

## The Wednesday Reader

### October 9, 2019

Please note, with next week's Montana BPA Fall Leadership Conference, the New CTE Professionals 2019 Workshop, and the Montana ACTE 2019 Institute, there will not be a Wednesday Reader for Wednesday, October 16.

#### **State CTE/VoEd Funding Final Allocations Posted**

The State CTE/VoEd funding final allocations for the 2019-2020 school year are posted for review. The State CTE/VoEd funding final allocations are generated based on the data entered into TEAMS (Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule) for the prior 2018-2019 school year.

The CTE tab in TEAMS was made available last April and districts were asked to complete a few additional items on the tab and review the details carefully to make sure the data was accurate.

The 2019-2020 State CTE/VoEd Funding allocations will be distributed to districts by November 1.

The [State CTE/VoEd Funding final allocations](#) can be found on the [CTE page](#) of the [OPI website](#) under the Funding heading.

The direct link to the final allocations can be found at <http://opi.mt.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=38pruRu8CfU%3d&portalid=182>.

#### **U.S. Presidential Scholars Program for CTE Students—Nominations Dues October 15**

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts.

In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

All high school seniors that are CTE Concentrators (3 Credits or more of CTE) and graduating between January and June of 2020, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

The candidates will go through the application process, and as in the past, the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC.

Nominations of Montana CTE students for the 2020 CTE U.S. Presidential Scholars Program are due October 15, 2019.

Details about the [CTE U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#) can be found on the OPI website at <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Career-Technical-Education-CTE/US-Presidential-Scholars-Program>, along with the [Selection Timeline](#) and [Presidential Scholar Nomination form](#).

The nominations forms are to be sent to via electronic format the appropriate OPI CTE Specialist

- Agriculture Education: Shannon Boswell, [Shannon.Boswell@mt.gov](mailto:Shannon.Boswell@mt.gov)
- Business Education: Eric Swenson, [ESwenson@mt.gov](mailto:ESwenson@mt.gov)
- Family & Consumer Sciences Education: Megan Vincent, [MVincent2@mt.gov](mailto:MVincent2@mt.gov)
- Health Science Education: Renee Erlandsen, [RErlandsen@mt.gov](mailto:RErlandsen@mt.gov)
- Industrial Technology Education: Mike Houghton, [Michael.Houghton@mt.gov](mailto:Michael.Houghton@mt.gov)

## **Registration Now Open for 2020 Montana High School Mock Trial Competition Sponsored by Montana Bar Association**

Through participation in the Montana High School Mock Trial Competition, students from all over Montana have a hands-on opportunity to examine the legal process and current legal issues, engage with local attorneys and the judicial branch of government, and develop important critical thinking, presentation, public speaking, and teamwork skills.

Students play the roles of attorneys, witnesses, timekeepers, and courtroom artists (optional). Students prepare both sides of the case. A student may be an attorney for one side and a witness for the other, or an attorney for both sides, or a witness for both sides. Timekeepers keep the competition rounds on schedule. Courtroom artists provide a visual record of the proceedings.

Teachers help recruit team members, handle team logistics, assist with fundraising, and partner with attorney coaches to prepare students for the competition.

Attorneys provide a lawyer's perspective on the case materials and work with the teams to learn trial practice skills and develop trial strategies.

### Mock Trial Quick Facts:

- Open to grades 9 to 12
- Teams of 6 to 9 students
- Students can play the role of an attorney, a witness, or both!
- State competition in Helena
- Earn a chance to compete in the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Evansville, Indiana

### Important Dates:

- October 1-January 31, 2019: Registration Open
- November, 2019: Case Materials Released
- March 7, 2020: State competition in Helena
- May 6-9, 2020: National Championship in Evansville, Indiana

Registration: For more information, including volunteer opportunities and to register a team, please visit the Montana High School Mock Trial Website [www.mocktrial.montanabar.org](http://www.mocktrial.montanabar.org). For questions, please email [mocktrial@montanabar.org](mailto:mocktrial@montanabar.org).

