

The Wednesday Reader

March 18, 2020

Please note, there will not be a Wednesday Reader next week, March 25; I will be out of the office for vacation beginning Friday, March 20 and returning on Tuesday, March 31.

National Business Education Association Cancels 2020 Annual Convention and Trade Show—New Website Goes Live

On Friday, March 13, the National Business Education Association (NBEA) announced the cancelation of the 2020 Annual Convention and Trade Show scheduled for Boston, April 8-11.

In place of the Boston convention, NBEA is working on putting together a virtual conference with previously approved session presented online. The virtual conference is scheduled for April 8-11. Details will be available at nbea.org/page/VirtualConference.

In the meantime, checkout the new NBEA website at www.nbea.org.

The NBEA 2021 Annual Conference and Trade Show will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 30-April 3, 2021, at the New Orleans Marriott.

March 31 is Deadline to Apply for the Montana Quality Educator Student Loan Assistance Program

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the quality educator loan assistance program as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The Office of Public Instruction is responsible for administering the program. Applications for the [Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program \(opi.mt.gov/Educators/Licensure/Educator-Recruitment-Retention/Quality-Educator-Loan-Assistance-FAQs\)](https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Licensure/Educator-Recruitment-Retention/Quality-Educator-Loan-Assistance-FAQs) will be accepted from February 13-March 31, 2020.

Newly hired quality educators who teach or work in a subject that has been identified as a “critical quality educator shortage area” at an “impacted school” are eligible to receive state paid loan assistance for up to four years, so long as they remain a full time employee at an impacted school.

The program provides for up to \$3,000 of state funded loan repayment at the end of the first year of teaching, up to \$4,000 at the end of the second year, and up to \$5,000 at the end of the third year. In addition, the school district has the option to offer up to \$5,000 at the end of the fourth year, but this is entirely a local decision.

[See the Quality Educator Loan Assistance FAQ's](#) for information on the criteria, applying, the list of impacted schools, and quality educator shortage areas.

At the time of application, the quality educator will have to provide the most current loan statement showing the remaining principal balance of the loan. To be eligible, the educational loan must not be in default and the balance must be at least \$1,000. The authorized loan assistance repayment amount will be the lesser of the principal balance or the maximum amount shown above.

Great Opportunity for EdTech Leaders—2020 Regional Digital Equity Summit

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Technology is hosting Regional Digital Equity Summits in six states, including Montana.

The opportunity will help state and local education leaders and community collaborators identify strategies, connect with resources, and explore partnership opportunities to ensure future digital learning demands are met. Following the Summit, attendees will have access to six months of free, ongoing technical assistance as they build action plans to address local digital equity priorities.

Montana’s session will be May 21-22, 2020, at the University of Montana in Missoula.

For more details about the 2020 Regional Digital Equity Summits and to register for the Montana session, please visit tech.ed.gov/2020-summits.

Perkins & State CTE/VoEd Funding Intent to Apply for 2020-2021 Now Open

The Office of Public Instruction has again this year combined both the Federal Carl D. Perkins 'Intent to Apply' AND the State CTE/VoEd Funding application for school districts' convenience.

You can apply for one or both funding programs using this one electronic form. The online link to access and complete the combined Federal and State Funding application is now available here. <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1471437/5a42>.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief electronic form for the 2020-2021 E-Grants cycle. All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are eligible to apply for funding. Elementary districts are not eligible for Perkins or State CTE/VoEd monies.

Districts will NOT receive a 2020-2021 Perkins or State CTE/VoEd allocation unless this electronic form is completed and submitted online at the OPI on or before the deadline.

These designations are binding and cannot be changed once allocations have been downloaded into the E-Grants system. The online link is located at <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1471437/5a42>.

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

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

Spring into Farm to School with Montana Farm to School Regional Showcases

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Montana Farm to School Regional Showcases to learn how farm to school is implemented day-to-day throughout the state! The first showcase will be held in Fairview, Montana, March 18 from 9 am-2 pm and the second in Hardin on May 6. Learn how the Hardin and Fairview school districts collaborate with their communities on farm to school initiatives, from serving local foods in school meals to celebrating Ag Day to cultivating school gardens.

