

## The Wednesday Reader

April 29, 2020

### Save the Dates: Montana Business Education Summer Update 2020—July 30 (Billings), August 4 (Helena) & 6 (Kalispell)

The 2020 edition of the Montana Business Education Summer Update will be held Thursday, July 30 in Billings at Skyview High School; Tuesday, August 4 in Helena at Capital High School; and Thursday, August 6 in Kalispell at Glacier High School.

Topics for the Montana Business Education Summer Update 2020 will include Active Activities for Accounting; Cybersecurity in Your Curriculum using Free Online Resources; Montana Business Education & CTE Curriculum Updates; and Carl Perkins & Montana Career Pathways.

The Montana Business Education Summer Update 2020 is a free, one-day professional development event for Montana's Business & Marketing Education Professionals, pre-service teachers, and Business Professionals of America and DECA chapter advisors. Up to six (6) OPI renewal units will be available.

Registration is required and can be completed at [bit.ly/MTBusEdUpdate2020](https://bit.ly/MTBusEdUpdate2020). Bringing your own device (BYOD) is recommended.

For questions, please contact Montana Business Education Specialist Eric Swenson at [eswenson@mt.gov](mailto:eswenson@mt.gov).

### Due Tomorrow—Perkins & State CTE/VoEd Funding Intent to Apply for 2020-2021 School Year

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](mailto:ian.beagles@mt.gov) or by phone at 406.444.9019.

### Perkins Spring CTE Now Collection—Identification of CTE Concentrators—Due Tomorrow, April 30

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

The 2019-2020 Spring CTE Collection will be different this year for all districts. As per the new Perkins V rules starting this year, there 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 collected 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](mailto:OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov) or by phone at 877.424.6681 or 406.444.3800.

### **[Get ArcGIS Mapping Software for Free for Your CTE Classrooms](#)**

Career and technical education (CTE) classrooms can take advantage of Esri's offer of software to schools and clubs. The [ArcGIS for Schools Bundle](#) is available at no cost for K-12 classroom instruction.

ArcGIS is a platform with desktop, web, and mobile apps for collecting data, analyzing spatial and nonspatial attributes, and communicating with dashboards and stories. ArcGIS is about supporting the best decisions and fostering understanding. Esri makes ArcGIS, serving over 350,000 organizations globally. It is the most widely used GIS in the world. GIS use is already implemented in the career and technical education (CTE) standards of at least 17 states—from a variety of career clusters.

Equip your students with GIS skills needed for future career paths. [Request free software today.](#)

### **[Career Awareness Webinar from Youth Entrepreneurs & MT Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, April 29](#)**

Youth Entrepreneurs and the Montana Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Career Awareness Webinar with Tom Spika of Skipa Manufacturing in Lewistown, on Wednesday, April 29. The webinar will be held from 10-11 am.

Mr. Tom Spika is the founder and CEO of [Spika Manufacturing & Design \(spikamfg.com\)](#) in Lewistown, Montana. They are revolutionizing work platform design and construction innovation focused on safety and efficiency.

Tom will be telling stories from his journey on the farm, discovering the entrepreneurial spirit, and building a sustainable business that improves the lives of technicians around the world.

Throughout the company's development, Spika's employee-driven culture recognizes that strength alone does not merit quality, quality comes from constant innovation, intuitiveness and a commitment to do the right thing every time. These same qualities that launched Spika on a trajectory to the top of the industry also permit Spika to offer customers the longest warranty available.

### Webinar Logistics

Topic: Career Awareness Webinar with Tom Spika

Time: April 29, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:00 am

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95262657630>

Meeting ID: 952 6265 7630

Password: YEMontana

Dial-in: 1.301.715.8592

Meeting ID: 952 6265 7630

Password: 928921

The Montana Chamber of Commerce recognizes some school districts have enforced a “No-Zoom” policy, while other communities are struggling with equity access for all students in this distance learning transition. This webinar will also be recorded for offline viewing at the Montana Chamber’s YouTube channel ([youtube.com/channel/UCLZ7D6onWTIquN1MN5j8vfA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZ7D6onWTIquN1MN5j8vfA)). Montana Chamber of Commerce webinars have randomly generated meeting IDs and are password protected to prevent against uninvited guests, bad actors and “Zoom-Bombing”.

