Youth Serve Montana Scholarships: 100 Awards for $1,000 for Volunteering 100+ Hours

The Youth Serve Montana Scholarship was created to promote volunteerism among high school students, encourage young leaders to further their learning, and provide tuition assistance for Montana students who wish to attend college in-state. Selected students receive a **$1,000** scholarship toward their college tuition.

Scholarship funds have been made available through support from Montana Campus Compact, a network of Montana campuses committed to community service; Student Assistance Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to helping students pursue and fund post-secondary education; and the Governor's Office of Community Service, a state agency tasked with expanding and promoting service in Montana. The Governor's Office of Community Service administers the scholarships.

2016 Scholarship Materials:

--2016 Youth Serve Montana Scholarship Application
--FAQ (read before applying)
--Scholarship Poster
to access a PDF version of the application, please email serve@mt.gov

2016 Scholarship Guidelines:

--Applicant must have completed 100 hours of volunteer service within a 12-month period. 12-months is defined as the period 12 months prior to the date of application.
--Service that is compensated may not be used for this application's service hours.
--Scholarship funds must be used for the 2016-2017 academic year at a Montana Campus Compact member institution.
--Students must demonstrate financial need by documenting an active FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application.
--Applications are due to the Governor's Office of Community Service by April 15, 2016.

Questions?
Contact the Governor's Office of Community Service at 406-444-9077 or email serve@mt.gov.

2015-2016 CTE Spring Data Collection—Time to Identify CTE Concentrators for Perkins Funding

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Spring Data Collection begins March 1, 2016 and ends April 30, 2016. This AIM collection asks schools to identify all 12th grade high school students who were enrolled at any point during the current 2015-2016 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 Secondary CTE webpage located at http://www.opi.mt.gov/pub/AIM/Collections/CareerTechnicalEducation/SpringCTECollectionGuide.pdf

Questions regarding this data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 or send an email to: opiaimhelp@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.

Student Entrepreneur, Community Engagement Opportunities

Students and entrepreneurs from across Montana are working together to bridge a growing rural-urban disconnect and create new possibilities in their communities. Unchecked, this disconnect can often lead to cultural misunderstanding, disparity, and younger generations leaving their home towns behind as they look for opportunities in urban centers.

The Rural-Urban Student Entrepreneur Exchange Program builds and helps establish a real-life understanding of business development, entrepreneurial efforts, youth leadership, and cultural awareness throughout rural and urban Montana. The Exchange Program is in its fourth year and looking to expand to 10 more classrooms in the 2016/17 school year.

"The Exchange is about entrepreneurship, but it's beyond profit and loss – it helps clarify and bring this to life!" – participating teacher

This cost free program emphasizes life-skills development, professional job-site networking with local entrepreneurs, leadership, business development and hands-on learning. Past participants have experienced marked improvement in student engagement, innovation, community understanding and pride.

"While all of Montana may seem rural to those living out of state", says Lisa Grace, Board Member of One Montana, "those of us who live here see the rural-urban divide play out in Montana as it does around the country. This increasing division can have a negative effect. Our goal is to rebuild these connections and open up new avenues for working together. And we believe the 'Made in Montana' focus will also raise awareness of how we can develop our own opportunities right in this state."

School educators and community leaders interested in learning more about this cost free educational opportunity should call OneMontana Exchange Program manager Bobbi Geise at 522-7654 or email bobbig@onemontana.org by the end of March 2016.

Funding is available to enroll ten new partner rural and urban classes or clubs for the 2016-2017 school year. Additional information and video's about the Exchange Program and participating school partners can be found at www.onemontana.org/what-we-do/rural-urban-student-and-entrepreneur-exchange.

Use Yammer to Communicate and Share Info with Microsoft, Developers, & Other Teachers

If you use or are interested in using Microsoft products (excluding Office) to teach with then consider joining Yammer (yammer.com). It is a Microsoft teachers only chat site where teachers can talk directly with Microsoft, the developers and other teachers using the same products.

For those teaching with Touch Develop, VB, Minecraft, Small Basic, Kodu, Project Spark, Mindstorms, misc robotics and some other odds and ends it is a must watch site.

Creative Coding through Games and Apps from Microsoft

Is your school considering offering a programming course and the teacher elected to do this has no or limited programming experience? Or perhaps you just cannot find a good first year curriculum? Take a look at Creative Coding through Games and Apps.

Creative Coding through Games and Apps is an 18 week curriculum written by Microsoft. The curriculum is free, software is free and online help is free (through Yammer.com). Garth Flint, Technology Coordinator with Missoula Catholic Schools, just attended a two day seminar on the course material. If you have questions feel free to drop Garth a note at gflint@mcsmt.org.

Complete information about the Creative Coding through Games and Apps curriculum can be downloaded directly at http://aka.ms/ccgaaboutcourse.

CTE Student Participation Report Data Verification Needed—Data Used for State CTE Funding

The 2015-2016 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Report Information used for CTE program approval and CTE State funding allocations will be extracted from the TEAMS (*Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule)* information already submitted and on file at the OPI. This change means CTE teachers and/or other district personnel will NOT be submitting participation report information via an online link as they have in the past.

A few items on the CTE tab will require each districts' attention now. The items that need to be verified are: CTE programs offered, CTE teachers with an extended contract, and identifying the number of males and females enrolled in each CTE course (only enrollment totals were reported).

The deadline for changes to be made is March 15, 2016. 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.

In order to help your staff verify their class information, use the worksheet here to help guide teachers in filling out the CTE information needed. The CTE Worksheet is also posted on the OPI website under `Secondary CTE' on the `Data Collections' tab.