All individuals interested in farm to school programs are encouraged to attend including school and summer food service personnel, afterschool program coordinators, teachers, school administrators, preschool and childcare providers, parents, students, food producers and vendors, farm to school practitioners, and groups that support farm to school efforts.

Attendees will discover how the schools' teams implement farm to school in the cafeteria, classroom, and community, and be equipped with the information and resources to start or grow farm to school in their community. Those in attendance will also get the inside scoop on how stakeholders work together successfully, and the specific examples will prove to be beneficial to anyone wanting to grow the farm to school initiative in their community. Registration is open at montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dc0PQrnUySCPPr7.

Be sure to act fast, space is limited for each event.

Get inspired and ready to dig into successful approaches to farm to school. Covering procurement, education, and school gardens, the showcases will apply to a range of experiences with farm to school. Whether you are a seasoned professional looking for fresh ideas or just getting started with farm to school, the Montana Farm to School Regional Showcase series is for you.

The showcases are hosted by Montana Farm to School, Montana Team Nutrition Program at Montana State University, Montana Office of Public Instruction, National Center for Appropriate Technology, and FoodCorps Montana.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool/resources/training-event.html> or contact Aubree Roth, Montana Farm to School Coordinator at aubree.roth@montana.edu or (406) 994-5996.

Perkins Spring CTE Now Collection Open and Guide for 2019-2020 Only—Time to Identify CTE Concentrators

The 2019-2020 Spring CTE Collection will be different this year for all districts.

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

As per the new Perkins V rules starting this year, here are some significant changes to be aware of when reporting CTE concentrators to the OPI:

--All high school students can now qualify to be CTE concentrators (not just 12th grade students).

--Data is only being collecting if a student is a concentrator and/or if they are a single parent in Infinite Campus.

--The Montana Career Pathways (no longer areas of concentration) are to be identified for each student. A student can have multiple pathways. OPI is providing a separate [Perkins MT Career Pathways template](#) to identify these.

--The number of credits to qualify for a CTE concentrator is now two (2) credits or four (4) semesters of CTE courses.

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

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

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

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

--[2019-2020 Spring CTE Collection User Guide](#)

--[Perkins MT Career Pathways Template](#)

Links to Montana Career Pathways and Secondary Programs of Study:

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

--[Montana Career Pathways Website](#)

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

Save the Date for the OPI Summer Institute

The 2020 OPI Summer Institute (formerly the MBI conference) will be held June 15-19, 2020, at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Sessions are for Pre-K through High School and are for all school staff. Some of the 2020 Summer Institute featured presentations include

--MTSS Overview for Tier 1, 2 and 3

--Restorative Practices

--Risk Assessment

--Gifted Education and MTSS

--Math Hacks

- Building a Caring Classroom
- So You Think You're Trauma Informed?
- IEFA Strands – Our Culture is Our Solution
- Using STEM Activities for Integration in the K-5 Classroom

Other sessions of special interest include

- Kick off and Mid-way Keynote Presentations
- Early Bird Sessions
- Lunch and Learn Sessions
- Team Time
- Supaman Concert
- MTSS Awards and Best Practice Expo

Registration will open April 1. Lodging is available at MSU residence halls for \$50 per room. OPI Renewal Units will be available and there will be an option to earn either two undergraduate or two graduate credits.

For more information, please contact Allyson Alexander at 406.444.0688 or Colet Bartow at 406.444.3583.

Montana Perkins V State Plan Open for Public Comment

The Montana Office of the Commission of Higher Education and Office of Public Instruction have posted Montana's Perkins V State Plan and is open for written public comment. The public comments period for 60 days and Montana's plan can be viewed and any questions or comments can be posted at <https://mus.edu/Perkinsv/public-comment.asp>.

The Perkins V State Plan is a means by which our state formalizes strategic partnerships and direct funding toward ensuring a coordinated and labor-market driven Career and Technical Education System. By creating strong pathways from K-12 through postsecondary education and workforce development, the strategies outlined in this plan will help ensure that Montana students have robust learning opportunities to gain the skills and education necessary to secure careers in high-wage, high-skill and in-demand jobs.

The final state plan will be submitted to the US Department of Education on April 15, 2020.