### **Jump\$tart 2020 National Educator Conference in Atlanta, November 7-9—Attend for Free via Scholarship Program**

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Financial Education ([jumpstart.org](http://jumpstart.org)) is excited to announce details for the [2020 National Educator Conference](#) to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 7-9, 2020. The National Educator Conference is the nation’s premier professional development event for PreK through 12th grade teachers, dedicated to financial education in the classroom.

For teachers, the [National Educator Conference](#) ([jumpstart.org/jisnec20](http://jumpstart.org/jisnec20)) is an all-scholarship event, offering tools and information they can use in their classrooms as soon as they return to school. For Jump\$tart partners and other financial literacy stakeholders, the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference provides a platform to share their resources and expertise with the educators who need and want it most. And for all participants, it’s a warm and invigorating opportunity to network, collaborate, re-charge, and celebrate each other’s unique contribution to “*financial smarts for students.*”

This year’s conference will be November 7-9, 2020 at the Loews Atlanta. Thanks to generous underwriters, sponsors, and scholarship providers, Jump\$tart expects to host 375 classroom teachers from across the country along with more than 100 speakers, exhibitors, and other stakeholders.

To attend the 2020 Jump\$tart National Educator Conference, all teachers must complete and submit a [scholarship application](#) by August 21, 2020 (unless you have received a scholarship from one of our participating Partners or State Coalitions.) There is no self-pay registration option.

Apply now for your scholarship to attend at [jumpstart.org/what-we-do/nec/2020-nec/scholarship-application](http://jumpstart.org/what-we-do/nec/2020-nec/scholarship-application).

### **Economic Impact Surveys for Content Standards Revision**

Back before the global pandemic took over our lives, the OPI was seeking feedback on the potential economic impact of implementing revised or new standards for Computer Science, Career and Technical Education, Library Media, Social Studies, and Technology Integration.

We would greatly appreciate additional responses to the surveys for each of the five sets of standards. We have shortened the surveys to save you time! Responses will be due by June 30, 2020.

Access the surveys on the K-12 Content Standards webpage:

[Career and Technical Education](#)

--[Economic Impact Survey](#)

--[Download this worksheet](#)

### Computer Science

--[Economic Impact Survey](#)

--[Download this worksheet](#)

### Library Media

--[Economic Impact Survey](#)

--[Download this worksheet](#)

### Social Studies

--[Economic Impact Survey](#)

--[Download this worksheet](#)

### Technology

--[Economic Impact Survey](#)

--[Download this worksheet](#)

Please contact Colet Bartow, [cbartow@mt.gov](mailto:cbartow@mt.gov), with any questions.

### **Looking for FREE Lesson Plans, Project Ideas, &/or Resources? Checkout CTE Online**

[CTE Online](http://cteonline.org) ([cteonline.org](http://cteonline.org)) is a community of Career & Technical Educators who share curriculum resources, lesson plans, and general information—all for free.

CTE educators can create an account for free and select groups, or communities, to belong to based upon content taught by career cluster. Registered members can also participate in online professional development events.

Visit [cteonline.org](http://cteonline.org) to sign up for free and start exploring new materials and gathering new ideas. Also, be sure to check out [CTE Online's](#) CTE Distance Learning newsletter for additional lesson plans and e-learning opportunities.

### **Cengage Offers Free Access to Digital Learning Materials, Other Resources**

Cengage, an education and technology company, is offering free access to its digital learning materials and platforms, as well as other resources, for those impacted by COVID-19.

"The health and safety of our employees and customers around the globe are paramount. Millions of them have had their lives thrown into turmoil as a result of this unprecedented public health crisis," said Michael E. Hansen, CEO, Cengage.

"We want to do everything we can to support students and educators as they shift to online learning environments," Hansen continued. "Each of our businesses is taking a tailored approach based on the individual circumstances of their customers. For example, in the United States, we are giving college students at impacted campuses free access to our eTextbooks and digital courseware for the remainder of the Spring semester, regardless of whether their instructor uses Cengage materials. In K12, we are also offering free access to our learning platforms and eBooks."

At the K-12 level, [National Geographic Learning](http://ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19) ([ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19](http://ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19)) is providing all U.S. K12 teachers with free access to its learning platforms and eBooks. Additionally, Cengage is extending access where it is needed for current digital users and providing training and support for teachers transitioning to online teaching.