If you have questions about putting together a team, you can email Kacey Askin, Helena High School, at [kaskin@helenaschools.org](mailto:kaskin@helenaschools.org).

## **Applications for Content Standards Negotiated Rulemaking Committees Now Open**

Comments on the early drafts of the new/updated Montana content standards have been extended through Friday, October 18. If you have not already responded to this opportunity to comment, links to the draft standards are below.

- [CTE](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Library Media/Information Literacy](#)
- [Social Studies](#)
- [Technology Integration](#)

The Office of Public Instruction is now gearing up for the next phase of the standards revision process and is now seeking applications from individuals interested in being on a negotiated rulemaking committee.

To apply for a position on a negotiated rulemaking committee or nominate a colleague, please [fill out this application form](#). The application deadline is October 31, 2019.

Please click the following links to the Montana Administrative Register Notices for further details about the negotiated rulemaking process and expectations of committee members.

- MAR Notice - [Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for Computer Science, Library Media, and Technology](#)
- MAR Notice - [Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for CTE](#)
- MAR Notice - [Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for Social Studies](#)

Date for initial negotiated rulemaking committee meetings:

- Social Studies Committee meets December 2, 2019 in Helena
- Career and Vocational/Technical Education Committee meets December 3, 2019 in Helena
- Computer Science/Library Media/Technology Committee meets December 5, 2019 in Helena

Additional meetings will be held in January and February 2020. Teleconferencing will be available.

If you have questions about the negotiated rulemaking process and work to be conducted by the committees, please contact OPI Content Standards and Instruction Division Director Colet Bartow at [cbartow@mt.gov](mailto:cbartow@mt.gov).

### **Microsoft Resources for Teachers and FREE Office 365 for Students**

Teachers, have you checked out the [Microsoft Educator Center \(https://education.microsoft.com\)](https://education.microsoft.com)? It has a variety of resources for instructors. The site provides many new ideas, lessons plans, learning paths, and courses that can be used to excite your students. Check out their [MysterySkype](#) educational game. You can pair with another classroom via Skype to search for persons, number, locations or animals. There are five lesson plans available for download, and they are matched to the standards for you.

Do you or your students need Office 365? Microsoft is offering Office 365 Education for **FREE** for those with a valid school e-mail address. Check this [site](#) to see if you qualify.

Office 365 Education includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote along with Microsoft Teams.

### **Regional Workshops this Fall to Inform and Prepare for Perkins V Implementation in the 2020-2021 School Year**

Perkins V legislation was passed last summer (2018), and this fiscal year (2019-2020) is Montana's Transition year to work with schools on the changes within the new law.

The Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education are offering schools the following training opportunities to learn more about the changes to the law.

The workshops are open to all interested parties including CTE teachers, school counselors, school/district administrators, district clerks, school/district CTE coordinator and CTE advisory committee members.

All Workshops are scheduled for after school or on a Saturday morning so you should not need substitute teachers. You may ask your administration if Perkins funds (from 2019-2020 funding) can be used for your travel, stipend, and meals (if traveling over lunch or dinner). Please note, no beverages or snacks will be served at these workshops.

Content to be covered:

- Rigorous MT Career Pathways defined
- Alignment to Workforce labor needs
- Work-based Learning
- Dual Enrollment
- Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment
- Data-driven Decision-making
- Continued Integration of Academics and CTE

A copy of the [Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment](#) template and guidance document can be downloaded at [http://opi.mt.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=J8IIGVwkL\\_M%3d&portalid=182](http://opi.mt.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=J8IIGVwkL_M%3d&portalid=182). Please note, copies will not be distributed during the workshops.