--CTE Worksheet Link: http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CTE/TEAMS_CTE_ParticipatioReportWorksheet.pdf

--TEAMS Link: https://apps3.opi.mt.gov/SSO/Login?Login.aspx

The CTE information collected in TEAMS is used for Carl Perkins accountability reporting and factors that determine the State CTE (State VoEd) allocation. 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 (2016-2017) should submit the additional data in TEAMS for all current CTE programs at their high school.

Technical TEAMS questions should be directed to Danielle Murphy, TEAMS Project Manager, by phone at 406.444.1625 or send her an email 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.

Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program—Get $3000 for Your Student Loans

The Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program provides for the direct repayment of educational loans. The total loan repayment assistance may not exceed $3,000 per year for up to four years. Qualified applicants will be ranked based on a scoring system that takes into account the impacted schools and academic areas.

Applicants must submit a completed application to the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) no later than March 31, 2016. Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The number of annual awards is limited and contingent upon legislative appropriations. Each applicant will be scored according to the endorsement area and school of the applicant. Not all qualified applicants are guaranteed loan assistance. MGSLP will notify all award recipients by July 30, 2016. A notice will not be sent to non-recipients.

To qualify for the program you must meet the following requirements:

--A full-time educator holding a valid educator license or a licensed professional providing services to students in a school district, an education cooperative, the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, the Montana Youth Challenge Program or a state youth correctional facility.

--Teaching in an impacted school. These are defined as more rural, have a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students, and/or have greater challenges in closing the achievement gap.

--Teaching in an academic area impacted by critical educator shortages. Please note, Business Education is grouped under the Career and Technical Education category.

Accepting Applications Until March 31, 2016. If you qualify for the program, apply today (registration required).

Complete details can be found at www.mgslp.org/repayment-options/discharge-and-forgiveness/quality-educator-loan-assistance-program.

2016 Google Apps Festival - Missoula Style

Sentinel High School will host Google Apps Festival, Missoula Style on Saturday, April 30.

Google Apps Festival, Missoula Style is a day-long event focused on the implementation and integration of Google Tools into an educational setting. This one-day event promises to be a high energy, fun-filled experience with plenty of opportunities for participants to learn, share, and connect with others.

The day's events will be held at Sentinel High School, 901 South Avenue West, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Workshop presenters include Google Certified Teachers, Certified Google Educators, administrators, and local teacher rock stars. Sessions will cover all levels of expertise, so whether you are a Google newbie or tech ninja, there will be workshops to meet your needs. Don't wait, get signed up today.

Registration can be completed online at googlefest.beyondthechalk.net/. The registration rate is $100 for registrations submitted on or before March 16; after this date, the cost will be $125.

Reminder to High School Districts with Remaining Perkins Funds

The CTE Division of the OPI is sending this friendly reminder to all high school districts with an outstanding 2015-2016 Perkins allocation to please obligate your remaining funds before the end of the current school year.

If you have questions regarding your Perkins balance or any submitted cash requests, please contact Leisa Blanton, Perkins Accountant, at 406-444-4403 or email her at lblanton@mt.gov.

If you have questions about obligating your Perkins funds, please contact either Brad King (Phone: 406.444.4451; email: bking2@mt.gov) or Renee Harris (Phone: 406.994.6986; email: rharris3@mt.gov).

Submit by March 15 for 1st-Time ACTE Region V Leadership Conference Attendee Stipends

If the 2016 conference in San Diego will be the first time you've 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 2016 Conference in San Diego and the 2017 Conference in South Dakota.

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 and can be downloaded directly at https://www.acteonline.org/uploadedFiles/Who_We_Are/Regions/1st%20TimerStipend%20for%20Region%20V%202016112315.pdf.

The deadline for submission is March 15 and notifications will be sent out by April 1 if you are receiving the stipend.

Preregistration Now Open for Adobe MAX 2016; Preregister Now to Save $500

This year's Adobe MAX 2016 conference will take place October 31-November 4 in San Diego. Join the world's top creative minds at MAX. Last year over 7,000 artists and innovators got together to learn, create and hear from speakers like Brandon Stanton, Aaron Draplin and Maira Kalman.

MAX 2016 passes are now available for a limited-time offer of only $1095, a savings of $500 off the full conference pass price of $1595. There is no financial obligation at this time, just an opportunity to lock in this low price before it's gone.

To preregister please visit max.adobe.com/preregister/ today. For more information about Adobe MAX 2016, please go to max.adobe.com/.

Fun Facts and Trivia

'LEGO' is an abbreviation of the two Danish words "leg godt", meaning "play well".

The LEGO Group was founded in 1932 by Ole Kirk Kristiansen.

In 1961, when Lego wished to expand sales to North America, the company made an arrangement allowing Samsonite to begin producing and selling Lego products in the United States and Canada.

1961 and 1962 saw the introduction of the first Lego wheels, an addition expanding the potential for building cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles from Lego bricks.

In 1969, the Duplo system went on sale. The name Duplo comes from the Latin word *duplus*, which translates literally as double, meaning that a Duplo brick is exactly twice the dimension of a Lego building brick.

In 1979 Lego expanded into space with the creation of Lego Space sets with astronaut minifigures, rockets, lunar rovers and spaceships.

In 1992 two *Guinness* records were set using Lego products: A castle made from 400,000 Lego bricks, and measuring 4.45 meters by 5.22 meters, was built on Swedish television, and a 545 meters long Lego railway line with three locomotives was constructed..

In 1999 the first Lego products featuring licensed characters, i.e. not designed in-house, were Lego Star Wars and Winnie the Pooh Duplo, followed in 2000 by Lego Harry Potter characters to figures from other Steven Spielberg movies.

In 2014, Warner Bros and The Lego Group released *The Lego Movie*, a computer-animated adventure comedy film telling the story of an ordinary Lego minifigure prophesied to save the world. It received one of the highest recorded openings for an original animated movie

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