Tomorrow is Deadline to Apply for Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

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.

Want CTE Funds Next Year? Submit CTE Perkins Intent to Apply & State CTE/VoEd Application

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 and listed below. It is also available on the Secondary CTE web page of the OPI website inside the *Perkins Federal Funding* tab.

Authorized Representatives of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will use the online link to access and complete the brief electronic form for the 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 Perkins allocation unless this electronic form is completed and submitted online at the OPI on or before the April 25, 2016 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 http://app.keysurvey.com/f/1026384/41f0/.

The **DEADLINE** for submission of the combined application is **April 25, 2016**.

If you have questions, please contact Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist, at chendricks@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.9019.

Interested in Sharing a Great Project or Lesson? Complete the 2017 WBEA Call for Presentations
The 2017 Western Business Education Association Conference will be hosted by the Montana Business Education Association in Bozeman at the Best Western GranTree Inn next year, February 16-20, 2017.

A Call for Presentations is now available for any business educator or other professional interested in sharing information and resources with business educators. The Call for Presentations can be completed online at http://goo.gl/forms/SgsDnExKgy. If you have problems accessing the link, please contact Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

The 2017 WBEA Conference will bring together business education professionals at all levels—middle school, high school, college/university—from across the western United States and Canada as well as national- and international-level leaders in business education instruction and research.

The deadline to submit proposals is October 1, 2016; presentation proposals will not be accepted after this date. Please note, all Business Educators who present at the conference are required to formally register for the 2017 WBEA Conference.

If you have any questions regarding proposals, please contact Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

Free Curriculum and Instructional Resources Available from Oracle Academy
Oracle Academy has tools and resources that will place you on the leading edge of these important initiatives. Become an Oracle Academy Institutional member today—for FREE.

Oracle Academy offers teachers with free academic curriculum. The professionally developed, academic courseware in Java, Database Design, SQL, and PL/SQL delivers computer science learning for both academic and CTE pathways, and includes lesson plans, student projects, and assessments on a hosted learning management system (LMS).

The Oracle Academy curriculum as includes end-of-pathway exams. Students who complete the relevant Java or database courses are prepared to take the AP CS A exam and Oracle's new Junior Associate Certification exams in Java or Database. The Junior Associate Certification is designed for students in high school programs and two-and four-year colleges, and universities; provides independent validation of Java programming and database knowledge; and helps when applying for internships and summer and first professional jobs.

Oracle Academy offers free teacher training. Never taught database, SQL, or Java, or just need a refresher? Oracle Academy offers educator professional development in a variety of formats to accommodate different schedules and learning styles.

Oracle Academy's mission is to partner with educators to advance computer science education and increase knowledge, skills, innovation and diversity in technology fields. Elevate your classroom practice and bring industry leading software, curriculum and resources into your classroom to start or grow your computer science program. Join today.

For more information about Oracle Academy, please visit academy.oracle.com/en/oa-web-overview.html.

U.S. Department of Education CTE Makeover Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) invites schools to enter the CTE Makeover Challenge by submitting a design for a CTE makerspace.

A makerspace is an environment or facility that provides resources, materials, and equipment for students to conceive, create, and collaborate through making. Making refers to a hands-on learning approach that encourages students to imagine, create, and tinker through the process of manufacturing, testing, and demonstrating their ideas.

Through making, educators enable students to immerse themselves in problem-solving and the continuous refinement of their projects while learning essential 21st-century career skills, such as critical thinking, planning, and communication.

ED is seeking models of CTE makerspaces across a wide range of facility types, such as classrooms, libraries, and mobile spaces, that it can share with educators to encourage the creation of affordable, scalable, and replicable makerspaces.

All eligible schools will gain access to the CTE Makeover Bootcamp, a six-week program that provides resources and expertise in makerspace design and planning. $200,000 in cash and other prizes will be distributed to a maximum of 10 honorees to turn their vision for a makerspace into a reality.

