

The Wednesday Reader

November 16, 2016

Please note with the Thanksgiving holiday next week, there will not be a Wednesday Reader for November 23.

The Hour of Code is Coming During Computer Science Education Week: December 5-11

The [Hour of Code](#) has always been a grassroots effort to celebrate computer science in unique ways. This year's Hour of Code will be held December 5-11 and [the list of Hour of Code activities](#) has just been refreshed with new content, an updated look, and a filter tool that will allow you to find the best activity for your classroom.

Some cool things about this refresh includes:

An expanded selection to include *over 200 tutorials and lesson plans* that introduce students to computer science in a variety of ways. Have fun exploring!

Has your class done the Hour of Code before? Maybe they're even experts at certain puzzles. *No problem.* Use our new filters to discover more challenging activities that fit all grade and experience levels!

There are tons of other ways to filter activities, too: find offline tutorials, and activities that work with robots, iPads, Androids, and whatever other hardware your class has!

Want to connect computer science to social studies, math, or another subject? Use the new topic filter to find subject-specific activities. And encourage other subject area teachers at your school to sign up and try it in their classrooms too.

There are more updates to come through November, including *a few surprise activities* that your students will love. Follow Hour of Code [@teachcode](#) to get the latest!

For those who have never done the Hour of Code before, the basics of the campaign are still the same: *Anybody* can learn, *no experience* required, and it only takes an hour. But for veteran teachers, there are now lesson plans that let you guide students through more complicated activities.

Hopefully the broad selection of activities will enable both newcomers and veterans to get the most out of their Hour of Code. This year, make an Hour of Code that is truly your own.

Tuition Funding Sources (TFS) Offers Over \$41 Billion in Scholarship Opportunities & is Free

Tuition Funding Sources ([tuitionfundingsources.com](#)) is a free, online source which includes a scholarship database that is updated daily. On average, 5,000 new scholarships are added to the database every month.

[Tuition Funding Sources](#) also provides students with a career personality test, and detailed career information. Students using [TFS](#) can determine what careers suit them best, find schools that offer degree programs in those fields and then discover scholarships and other forms of financial aid to help pay for college tuition and expenses.

[Tuition Funding Sources](#) is available free of charge to all high school students looking to continue their education after graduation, all college students currently attending a college or university and all other adults

either at home or in the work force that desire to obtain a college degree or take college courses to improve their skills and education.

Students and interested adult learners can visit tuitionfundingsources.com today to create a free account and start searching the more than 7 million available scholarships today.

Having been collecting scholarship information every year since 1987, [Tuition Funding Sources](http://TuitionFundingSources.com) is one of the oldest and most trusted names in the industry.

Save the Date – Montana Economics Challenge 2017

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis will host the 22nd Annual Montana Economics Challenge on Monday, March 6, 2017 in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel.

The Economics Challenge is a one-day contest in which secondary students compete as team members and as individuals for prizes based on their knowledge of economics. The National Competition held in New York City will feature winning teams from four regional economics challenges. One of the four regional competitions, The Heartland Region, is held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Winning teams from eight other states will meet to determine which teams advance to the national event.

During the first three rounds of competition, students are tested in four areas: macroeconomics, microeconomics, current events/economic applications and international economics. The final round is a timed quiz-bowl play-off between the top two teams in each of two divisions. The first team to answer a majority of the questions wins.

For more information, please contact Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org or Rhonda Krieger at 406.447.3864.

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

The Western Business Education Association's [2017 Conference](http://2017Conference.com) 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 fulfill 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), 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. 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, 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 do so.

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 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.

UPDATE Regarding Perkins 2016 Fall CTE Data Collection – Data Due Friday, November 18

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. 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.

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. Questions? Email 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.

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](#).

Fun Facts and Trivia

Kazakhstan is the 9th largest country by area in the world, but it has one of the lowest population densities at 6 people per square mile

Stan is an ancient Persian word meaning “land” or “nation,” and Kazakh means “wanderer,” “adventurer,” or “outlaw.” Therefore, the name Kazakhstan translates as “Land of the Wanderers.”

Kazakhstan was part of the former USSR and has been independent since 1991.

Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country in the world, with Russian to its North, China to the West, Uzbekistan down South and the Caspian Sea on its Western Border.

Ancient Kazakhs were the first people in the world to domesticate and ride horses.

Apple trees originated in the mountains of Central Asia. Scientists believe that the first apple trees grew around Almaty, the former capital of Kazakhstan, as far back as 20 million years ago. The name Almaty means “a place of apples.” Many wild apple trees still grow in parts of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is home to the Baikonur Cosmodome, the world's first and largest space launch facility. It is leased by the Russians until 2050.

The first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957, and the first man, Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961, were sent into space from the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

Kazakhstan people celebrate three New Year—two official ones, which are January 1 by the Gregorian Calendar and the March 22, "Nauryz" – the spring equinox or renewal of nature, January 14 by the Julian Calendar is the legacy of the Soviet times. January 14's celebration is called "the Old New Year".

Kazakhstan is the most multi-national and multi-cultural country on earth with over 100 different nationalities living in the country and food is the best example, from Russian pelmeni, through Kazakh supra and manty, Ukraine red borsch, Uzbek plov to the Chinese rice dumplings.

The national symbol of the Kazakhstan is Holland Tulip, which originated in the mountains and around steppes of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is located in both Europe and Asia. The Ural River, which forms the traditional boundary between these continents, cuts through Kazakhstan in the west.

The traditional nomad home of the Kazakhs is known as a yurta, or yurt.

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