Workshops will be held on the following schedule

- Missoula: Friday, September 20, 4-6 pm, at Missoula College, Room 340
- Kalispell: Saturday, September 21, 9-11 am, at Flathead Valley Community College, Arts & Technology Building, Room 144
- Billings: Wednesday, September 25, 4-6 pm, at City College, Health Sciences Building, Room 119
- Butte: Monday, September 30, 4-6 pm, at Highlands College, Room 119
- Glendive: Thursday, October 10, 9 am-4 pm, at the Prairie View Curriculum Consortia offices
- Havre: Tuesday, October 15, 4-6 pm, at MSU Northern, Brockmann, Room 202
- Belgrade: Thursday, October 17, during the MFPE 2019 Educator Conference
- Great Falls: Thursday, October 17, 2-3:30 pm, during the Montana ACTE 2019 Institute at the Heritage Inn
- Helena: Montana, October 28, 4-6 pm, Helena College Donaldson Campus (1115 North Roberts)
- Bozeman: Wednesday, October 30, 4-6 pm, Willson Building Library

For questions about the workshops, please contact Renee Erlandsen at [rerlandsen@mt.gov](mailto:rerlandsen@mt.gov).

### **Free FinLit Resources for October Financial Planning Month**

EVERFI welcomes you back to school with several updates for 2019-2020:

- A newly designed [teacher center](#)
- A fully updated High School Financial Literacy course: [EverFi](#)
- A fully updated Digital Wellness and Responsibility course: [Ignition](#)

October is Financial Planning Month! Use EVERFI's digital resources to bring Financial Planning to life for your students.

EVERFI provides free digital resources, including lessons in Financial Literacy education for Elementary, Middle School, and High School. Their High School FinLit suite includes the [updated flagship course](#), as well as [Venture - Entrepreneurial Expedition](#), and [Marketplaces - Markets and Investing](#).

Easy to use, flexible implementation, no commitments or obligations, and local support. [Check out EVERFI's entire catalog here](#). Catch EVERFI at the upcoming MT ACTE Conference in Great Falls, October 17-18.

Montana's local EVERFI representative is Sean Thomas. For more information or to get registered, contact him at [sthomas@everfi.com](mailto:sthomas@everfi.com).

### **Awards and Scholarships from the Western Business Education Association**

Nominations for the Western Business Education Association (WBEA) Awards and Scholarships are now being accepted.

Please consider nominating someone for one of the following.

Recipients will be recognized at the February WBEA Conference held in California, February 14-17, 2020.

#### **NEW: First Time Attendee to the PDLT Scholarship**

In addition to the First Time Attendee Scholarship, this scholarship is offered to those wishing to attend the annual WBEA Professional Development Leadership Training conference session. State board and general members are welcome to attend for leadership training.

#### **First Time Attendee Scholarship**

The First Time Attendee Scholarship is offered to those wishing to attend the annual WBEA conference for the first time who need financial assistance with the travel or conference registration fees.

### Educational Opportunity Scholarship

To offset tuition costs of those pursuing an advanced degree in business education.

Applications and additional information for each scholarship can be found on the WBEA website at <http://www.wbea.info/professional-development.html>

### Distinguished Service

An individual who has contributed to WBEA and business education

### Distinguished Service for Company, Company Representative, or Legislator

A company or individual who may not be affiliated with WBEA but has made significant contributions to business education

### Outstanding Educator

### Newsletter Recognition

State, Territories, Provinces (S/T/Ps) for maintaining contact with members regularly and promoting all aspects of the profession

### Outstanding CTSO Advisor

WBEA Advisor for achievement, promotion, and service to Career and Technical Student Organizations

### WBEA Recognition

Awarded by the state to those who make significant contributions to business education

Nomination information for each award can be found on the WBEA website at <http://www.wbea.info/awards.html>.

Nominations and Applications for all scholarships and awards are due December 1 to Ariel Dykstra at [adykstra@mvsd320.org](mailto:adykstra@mvsd320.org).

## **Oracle Debuts Computer Science Education Resources**

As more employers look to hire individuals with IT skills, [Oracle](#) is investing in helping schools and universities to develop the next generation of computer science leaders. The free [Oracle Academy Cloud Program](#) will give institutional members access to the [Oracle Cloud Free Tier](#).

