

The Wednesday Reader

December 7, 2016

Please note the last Wednesday Reader for 2016 will be next week, December 14 and I will be on vacation beginning December 21 and returning to the office on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

St. Regis Business Educator 1 of 5 Finalist for ACTE New Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to one of our own, Chad Eichenlaub of St. Regis, on being one of the five finalists for the Association for Career and Technical Education's New Teacher of Year.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) New Teacher of the Year award recognizes CTE teachers with 3-5 years' experience (at the middle, secondary or postsecondary level) who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

Chad was recognized as one of the five national finalists on the stage of ACTE's CareerTech VISISON 2016 conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada, November 29-December 3.

Chad is the business teacher in St. Regis, Montana, a small K-12 school district with an average enrollment of 144 students, 90% free and reduced lunch rates, and the fifth highest unemployment rate in the state. Since taking over the business education program, Chad has expanded course offerings to align with state business education standards and offer dual credit.

Through new partnerships, he helped establish a Big Sky Pathway for his high school students to seamlessly transfer to a college program upon graduation. These initiatives have tripled his program enrollment in the last three years. Chad's Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter has had six national qualifiers, three state champions, one national runner-up. The chapter has received four Silver Star Awards for chapter development and was recognized with the 2014 Spirit of Professionalism award for the State of Montana. Additionally, the chapter has received several National awards: two Quality Chapter Distinctions, two BPA Special Olympics Awards, a Marketing & Public Relations Award, a Chapter Activities Award of Excellence, and a Community Service Award.

Chad also serves as the technology coordinator for the district, overseeing the rollout of a 1:1 initiative and setting new standards for the use of technology in CTE programs. As the district's program director for GEAR-UP, he leads the initiative to improve St. Regis' graduation and college enrollment rates through career and postsecondary exploration. Chad's students are active in community revitalization projects, using their business acumen to partner with the county Chamber of Commerce on the development of a 64-page business directory and a visitors' guide for the county. "Chad Eichenlaub added a dimension to St. Regis High School that never existed," says Monte Turner of Mineral Community Hospital. "We are very fortunate he has chosen us."

Chad is currently the President-Elect of the Montana Business Education Association—officially becoming President on January 1, 2017—and is a member of the Montana Association for Career & Technical Education's Executive Board of Directors. Chad is also a member for the Board of the Western Business Education Association, serving on the WBEA Executive Committee as the WBEA Media Communications Director.

Additionally, in October of this year, Chad was elected the Montana Secondary Division Representative on the Business Professionals of America's national level Classroom Educators Advisory Council (CEAC) and to the

Business Professionals of America, Montana Association State Executive Board. As the Montana Secondary Division CEAC Representative, Chad is also a member of the Framework for Business Education in Montana curriculum committee.

Chad was one of five finalists for the 2017 national title. The national winner was announced at the ACTE Awards Banquet, on Wednesday evening, November 30, during ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Montana business education community, the Montana Business Education Association, and the Montana Association for Career and Technical Education would like to congratulate Chad Eichenlaub on receiving this national recognition and for being a champion and advocate of Business Education and Career and Technical Education.

Congratulations Chad, well done!

[Computer Science Education Week – A Great Time to Try the Hour of Code with Your Students](#)

This week, December 5-11, is Computer Science Education Week and this is a great time to have your students participate in the [Hour of Code](#). The [Hour of Code](#) has always been a grassroots effort to celebrate computer science in unique ways. This year's [list of Hour of Code activities](#) has been refreshed with new content, an updated look, and a filter tool that will allow you to find the best activity for your classroom.

If you have not participated in the Hour of Code in the past and you are not sure what students do during, give it a try yourself. The [Hour of Code](#) is free, easy, and is a great way for students, adults, and teachers to experience coding and to gain knowledge and skills in computer science.

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.

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.

EngageCSEdu – A "One-Stop-Shop" for all Things Computer Science/Computer Science Principles

Have you used the [Hour of Code](#) in the past? Do you currently have students working on computer science activities and are looking for more ideas? Are you thinking about or looking to add a lesson, unit, or project in computer science? Are you curious to learn some computer science and/or coding before you try it with your students? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, check out [EngageCSEdu](#) (engage-csedu.org) today.

The [EngageCSEdu](#) collection will be useful to anyone who is teaching, or planning to teach, an introductory computer science course, from tenured professors to teaching assistants, from experienced teachers looking for new ideas to new instructors needing some expert guidance.

All lessons, materials, and resources on [EngageCSEdu](#) are FREE.

The primary goal of [EngageCSEdu](#) is to support the retention of women and other underrepresented groups in undergraduate computer science majors. Ultimately, [EngageCSEdu](#) wants to help grow a more diverse computing workforce.