Honorees will produce and submit a video tour of their constructed makerspaces and compile an online portfolio of materials for use in the CTE Makerspace Showcase, which will take place at the World Maker Faire in New York City in October 2016.

For more information, please visit www.ctemakeoverchallenge.com.

NASA Announces Dates for One of World's Largest Hackathons

NASA's open innovation incubator, the International Space Apps Challenge, will take place April 22-24. The global main stage for this year's event will be in Pasadena, California, with local events taking place simultaneously in 193 locations spanning 72 countries.

On April 23 and 24, participants are asked to develop mobile applications, software, hardware, data visualizations and platform solutions that could contribute to space exploration missions and help improve life on Earth.

This year's challenge will include a Data Bootcamp on April 22, streamed live from the global main stage. The bootcamp is open to the public and will give participants the opportunity to learn new skills with computer coding and data.

"We're reaching out to women's organizations influential in the data and maker communities to participate, and we encourage women-led teams in the hackathon," said Deborah Diaz, chief technology officer for information technology.

More than 200 sources, including data sets, services and tools, will be available to challenge participants, which include techy-savvy citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs, educators, families and students to help solve problems and questions relevant to space exploration and broader subjects that impact life on Earth.

This year, NASA is offering 26 challenges in six mission-related categories: Aeronautics, Earth, International Space Station, Journey to Mars, Solar System and Beyond, and Space Technology.

For more information about the Space Apps Challenge, and a full list of NASA challenges, go to http://spaceappschallenge.org.

Follow the challenge on Twitter at https://twitter.com/spaceapps.

Adobe Max—The Creativity Conference: Preregistration Savings Ends Tomorrow, March 31
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.

Preregister (with no payment required) by March 31 and you'll save US$500. There is no financial obligation at this time, just an opportunity to lock in this low price before it's gone. After March 31, passes will increase to $1595.

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

Helena High Mock Trial Team Seeks to Expand the Number of Montana Teams
Earlier this month, the Helena High School's Mock Trial Team competed in Boise, Idaho, in the Idaho State Bar's Mock Trial Competition. Why did they compete in the Idaho competition? . . . Helena High is the only Mock Trial Team in Montana.

Helena High School business teacher Kacey Askin teaches the law and justice classes at HHS and is the teams coach. The students from HHS have been working for months preparing for the competition, but because there are no other teams in the state they are forced to go out of state to compete.

Details regarding the Mock Trial Competition and to read the story of the HHS team, please visit www.kxlh.com/story/31478104/helena-high-school-mock-trial-team-will-compete-in-idaho-state-competition. Details about the Idaho competition can be viewed at https://isb.idaho.gov/ilf/lre/mock_trial.html.

If at least one more team within Montana, then Montana could qualify one team for the National Mock Trial Competition. The 2016 national competition will be held May 12-14 in Boise. The 2017 National Mock Trial Competition is scheduled for May 11-13 in Hartford, Connecticut.

If you are interested in learning more about the mock trial competition, please visit www.nationalmocktrial.org or contact Kacey directly, his email is kaskin@helenaschools.org.

The Helena High School team did place fourth in the Idaho competition. Congratulations!!

Advanced Placement® Workshop Seeks to Boost State's Computer Science Education Levels
Montana schools have a golden opportunity to give students a leg up in the changing job markets of our times. Teachers can participate in a four-day workshop to gain abilities and knowledge to teach AP® Computer Science June 27–30 in Bozeman.

Although the workshop is designed to prepare teachers to offer an AP® Computer Science course in a school, the strategies and skills presented will be helpful for teachers of all computer applications or computer programming courses.

Instructor for the workshop is Cody Henrichsen, who has been teaching AP® Computer Science for 16 years and has been selected by the College Board for this work. Henrichsen say that computer science is difficult to learn on your own and needs to be accessible to all students. He expects that this subject matter will be new for many workshop participants and has developed the sessions to be practical and enjoyable.