Educators will be able to experiment with the [Oracle Autonomous Database](#) and [Oracle Cloud Infrastructure](#). The Oracle Academy is tailored to the "unique requirements of educational institutions and educators.

The new offering also provides:

--Developer access to program in Oracle Application Express (APEX), Java, Node.js and Python

--\$300 in free cloud credits for a full year for educators and students for over 20 cloud services for infrastructure, databases, application development, analytics, integration, content and experience, management and security.

--Free training for educators and comprehensive Oracle Autonomous Database curriculum for students.

--Simple signup for Oracle Cloud Free Tier, and educators will be able to easily create free student accounts.

"As workforce demands become more tech-centric, computing education is increasingly important for all students. Providing educators with free training, as well as access to the cloud and innovative technology like Oracle Autonomous Database, offers a springboard to success for the millions of students Oracle Academy reaches every year," said Elizabeth Snyder, vice president of Oracle Human Resources and Philanthropy.

Oracle Academy is expected to launch in early 2020. Individuals and institutions are now able to register for program on [Oracle's website](#).

### **Free Esports Curriculum Contains Full Lesson Plans**

An esports league has launched a free high school curriculum to help teachers use gaming to boost student learning. "[Gaming Concepts](#)" from the [High School Esports League \(HSEL\)](#), was written as turnkey curriculum "that almost anyone with even rudimentary computer skills could teach," according to authors Kristy Custer and Michael Russell. The project was supported by [Microsoft](#).

The content covers learning standards in areas such as careers in gaming, maintaining healthy practices, self-management and interpersonal communications, as well as an overview of esports gaming and complete lesson plans.

The authors have both been involved in HSEL's after-school esports program and worked with Wichita State University to create the semester-long elective course. According to HSEL, in a pilot program that used the curriculum, students who took the course experienced an average improvement in their grade point averages of 1.4 points and attendance that reached 95%.

"Students with chronic absenteeism who do not feel a connection to the school especially benefit from esports," said Custer in a statement. "Eighty-two percent of students on our team had never participated in an extra-curricular activity prior to offering esports."

"We've known for a long time that bringing students' passion for games into a supportive, educational environment can be transformative for kids who otherwise might be disengaged or left behind," added Mason Mullenieux, co-founder and CEO of HSEL

"Esports has tremendous potential, both to inspire students to learn 21st-century skills and also to include many students who have previously been marginalized with respect to competitive activities," noted Donald Brinkman, a Microsoft senior program manager in charge of Bing esports and video game experiences. The guide, he said, was "designed to teach pro-social and pro-academic behaviors that are positively correlated to better academic performance-all through the lens of esports. We are thrilled to support it."

In April 2019 Microsoft introduced an hour-long [online course](#) for educators to help them learn more about esports and how it can be used to teach college and career readiness.

The new curriculum, "Gaming Concepts," is openly available as a downloadable [PDF file](#) ([highschoolsportsleague.com/s/Gaming-Concepts-wfg9.pdf](https://highschoolsportsleague.com/s/Gaming-Concepts-wfg9.pdf)) on the [HSEL](#) ([highschoolsportsleague.com](https://highschoolsportsleague.com)) website.

### **Four Printable Personal Finance Infographics for Your Classroom from NGFP**

Next Gen Personal Finance ([ngpf.org](https://ngpf.org)) has partnered with Visual Capitalist to bring you a series of infographics explaining key topics in personal finance. Each one delivers personal finance concepts in a compelling way, including text to read, graphs to interpret and questions to answer. Hang these in your classroom to reinforce student learning.

Click on any (or ALL) of the links below to get a FREE printable PDF version of the complete infographic.

- [How Do I Manage a Checking Account?](#)
- [How Do I Manage Credit?](#)
- [What is Compound Interest and Why Does it Matter?](#)
- [What Do I Need to Know to Start Investing?](#)

For more resources and instructional materials from Next Gen Personal Finance, visit [www.ngpf.org](https://www.ngpf.org).