Many things influence whether a student chooses to continue to study computer science. A key factor is being exposed to engaging curriculum that is both relevant and meaningful to a student's life. And the first year courses are some of the most important since they establish a student's attitudes toward the field and influence whether they will choose CS as a major. This is especially true for women.

[EngageCSEdu](#) (engage-csedu.org) is a repository for CS1 and CS2 course materials, including assignments, tutorials, labs, assessments, lecture notes, exercises and projects. The specific "engagement practices" that each material uses are identified on its detail page. Users can learn more about each engagement practice, the research that supports it as a valid method of engaging students, and the related NCWIT ([National Center for Women and Information Technology](#)) resources right on the site.

The [Engagement Practices site](#) of [EngageCSEdu](#) provides instructors and collection users with tips and strategies to [grow an inclusive student community](#), to [make instruction and learning matter](#), and to [build students confidence and professional identity](#).

Check out the [Instructional Materials](#) page today to check out course syllabi, article and lessons/activities for use in your classroom including [Beetle](#) (using the Cootie game), [Tic-Tac-Toe](#), and [Pig](#)—a project where students use Java to build the Pig dice game from scratch.

Do not Shut the Box on exploring some new techniques and computer science lessons, but try [Shut the Box](#) where students dissect a working implementation of the Shut the Box dice game using process oriented guided inquiry learning (POGIL).

Moonjar Starts Money Conversations that Last a Lifetime

[Moonjar \(moonjar.com\)](http://moonjar.com), based in Seattle, is an internationally acclaimed company creating tools for young children and families offering practical daily interactions with money and the conversations surrounding money management. [Moonjar's](#) mission is to reach every family with Save, Spend and Share as a practice to start money conversations that last a lifetime.

Tools and resources available from [Moonjar](#) include

Standard Moonjar Moneyboxes: Moonjar partners with banks, credit unions, schools and community organizations to offer a hands-on approach to teach early money skills. Our foldable Standard Moonjars can be completely customized. Each Standard Moonjar comes with a parent guide and passbook to keep the conversations growing.

Classic Moonjar Moneyboxes: Our tin Moneyboxes are lasting reminders of Save, Spend and Share. These teaching banks are sold in retail locations around the world as well as on line at www.moonjar.com.

Conversations to Go Money: A takeout box filled with conversation starters to get people of all ages thinking and talking about how money issues are individual and based on personal choices.

ABCs of Money and How the Moonjar was Made: Books for young readers and families to explore entrepreneurship. These books touch on economic differences, business growth plans, the need for community involvement and basic budgeting all while offering engaging characters to connect the concepts.

Moonjar Leader's Lesson Plan and Curriculum: Moonjar created a scripted lesson plan that is used internationally (has been translated into Spanish and Arabic), and is available for any classroom volunteer. It is a successful tool for students in elementary school to high school. We believe top down bottom up learning is a great way to share experience early financial lessons. Our curriculum is broken up for kindergarten and first grade, second and third, and fourth and fifth grade. Each curricula is three lessons each 45 minutes in length. The lessons align with national math standards and work well in a math or life skills classroom.

For more information, checkout moonjar.com or contact Mary Karges at 206.726.4878 or mary@moonjar.com.

WBEA 2017 Conference Computer Workshops & Breakout Sessions

Planning to attend, or thinking about attending, the [Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference](#) in Bozeman in February? Check out the complete listing of hands-on computer workshops and breakout sessions on the [WBEA 2017 Conference](#) website or directly at <https://goo.gl/LepsrU>.

All hands-on computer workshops will be held on either Friday, February 17 or Saturday, February 18 with breakout sessions taking place on Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19.

One new offering this year to WBEA conference attendees will be the option to complete the w!se Teacher Certification for Personal Finance. W!se will be conducting an informational session on Saturday morning with certification taking place Saturday afternoon. For more information about the w!se Teacher Certification for Personal Finance, please visit the [WBEA 2017 Conference](#) website or download the information, including registration requirements, at <https://goo.gl/XcmRR4>.

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.

Superintendent Juneau Asks Montanans For Their Input On The Every Student Succeeds Act

Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau has released Montana's draft state plan for implementing the *Every Student Succeeds Act* or ESSA. Juneau sent one copy to the governor for his review, and posted another copy [HERE](#) for public comment.

"It's exciting that Montanans now have a seat at the table in determining what our public schools should emphasize, and how we can support students and educators grow," Superintendent Juneau said. "The last thing I want to see in Montana is No Child Left Behind 2.0, which is why we're working to include the voices of educators, parents, and school leaders in developing Montana's state plan."