Visit [ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19](http://ngl.cengage.com/assets/html/covid19) for more details and to request access to materials and resources.

### **AIM Montana Edition Users 9th & 10th Grade CTE Upload Error**

**For Montana Edition users:** There is a validation error occurring when users are uploading their external student information system CTE data into Infinite Campus.

When attempting to upload high school students' 9, 10, 11, & 12th grade CTE data, the upload is rejecting the 9th and 10th grade data with this error message:

*CTE Concentrator must not be specified for student with stateID (xxxxxxxx). This field should only be specified if the student's grade is 11, 12, or UH.*

Montana Edition Users may still upload 11th & 12th grade CTE data, however, 9th and 10th grade CTE data must be manually entered. AIM is currently working on fixing this validation error with Infinite Campus and expect it to be available this summer. The OPI apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

For questions or assistance with AIM, please contact the AIM Helpdesk at [OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAIMHelp@mt.gov) or by phone at 877.424.6681 or 444.3800.

### **Early-Bird Registration Now Open for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2020 Conference in Nashville, December 2-5**

The Association for Career & Technical Education's ([acteonline.org](http://acteonline.org)) [CareerTech VISION 2020](#) conference will be held December 2-5, 2020, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Early-Bird registration is current open and will end July 10, 2020. The ACTE-member Early-Bird registration is \$395. After July 10, the rate increases to \$445.

Room rates at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center are \$198 plus taxes and fees. A link to book rooms will be provided within your VISION registration confirmation.

For complete CareerTech VISION 2020 details, visit [www.careertechvision.com](http://www.careertechvision.com).

### **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](mailto: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/y5446n16>.

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

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

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

Game Programming will take place June 22-26, in Missoula. The training will focus on 2D and 3D game development using [Unity](#). Learn more about Unity at [unity.com](http://unity.com). Please contact Hunter Lloyd, [hunter.lloyd@montana.edu](mailto:hunter.lloyd@montana.edu), with questions or for more information.

## Fun Facts and Trivia

Buddha's hands are a variety of citrus fruit notable for growing numerous finger-like 'tentacles'.

Buddha's hands are also known as 'fingered citrons', 'fragrant citrons', 'five fingered mandarins', and 'goblin fingers'.

The origin of this kind of citron can be traced back to northeastern India, China, or Nepal where most domesticated citrus fruits originate.

The Buddha's hand fruit grows on trees and is a variety of citrus fruit.

When ripe, the finger-like appendages of Buddha's hands generally spread outward to take the appearance of an open hand.

The color of ripe Buddha's hands ranges from bright yellow to orange-gold shades, while unripe fruit is usually colored green.

Buddha's hands contain next to no juice and have little pulp, with many containing no seeds either.

The fruit's fingers contain only the white part of the fruit and sometimes a small amount of acidic pulp.

Buddha's hands reach a length of 6 to 12 inches and the rind and the pith of the fruit do not usually have the bitterness typical with other citrus fruits.

Buddha's hands are often candied and made into jams, while pieces of the fruit can be added to both savory and sweet dishes, and the zest can be used to flavor beverages, baked goods, marinades, and other food dishes.

Women in China would cut the Buddha's hand citron into the form of flowers or birds and would then simmer them in honey for use as centerpieces on a banquet table.

Buddha's Hand citron fruits usually mature in late fall to early winter and hold moderately well on the tree.

Buddha's hand is a small tree, ranging from 8 to 15 feet in height, while the dwarf variety is just 5 feet.

The different variations of Buddha's hand form a gradient from "open-hand" types with outward-splayed segments to "closed-hand" types, in which the fingers are kept together.

In China the Buddha's Hand citron symbolizes happiness and long life, because its name, "fo-shou", has those meanings when written with other characters.

In Japan, the fruit is a popular gift at New Year's, for it is believed to bestow good fortune on a household.

Historically, fruits have been used in the Buddhist religion as temple offerings in large part because each fruit (especially one with closed fingers) purportedly resembles a closed hand in prayer.

The Buddha's hand tree is very popular as an ornamental, often in bonsai form, in pots.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at [www.mbea.info](http://www.mbea.info). The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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*"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh*