April 25 is Deadline to Submit Perkins Intent to Apply & State CTE/VoEd App for 16-17 Funding

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.

Announcing the 2nd Annual NGPF Teacher Innovator Awards…$3,000 In Cash Prizes

To recognize personal finance educators during Financial Literacy Month, Next Gen Personal Finance is pleased to announce the **2nd Annual NGPF Teacher Innovator Awards**.

Here are the details:

Who is eligible?
--Personal finance educators at high school or college level

What are the prizes?
--$1,000 cash prize will be awarded to three teachers with the most innovative activity/project submitted (for a total of $3,000)

What criteria will be used to judge the Activity/Project?
--Teaches the underlying concept
--Incorporates meaningful skills (e.g., analysis, collaboration, written/verbal communication, research, media literacy)
--Shows high degree of creativity
--Ready to use in the classroom
--Engages students

What are we looking for?
--An activity or project that you have created for your students

What do I need to include with my submission?
--A PDF of the activity/project that you have created
--A short description of the key personal finance concept taught by the activity/project
--A paragraph describing the reasons that you really love this project

Teachers may submit up to two (2) activities/projects for consideration but can only win ONE $1,000 cash prize. All submissions are due by April 19 with winners announced on April 28.

Send all submissions to tim@nextgenpersonalfinance.org with the subject line "NGPF Teacher Innovator Contest".

NGPF will feature the innovator teachers and their submissions on the NGPF Blog, Twitter and our Facebook page. In addition, winners will be featured in the May NGPF newsletter.

For questions about the 2nd Annual NGPF Teacher Innovator Awards, please contact tim@nextgenpersonalfinance.org.

Montana ACTE Fall Institute - Call for Presenters and Ideas
Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) President Brad Mehr is seeking Montana business educators interested in being a part of the program for the 2016 Montana ACTE Institute. The Montana ACTE Institute will be held in Bozeman at the Best Western GranTree Inn, October 20 and 21.

Brad's as MBEA President is to give everyone the best conference with the best breakouts possible. The hope is this conference will provide Montana's business educators a plethora of new ideas and materials to take back to your classes.

The Montana ACTE Board is also looking into the idea of having a couple shorter breakout sessions. Instead of an hour they would be half-hour blocks so you can get in get the info/materials and move on. Please let Brad know what you think about this idea.

Brad is also looking for around 8 to 10 presenters to fill either an hour or half-hour time slot. If you are doing something new and exciting in your classes please think about presenting at the institute—we need to make sure we're all moving forward in this fast moving educational world.

Lastly this conference is for you. If you have ideas about things you would like to see at the Institute please let Brad know.

Brad can be contacted at brad.mehr@bsd7.org or download the Montana ACTE Call for Presentations from the Montana ACTE website and submit your proposal to Brad. The Montana ACTE Call for Presentations form can be downloaded in both PDF and Word formats.

Save the Date—ECNS 594: Economics Seminar for Teachers on MSU Campus

The Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is excited to announce the Summer 2016 edition of ECNS 594: Economics Seminar for Teachers will be held June 7-9 (Tuesday-Thursday) on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman.

The three-day professional development event will include coursework presented by MSU professors in economics, tools and strategies for teaching economics in your classroom, and college credit or OPI renewal units.

Additionally, within the small registration fee, attendees will receive lodging, meals, mileage, and parking.

More details about ECNS 594 will be available in May, including registration, and will be posted on the Montana Council for Economic Education website at econedmontana.org.

For questions about ECNS 594, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

MSU 2016 Summer Session for Computer Science in the Classroom: An Introduction to Computational Thinking

During the Montana State University summer session, MSU computer science professor Dr. John Paxton will again be offering CSCI 591 Computer Science in the Classroom: An Introduction to Computational Thinking on the Bozeman campus June 13-17.

CSCI 591 examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition. Exciting ideas and influential people are introduced. A gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language is provided. The course also introduces participants to robotic platforms.

This course parallels Dr. Paxton's CSCI 107 Joy and Beauty of Computing.

For more information about the course, summer session enrollment, and course fees please visit http://www.montana.edu/summer/.

Cybersecurity Summer Workshop for High School Teachers

The Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace University invites you to attend a seven-day summer workshop aimed at introducing high school teachers to diverse topics in cybersecurity, free of cost.

The workshop will include lectures, hands-on exercises, presentations by industry professionals, group discussions, and lesson design projects. By the end of the program, participants will develop lesson plans that integrate cybersecurity concepts into their curricula or after-school programming.

Participants will receive a $1,400 stipend upon completion of all workshop sessions and activities.