For question or more information regarding the Montana Perkins V State Plan or the public comment period, please contact Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education, at jtreaster@montana.edu.

Montana ACTE Launches Montana CTE Learn

The [Montana Association for Career & Technical Education](#) (Montana ACTE) is pleased to announce the official launching of [Montana CTE Learn](#) (mt.ctelearn.org). This new online learning portal is dedicated to the professional development and skill advancement of career and technical education professionals throughout Montana.

[Montana CTE Learn](#) provides a large catalog of online courses, free learning tutorials, a professional learning community (CareerED) and an interactive Individual Development Planner (IDP) that is easy to use and a valuable tool towards expanding high-quality CTE.

Montana CTE Learn features:

- 150+ high quality online courses that cover a wide range of instructional, leadership and career guidance topics.
- Each course is affordably priced, requires approximately four (4) hours to complete and comes with nationally recognized CEU credit.
- Eight free learning tutorials produced by the national association (ACTE) addressing specific CTE topics such as Global Competencies in CTE; STEM & CTE: Career Readiness; Core Academic Integration in CTE, Understanding Postsecondary Education in the U.S. and The Facts About Military Recruiting on Campus.

--Free learning modules for CTE professionals to enhance their workplace skills.

Montana ACTE invites you and your staff to visit the new [Montana CTE Learn](#) site and see firsthand the latest effort to ensure every CTE practitioner in Montana has the access to the resources to achieve their professional goals.

If you have questions about our new offering, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Mark Branger, Montana ACTE, Executive Director, at mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us.

Register Today for the ISTE 2020 Conference in June in Anaheim

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) invites you to [ISTE20](#), June 28-July 1 in Anaheim, California. ISTE20 is where educators and innovators come together to share big ideas, expand good practice and inspire their careers

ISTE20 is where educators from around the world reach their greatest potential and are empowered to help students become the learners and leaders of the future. ISTE20 is where dream it becomes do it.

ISTE20 will be held at the Anaheim Convention Center with early-bird registration from March 4-May 1, 2020.

[Lodging](#) is available at multiple hotels within the vicinity of the Anaheim Convention Center, including the Anaheim Hilton and Anaheim Marriott.

Please visit conference.iste.org/2020 for complete conference details.

Need help convincing your boss or administration, visit the [Make the Case for ISTE20](#) (conference.iste.org/2020/attend/make_the_case.php) for information and resources to help support your request to attend.

New Perkins V Information Section Added to OPI CTE Website

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

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

There are several new posts:

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

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

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

--Montana's 16 Statewide Career Pathways website

--Templates for each pathway with possible course combinations

--New Work-based Learning Manual

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mobile CSP will be offered June 15-19, in Great Falls. Based on the College Board's emerging Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles curriculum framework for introductory computer science. Students learn programming and computer science principles by building socially useful mobile apps using MIT's App Inventor. Learn more about the Mobile CSP curriculum at mobilecsp.org. For questions, contact Stacy Dolder at stacy_dolderer@gfps.k12.mt.us.

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

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. Please contact Hunter Lloyd, hunter.lloyd@montana.edu, with questions or for more information.

Registration is Now Open for the ACTE Region V 2020 Conference in Lake Tahoe, April 22-25

The Nevada Association for Career & Technical Education invites Career & Technical Education professionals to Lake Tahoe, Nevada, for the **ACTE Region V 2020 Conference**—20/20 Perfect Vision for CTE—at Harvey's Lake Tahoe Resort, April 22-25, 2020.

Registration for the conference is \$425 for ACTE members and a link to the online registration is available at acteonline.org/state_region/region-v.

A link to book rooms at Harvey's Lake Tahoe Resort is also available at acteonline.org/state_region/region-v. Rooms rates for the conference are \$69 per night for Tuesday-Thursday and \$119 for Friday and Saturday nights. In addition, there is a \$23 resort fee per night which includes Wi-Fi and fitness center access.

For complete conference details, please visit the **ACTE Region V** website at acteonline.org/state_region/region-v.

Scholarship Application Open for Support to Attend CSTA 2020 Conference

The Computer Science Teachers Association is pleased to offer **scholarships** to support teachers who could not otherwise attend the CSTA Conference due to funding limitations. Thanks to the generous support of partners, CSTA is able to offer financial support to cover conference registration fee, three nights in a hotel, and/or airfare, train, or mileage reimbursement (up to \$500).