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, reauthorizing the Elementary/Secondary Education Act of 1965. States have been operating under the guidance of the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* reauthorization since 2007. ESSA redirects former NCLB requirements in giving states the ability to develop their own accountability plans. ESSA also places a stronger emphasis on child wellbeing and recognizes there are many ways to measure performance.

Montana's state plan will continue to build on the successes of our public schools by continuing to raise graduation rates, improve teaching, learning and student achievement, identify and support schools of greatest need, and improve non-academic student outcomes in all of Montana's public schools.

In March, Superintendent Juneau [appointed a group](#) of educators, parents and school leaders from across the state to begin the work of developing Montana's state plan. The group has met four times.

Click [HERE](#) to read Montana's ESSA state plan and submit your comments. The public comment period is open through December 16. Superintendent Juneau will submit Montana's plan to the U.S. Department of Education on December 23.

Start Planning Now for the 2016-2017 Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt Adventure

Montana State University Extension is offering the *Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt* as a part of the America Saves program during 2016-2017.

This version of the hunt is specifically designed for students between the ages of 13 and 19 (*as of September 1, 2016*). Students will learn about the benefits saving and investing, how credit can be a friend for foe, and how to be in control of their money.

Students who complete the Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt are eligible for a drawing for one of 17 cash awards of \$100 in each age group during America Saves week February 27-March 4, 2017. The deadline for completing the hunt is **Wednesday, March 1, 2017**.

The cash awards for Montana students are courtesy of:

- First Interstate BancSystem Foundation
- Montana Credit Unions for Community Development
- Montana Consumer Protection Division, Office of Attorney General
- Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
- Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) Legacy Foundation
- Montana Bankers Association Education Endowment Fund of the Montana Community Foundation
- Montana 4-H Foundation
- America Saves Bank of American Foundation

The materials for teachers, parents, and guardians can be found at <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/pdf/invitationforteachers.pdf>. Participation details and enrollment instructions are available at <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/pdf/invitationforstudents.pdf>.

The steps necessary to record completed Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt quizzes can be downloaded directly from <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/pdf/directionsatendofquizzes.pdf>.

A complete listing of websites to be used in the 2016-2017 Montana \$aves \$cavenger Hunt can be downloaded at <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/pdf/websitefortechology.pdf>.

For promotional materials, please visit <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/pdf/scavengerhuntflyer.pdf>.

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](http://tuitionfundingsources.com) also provides students with a career personality test, and detailed career information. Students using [TFS](http://tuitionfundingsources.com) 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](http://tuitionfundingsources.com) 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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The official name of for Mexico is Estados Unidos Mexicanos, or United Mexican States.

Mexico is the 11th most populated country in the world, with over 117 million people, and is the 14th largest country by land area.

The first printing press used in North America was set up in Mexico City in 1539 where publishing houses of New Spain primarily printed religious manuals, catechisms, grammars, and dictionaries.

The National University of Mexico was founded in 1551 by Charles V of Spain and is the oldest university in North America.

The border between Mexico and the United States is the second largest border in the world (only the U.S.-Canadian border is longer)

Mexican children do not receive presents on Christmas Day. They receive gifts on January 6, the day on which Mexicans celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men.

Mexico's flag is made up three vertical stripes—the left green stripe stands for hope, the middle white stripe represents purity, and the right red stripe represents the blood of those who died fighting for Mexico's independence. The picture of an eagle eating a snake is based on an Aztec legend.

Mexico City has the highest elevation and is oldest city in North America. It is also one of the largest cities in the world.

The first great civilization in Mexico were the Olmecs (1400-300 B.C.) who established many cities along the eastern coast of Mexico, sculpted the famous Colossal Heads, and worshipped a mysterious, unnamed god that was part human and part jaguar.

The largest wildcat in North America is the jaguar, which can be found in Mexico's southern jungles.

The red poinsettia (which the Aztecs called cuetlaxochitl) originated in Mexico and is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States ambassador to Mexico in the 1820s.

The Zapotec civilization (600 B.C.-A.D. 800) established great cities along southern Mexico and developed the first writing system in the Americas.

The Aztecs played ritual ball game known as tlachtli in which the losers were often sacrificed to the gods.

The descendants of the Aztecs speak a form of the Aztec language called Nahuatl. Many of its words, particularly for types of food, passed into English...such as tomatoes (tomatl), chocolate (chocolatl), and avocados (ahuacatl).

When Spanish Conquistador Hernan Cortés arrived in 1519, the Aztecs believed he was their returning god, Quetzalcoatl, and offered him the drink of the gods: hot chocolate.

Mexico remained under Spanish control for nearly 300 years until the Mexican people, led by a priest named Father Hidalgo, rose up against the Spanish on September 16, 1810. Hidalgo is widely considered the father of modern Mexico, and Mexican Independence is celebrated on September 15-16.

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