According to Henrichsen, up to eight of the top 20 jobs in the coming years will require the use of computer science to analyze data, build models, and access the inaccessible.

Currently, out of 171 public high schools in the state, 45 report offering no courses in computer applications. Only eight report a course in computer programming and only 20 report having more than one teacher offering computer-related courses, based on Montana school reports in the TEAMS data system.

A recent Gallup study reports that nationally, 25% of America's students have no access to a computer science class or club at school, but parents across all demographic categories overwhelmingly support a requirement for students to learn computer science.

In a radio address earlier this year, President Obama called for congress to support Computer Science for All, an initiative rooted in preparing young people to successfully navigate the landscape of jobs and work in the twenty-first century.

"In the new economy, computer science isn't an optional skill – it's a basic skill, right along with the three Rs. Nine out of 10 parents want it taught at their children's schools," the President said.

In recent months both the National Science Foundation and Microsoft have committed major funding for multi-year initiatives to support and increase computer science in the U.S. and partnered with organizations including Code.org and Teach for America.

Registration for the AP® Computer Science workshop is open. Learn more, here.

Read more about the Gallup study and the Computer Science for All initiative at

http://www.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/184751/students-lack-access-computer-science-learning.aspx?g_source=lack access computer science learning&g_medium=search&g_campaign=tiles

http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/09/16/microsoft-70-million-investment-computer-science-underrepresented-women-minorities-satya-nadella-brad-smith-education/32519869/

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160202143745.htm

3D Model Contest: K-12 Students Can Win a 3D Printer, Free Week of Tech Camp, and More
Get students excited about 3D modeling and 3D printing - the technology that's changing our world! iD Tech is hosting a Minecraft 3D Model Contest in collaboration with industry leaders Dremel, Autodesk, and Shapeways.

Students in grades K-12 can participate by submitting a Minecraft-inspired 3D model. There's no better way to discover 3D modeling and printing than designing your own item or character, and then watching it come to life.

Three winners receive an awesome selection of prizes and each winner's school will also win a Dremel 3D printer. Encourage your students' creativity and get them excited about technology by sharing this fun opportunity. The contest runs from now through April 15.

[View complete details and find free resources](#).

For contest questions, please contact us via the [iD Tech Help Center](#).

iD Tech is the country's #1 summer technology camp for kids and teens. To view our 60+ STEM courses on programming, 3D modeling and printing, game design, robotics, web design, video production, and more, visit [www.iDTech.com](#).

ACTE CareerTech Vision 2016 in Las Vegas, Nov 30-Dec 3—Registration is Now Open

Early Bird registration for the [Association for Career & Technical Education's](#) (ACTE) [2016 CareerTech Vision](#) conference is now open. The [2016 ACTE CareerTech Vision](#) conference will be held in Las Vegas, November 30-December 3, at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

VISION is your EVENT, your EXPERIENCE and your OPPORTUNITY to thrive. Join us for the premier annual gathering of CTE professionals and choose from an array of professional development:

--Inspiring keynote speakers
--Hundreds of dynamic and interactive CTE sessions
--A comprehensive CareerTech Expo
--A larger-than-ever Career Pavilion
--The elegant ACTE Awards Banquet
--Numerous Wednesday workshops and tours

The Early Bird registration rate is $395 for ACTE members. After July 1, the member rate increases to $445 and registrations after October 28 will be charged the late rate of $525.

Highlights for 2016 VISISION include

Concurrent CTE Sessions: VISION 2016's educational agenda will give you the opportunity to tailor a professional development experience that is just for right for you! You will hear the latest projections on CTE from education experts and industry leaders and the most relevant topics from your peers.

CareerTech Expo: The vibrant gathering place for CTE professionals, CareerTech Expo features 200+ companies offering the latest CTE products and services, exhibitor workshops, and a wealth of networking opportunities.

Career Pavilion: Bigger and better than ever, VISION's Career Pavilion features multiple employment sectors with representatives showcasing career opportunities and resources to help you get your students excited about their future career path.

NEW! STEM is CTE Symposium: This special VISION event will help you inspire our nation's students and young women, who are still underrepresented in STEM fields, forge career paths in STEM through engaging CTE programming.

Funding Strategies: VISION 2016 will offer a series of sessions covering essential funding strategies, the grant writing process and business collaborations to fuel your CTE programs.

The Many Faces of CTE: Celebrate and share your professional contributions with thousands of CTE professionals like you, transforming students' lives every single day, at VISION 2016.

ACTE Awards Banquet: Join the most distinguished CTE professionals, programs and organizations in an evening of elegance and ceremony at ACTE's Awards Banquet on Wednesday, November 30 at VISION 2016.

The host hotel is the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino (the former Las Vegas Hilton) and is connected to the convention center. The 2016 Vision rate is $89.00 plus tax. For complete lodging information please visit www.careertechvision.com/travel.cfm.

Mark your calendars now for the 2017 and 2018 ACTE CareerTech Visions.

-2017: December 6-9, Nashville
-2018: November 28-December 1, San Antonio

Driving into Google Apps Workshop Saturday, April 23 in Billings—Registration Ends April 1

On Saturday, April 23, 406Tech will be holding a Driving into Google Apps workshop in Billings at the downtown Lincoln Center.

This event is being held a pre-conference workshop for the 2016 Montana Traffic Education Conference, but is open to other educators as well. Attend this workshop if you are interested in learning how to use Google Apps.

The workshop will focus on Google apps like Drive, Docs, Tasks, Keep and Sheets. Attendees will learn how to navigate these and other Google apps and put them into action. Attendees can earn six (6) OPI renewal units.

The Driving into Google Apps workshop is available for $100 (MTEA members can register at a discount) and registration can be completed at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/driving-into-google-apps-workshop-tickets-21829230817.

If interested, be sure to register today as space is limited to 40 participants. Registration must be complete by Friday, April 1.

For more information, please visit www.mteaonline.org/annual-conference.html or www.406tech.net/mtea.html.

2016 Montana Institute on Educational Technology Registration Now Open

The 2016 Montana Institute on Educational Technology (MIET) will be held June 14 and 15 at Great Falls College MSU.

Registration is now open and details for 2016 MIET can be found at miettechdays.weebly.com. Early registration is $110 for both days and includes lunch if completed by May 20.

Following the 2016 MIET, on June 16 a free Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Teacher Academy training will be held, also Great Falls College. This Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Teacher Academy is designed for the K-12 classroom educator who wants to learn more about Microsoft's best tools and resources for classroom learning in a one-day professional learning experience. Bring your own Windows 8.1 or 10 device to learn how to most effectively use the latest version of Windows, including basic navigation and Windows Apps. Discover Office Mix, Sway, and OneNote, including how digital notebooks can be created and used as a productivity tool for educators and students. This training will also cover how easy it is to use cloud-based tools in Office 365 for education and Skype in the Classroom, including how to take advantage of storage on OneDrive, and how to work collaboratively with others all through the cloud.

For complete details and registration for both the 2016 MIET and the Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Teacher Academy, please visit miettechdays.weebly.com.

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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Cheetos, the puffed cornmeal snack, was invented in 1948.

The first Cheetos mascot was a mouse; Chester Cheetah was introduced in 1986.

There are 21 different types of Cheetos in North America.

More than 15 million pounds of cheese are used each year to make Cheetos.

The world's largest Cheetos can be found in Algona, Iowa.

Cheetos Puff Balls entered the market in 1980.

Flamin' Hot Cheetos are considered the snack of the people as they were invented by a janitor in 1992 in California when he started adding chili powder to his Cheetos.

Flamin' Hot Cheetos are banned in lots of schools.

Japan sells strawberry Cheetos dipped in icing.

A Cheeto thought to be shaped like Michael Jackson's legs doing the moonwalk sold on eBay for $35.18 in 2009.

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