyama as The Holy Mountain and its name indicates everlasting life.

Some of the most well-known companies in the world are Japanese such as Toyota, Honda, Sony, Nintendo, Canon, Panasonic, Toshiba, and Sharp.

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.

**Eric Swenson**

Business Education Specialist  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
PO Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620-2501  
406.444.7991  
406.444.1373 (Fax)  
[eswenson@mt.gov](mailto:eswenson@mt.gov)



*"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*