### **Engage Your Students with Bank On It Game! and The Adviser: Fraud Detective**

[Start Here, Go Places.®](#) has two activities to engage and build your students' critical thinking skills.

The Bank On It Game is the top online game used in accounting classrooms. It is perfect for when you have a substitute, have extra time at the end of a unit, or before a school break. Check out the [Bank On It Educator's Guide](#) to get started.

[The Advisor: Fraud Detective](#) classroom activity: The Advisor is a monthly activity where students take on the role of an accounting adviser. Each month, your students will accept a challenge from a local business who needs accounting help. Through a variety of individual and team exercises, your students will learn and incorporate both technical accounting concepts and soft skills needed to be successful.

Your students will tackle this month's assignment by working with several local companies who all recently discovered fraudulent activity that could have been avoided with internal controls in place. It will be their job to dissect what went wrong in each situation and provide solutions to help each company move forward. This activity will allow your students to explore the importance of incorporating internal controls for a business.

Download The Advisor: Fraud Detective at <https://www.startheregoplaces.com/teacher/classroom-resources/adviser-fraud-detective/>.

Check out the [Start Here, Go Places.®](#) website for more classroom resources and activities for your accounting or finance classroom at [startheregoplaces.com/teacher](http://startheregoplaces.com/teacher).

### **NGPF PAYBACK Challenge: Over \$125,000 in Scholarships Available**

Want to give your students the opportunity to earn scholarships while simultaneously teaching them to make better money decisions about college? Enter the Payback Challenge from [Next Gen Personal Finance](#).

Watch the 90-second video for details at <https://youtu.be/frjM4JPYaU>.

#### How to participate in the PAYBACK Challenge

##### Step 1: Teachers Register Intent

--Once you've filled out this [Intent to Participate](#) form, you will receive the Essay Template for your students as well as next steps.

##### Step 2: Students Play [PAYBACK](#)

--Do you have ELL students? [PAYBACK can also be played in Spanish](#).

--Short on computers in your classroom? PAYBACK is now mobile-friendly!

##### Step 3: Students Write a Short Essay Addressing One (1) of Two (2) Prompts

1) Write a letter to your future self that you will open after your freshman year of college, reminding you of the key skills you will need to thrive during your college years.

or

2) How could you use the online game, PAYBACK, to have a conversation with your parent/guardian about paying for college?

##### Step 4: Teacher Nominates and Submits One Student Essay

--You will receive an email with instructions on how and where to send in nominations after you register

Application Deadline: 11:59 pm (PST), November 13, 2019.

Each state will be represented on the podium. That's right, NGPF is aiming to award scholarships to students from every state.

##### Cash Prizes:

--National Grand Prize Winners: 10 at \$5,000 each

--Honorable Mention Awards: 100+ at \$500 each



### **TEAMS (Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule) is Now Open—Ensure Your CTE Data is Correct**

TEAMS is **now open** and closes on November 1, 2019. The OPI has updated security features for TEAMS and user accounts may be locked due to inactivity. If you experience login issues while trying to access TEAMS, please contact [OPITEAMS@mt.gov](mailto:OPITEAMS@mt.gov). If you do not have access or need to grant access for an employee, please have the Authorized Representative (AR) complete the [TEAMS Security Access Form](#).

Data from TEAMS pertaining to Career and Technical Education courses, student enrollments, and teacher certification is used for Carl Perkins accountability reporting and factors that determine the State CTE (State VoEd) funding allocations. Additionally, the data is also used to verify and approve Montana Career Pathways.

Therefore, it is imperative CTE teachers work with school/district officials to ensure 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 (2020-2021) should confirm the data in TEAMS for all CTE programs at their high school is correct.