Topics will include:

-Basic Concepts in Cybersecurity
-Cryptography
-Access Control
-Biometrics
-Digital Forensics

The Cybersecurity Summer Workshop for High School Teachers will be held Thursday, July 14-Friday, July 22, 2016 at Pace University, Pleasantville, NY.

Complete program details and application instructions can be found at http://www.pace.edu/seidenberg/gencyber.

Questions about the workshop can be directed to gencyber@pace.edu.

This workshop is supported by the GenCyber program, and funded jointly by the National Security Agency and the National Science Foundation.

First Time #CSTA16 Attendee? Apply TODAY For An Oracle Academy Scholarship

Oracle Academy has graciously decided to offer 20 scholarships to first-time conference attendees to the Computer Science Teaches Association's 2016 CSTA Annual Conference in July in San Diego. Oracle supports new ideas to strengthen teaching and learning, and they know that some of the best teaching methods come from fellow educators.

To be eligible for the scholarship, you must fit the following criteria:

--Applicant is a first time K-12 teacher attendee to the CSTA Annual conference
--Applicant has not taken or registered for an Oracle Academy event
--Must apply for the scholarship no later than May 1, 2016

Recipients of a scholarship award will receive a scholarship funded by Oracle Academy to attend the 2016 CSTA Annual Conference, and will cover up to $1,000 per awardee, to include:

--Conference registration
--Up to 3 nights of lodging at the conference venue or comparable location (if the conference venue is sold out)
--Travel expense support (toward transportation and meals)
--Recipients will receive special recognition as a recipient of an Oracle Academy scholarship at the conference.

After May 1, recipients will be selected by the listed objective criteria, using a pre-determined process. The 20 winners will be notified by May 15, 2016, and will then be given detailed instructions to finalize travel plans. Further rules/obligations outlined on application.

Apply now; the application deadline is May 1, 2016.

EverFi Provides Brand New *Healthy Relationships* Curriculum

We know how important the middle and early high school years are for your students' relationships and for setting them on the path to adulthood. Like you, we want that to be a positive path, which is why we designed Healthy Relationships to address the same problem areas we saw in the classroom when we were teachers.

Here are some of the topics covered:

Communicating Effectively - From identifying communication barriers to interpreting subtle social cues, students learn how to better express their thoughts, opinions, and feelings, and to communicate effectively with others.

Understanding and Managing Emotions - Students practice reading body language and facial expressions to interpret others' emotions, and then they learn strategies to control their own emotions--like naming, taking a deep breath, and choosing how to react.

Healthy Relationships is built around the following standards: National Health Education Standards (NHES), CASEL Social and Emotional Learning Competencies, Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

To learn more, contact Mick Karls of EverFi at mick@everfi.com or 406-204-1148. If you'd like to view a recorded webinar, visit here. And, if you'd like access to this *no-cost* course, register here and search for your school. If you already use EverFi's courses, click on the Request Course button to find *Healthy Relationships.*

EverFi Provides Digital Literacy and Responsibility Course

Another one of EverFi's no cost courses, *Ignition - Digital Literacy and Responsibility, c*ombines the power of cutting-edge instructional design, rich media, and simulations to educate teens and empower them with the skill set to leverage technology safely and effectively.

The four-hour curriculum is designed for students in grades 6th-9th and informs students on both "nuts and bolts" of how technology works and an introduction to STEM careers, while also placing them in virtual environments to tackle issues including privacy, security, cyber-bullying, digital relationships, and the viral nature of the web.

To learn more, visit here, or contact Mick Karls of EverFi at mick@everfi.com or 406.204.1148.

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.

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

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 15, 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

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.

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

Frank Mars, founder of Mars, Inc. (originally called Mar-O-Bar Co.), invented the Snickers bar in 1930.

The candy bar is named after one of Frank Mars' favorite horses, Snickers; however, until 1990, the bar was sold under the name "Marathon" in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, and Ireland.

Snickers are sold in more than 70 countries and annual global sales total more than $2 billion, making it the best-selling candy bar in the world.

When it was first sold in 1930, a Snickers bar was only five cents. Today, it costs about a dollar or two.

A Snickers bar wasn't always a single bar—for a short time between 1933 and 1935, it was sold as a two-piece bar and called "Double Snickers."

Peanuts are one of the star ingredients in a Snickers bar, and each bar contains about 16 peanuts; about 100 tons of peanuts go into making the 15 million Snickers bars produced every day.

The pattern that forms on the bottom of every Snickers bar comes from the conveyer belt on which bars cool at the Mars factory.

When the movie Shrek the Third was released in theaters in 2007, Mars, Inc. introduced a limited-edition Snickers bar that had a green-colored nougat layer.

Snickers was the official snack-food sponsor of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

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