To be eligible for scholarships, applicants must (1) live in the United States; (2) be a PK-12 teacher who teaches or integrates CS; (3) be a member of CSTA; and (4) require financial assistance to attend the conference.

For complete scholarship details and to apply, please visit event.com/events/2020-csta-annual-conference/custom-36-236d288a403041f8a7a935b0bd74131c.aspx.

Applications are due March 30, 2020.

AICPA Announces Regional APBP Accounting Trainings for 2020—Registrations Now Open

The American Institute of Certified Professional Accountants is happy to announce three (3) regional events in Summer 2020 which include three dual-track conferences for the Accounting Program to Bridge the Profession (APBP): Advanced Accounting program.

The schedule for the upcoming year is as follows:

Dual Track (curriculum + implementation) Conferences

These events teach the APBP [curriculum \(startheregoplaces.com/teacher/apbp-advanced-accounting\)](http://startheregoplaces.com/teacher/apbp-advanced-accounting) to first-time attendees and implementation training for previous attendees. These conferences will be held in the Summer 2020.

--[South-Central Conference](#): June 23-25, 2020 - Dallas, Texas

--[North-Central Conference](#): July 8-10, 2020 - Waukee, Iowa

--[Northeast Conference](#): July 29-31, 2020 - Boston, Massachusetts

For the 2020 trainings, a registration fee for the trainings will be charged with the registration fee as follows:

--\$125 for registrations completed up to and including 60 days prior to the conference

--\$200 for registrations completed less than 60 days prior to the conference

Cancellation requests must be submitted to apbp@aicpa-cima.com at least 14 days prior to the event start date to be eligible for a full refund.

What does this registration fee include?

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and all training materials. Teachers leave with a desk copy of the APBP textbook; lesson plans and assignments; PowerPoint presentations; and pre-written exams with answer keys. Trained teachers also benefit from refresher videos and continuous support from the AICPA and APBP trainers.

Secure your spot early to take advantage of the best rate.

The AICPA knows your time is limited, so they are making it worth your while to tell your friends and peers about the program. From now until respective trainings begin, for each person who registers, attends and completes a training per your referral, the AICPA will send you a \$20 e-gift card. See official program rules [here](#).

To learn more about the APBP: Advanced Accounting program, please visit startheregoplaces.com/teacher/apbp-advanced-accounting.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Wampee, also known by its scientific name *Clausena lansium*, is a plant species native to Southern China and Northern and Central Vietnam.

The fruit was introduced to areas of Southeast Asia including Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore.

It is rarely cultivated in India, Australia, Sri Lanka, United States and Central America.

Common names in English include Fool's Curry Leaf, Wampi, huang pi, and Chinese clausena.

The wampee tree is an evergreen shrub or small tree which is cultivated as an ornamental plant and for its edible fruits.

The wampee fruits are pale yellow or brownish yellow which are available during May to July.

In 1908, wampee was regarded to have been cultivated in Hawaiian gardens.

In 1908, wampees also reached to Florida as an unknown species.

The wampee seed was obtained by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1914 from Canton (China) and Hawaii in 1917.

In 1913, wampees were developed in Jamaica.

Wampee fruits have thin and soft peel with inside flesh yellowish-white, gelatinous, and juicy.

Wampee fruit is loaded with numerous health benefits and possesses various antioxidants, minerals and vitamins, anti-inflammatory, anthelmintic and anticancer properties.

Wampee leaves, roots and unripe fruits are used in folkloric medicine.

In China and Malaysia, the leaves are used to treat asthma, coughs, dermatological diseases and hepatitis.

In the Philippines, the fruit are used for indigestion, stomach upsets, coughs, colds, influenza and abdominal colic pains.

Wampee is consumed fresh or added to gelatins, fruit cups and desserts.

The fruit is used to make jellies, pies and jams.

In China, the fruit is consumed fresh or served with meat dishes or preserves.

In Vietnam and Southeast Asia, the fruit is fermented with sugar and strained to make a carbonated beverage or champagne.

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