The data for your program and courses within TEAMS should accurately reflect the following

- Name of teacher(s) for courses
- All current courses for the 2019-2020 school year are listed with the correct course title listed as the District Course Title
- All courses listed are aligned to the correct Course Code & Title
- Number of students enrolled and breakdown of males and females
- Term Type for courses (Semester, Full Year, Quarter, etc.)
- Class Minutes (the minutes of instruction for each individual course per the term type)
- If an extended contract is identified along with the number of days of the contract

To assist with providing the correct TEAMS data for your program and courses, a [Montana OPI K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions Reference Manual for Business & Marketing Education](#) and a [worksheet](#) to assist teachers and administrators with mapping district courses to the OPI K-12 Course Codes before the data is entered into TEAMS can also be download at <http://bit.ly/MTBusEd19-20>.

### **Updated MT Business Education Planning Calendar, Framework, CTSO Crosswalks, & Course Codes Available for Download**

The [Framework for Business Education in Montana](#) has been updated for the 2019-2020 school year. Within the Framework, updates have been made to the competitive event crosswalks for Business Professionals of America and DECA. The updated crosswalks reflect updates and changes to the competitive event programs at the national level effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Framework for Business Education in Montana provides teachers with common guidance for curriculum development and course content development. Review and update work for the Framework for Business Education in Montana was by a committee Montana business education professionals representing all classifications of Montana High School as well as business education teacher program coordinators from the University of Montana and University of Montana Western and the State Directors for Business Professionals of America, Montana Association and Montana DECA.

The course information within the Framework is organized by Career Clusters with the Common Career Technical Core as the standards for each cluster. Additionally, course content is aligned to the *National Standards for Business Education* and is crosswalked to the *National Standards for Business Education* and to the competitive event programs for Business Professionals of America and DECA.

A complete PDF version of the Framework can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/MTBusEd19-20>. If you would like to just download the [2019-2020 BPA and DECA competitive event crosswalks](#), they can also be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/MTBusEd19-20>. While in the [Google Drive folder](#), be sure to download the [Montana Business Education 2019-2020 Planning Calendar](#).

Also updated for the 2019-2020 school year is the [OPI TEAMS Current Listing of All Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions Reference Manual for Business & Marketing Education](#). The Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions are used



for the reporting of course taught in all schools and at all grade levels via the OPI TEAMS school staffing system. Updates to this year's manual include the removal of duplicated courses to help streamline course identification and the removal of "other" courses and codes. Additionally, the manual includes a complete listing of Montana teacher licensure course codes.

Within TEAMS, all courses taught are identified and aligned to a national SCED Code with the local school course title listed as well as term type, enrollment numbers, and length of instruction. For Montana's Career & Technical Education programs, the TEAMS data is also used to generate the Montana CTE Student Participation Reports which are used to determine State CTE/VoEd funding allocations.

The [OPI TEAMS Current Listing of All Montana K-12 Course Codes and Descriptions Reference Manual for Business & Marketing Education](#) can also be download at <http://bit.ly/MTBusEd19-20>.

To assist teachers and administrators with mapping district courses to the OPI/SCED codes before the data is entered into TEAMS, a [TEAMS Participation Report Worksheet for Course Codes](#) worksheet is also available at <http://bit.ly/MTBusEd19-20>.

If you have problems accessing any of the documents noted above, please contact Business Education Specialist Eric Swenson at [eswenson@mt.gov](mailto:eswenson@mt.gov).

### **Summer 2020 Computer Science Professional Development Announced**

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, [jbrown@mtech.edu](mailto:jbrown@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](#). 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.

### **NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing Contest for Montana Girls Now Open for Applications**

This is the eighth year for the Montana NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing Contest.

For a number of years, the NCWIT (National Center for Women and Information Technology) has given national awards to high school girls. The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is for young women with aspirations and achievements in technology and computing.

This year will be the eighth year that there also will be a MONTANA contest for Montana girls. The time to submit applications is September 1-November 5 and the application is found at [www.aspirations.org/participate/high-school](http://www.aspirations.org/participate/high-school).

There are many qualified high school girls that would apply if they just had a little push from a leader like you. Any interested female high school student would need to fill in the on-line application, and get a parent and a school official to approve it to be entered into both the national and Montana contests.

In the past, Montana winners have been from high schools in Absarokee, Anaconda, Arlee, Beaverhead, Billings West, Bozeman, Bozeman Petra, Broadwater, Butte, Cascade, Cut Bank, Great Fall High, Hamilton, Helena Capital, Helena High, Hobson, Jefferson High, Libby, Missoula Big Sky, Missoula Hellgate, Missoula Sentinel, Noxon, Park County, Red Lodge, Seeley-Swan, Simms and Whitefish High Schools.

Hopefully your school will be represented on the winners list this year, but girls have to apply.

We are looking forward to recognizing Montana's talent, and hope that you would encourage the young women that you know to apply. Sometimes all they need is a little encouragement and you are the person to provide that.

For questions, please contact Steve Harper and Ted Wendt Carroll College's Computer Science department at [sharper@carroll.edu](mailto:sharper@carroll.edu) or 406.447. 4466.

P.S. There also is a Montana educator award (**with \$1000 for professional development**) given each year. Do you know a good teacher that you should encourage to apply (maybe you?)? Encourage them to go to [www.aspirations.org/content/encourage-educator](http://www.aspirations.org/content/encourage-educator).

Need help applying? The following resources are available: [Application Guide](#), [Parent Approval Guide](#), [Endorsement Guide](#), and [FAQs](#).

### **Advance Registration for ACTE's 2019 VISION in Anaheim is Available thru October 26**

The premier event for CTE professionals to connect and collaborate, the Association for Career & Technical Education's [ACTE CareerTech VISION 2019](#) features high-quality CTE programs, strategies for successful collaboration and innovation in the classroom.

This December 4-7, thousands of educators, business leaders and industry representatives will gather in Anaheim, California, to learn and inspire.

If interested in attending, the [Advance Registration](#) rate is currently available at \$445 and ends on October 25; after which, registration will be \$525.

[Hotel reservations](#) can also be made for [CareerTech VISION 2019](#) at many of the hotels near the Anaheim Convention Center.

Also, check out the CareerTech VISION 2019's [Travel page](#) for Delta and Disneyland discounts.

### **Fun Facts and Trivia**

Figs grow on the Ficus tree (*Ficus carica*), which is a member of the Mulberry family.

The term "fig" has its origins from the Latin word, "ficus," as well as the older Hebrew name, "feg."

Wild fig trees first grew in Africa and West Asia and South Asia and around the Mediterranean Sea beginning probably about a hundred million years ago, in the time of the dinosaurs.

Many primates eat figs, and people have been eating wild figs since there first were people.

The fig tree has been cultivated since ancient times and grows wild in dry and sunny areas, with deep and fresh soil; also in rocky areas, from sea level up to 5577 feet.

By about 11,000 years ago, people in West Asia had already begun to farm fig trees.

Farmed figs may be the first kind of food that anybody farmed, even before wheat and barley.

In good climates it bears two crops in a season; one in the early summer, from the buds of the last year; the other, which is the chief harvest, in the autumn, from those on the spring growth.

Figs are self-fruitful, so you need only one plant to produce fruit.

Mature fig trees can be 15 to 30 feet tall.

Figs are low in calories and contain soluble dietary fiber, vitamins and minerals.

Eating one half cup of figs has as much calcium as drinking one-half cup of milk.

Ounce for ounce, figs have more fiber than prunes and more potassium than bananas.

Franciscan monks of Mission San Diego brought figs to California from the Mediterranean in the middle of the 18th century.

California grows many varieties of figs, but the two most common are the amber-colored, slightly nutty-flavored Golden and the dark purple, sweet Mission.

California produces 100% of the nation's dried figs and 98% of the fresh figs.

The early Olympic athletes used figs as a training food.

Figs were also presented as laurels to the winners, becoming the first Olympic "medal."

Figs made their first commercial product appearance with the 1892 introduction of Fig Newtons cookies.

Some people use figs as a substitute for coffee.

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*