The Wednesday Reader
August 26, 2020

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. Today marks the start of the Wednesday Reader for the new year—a weekly informational email containing details about professional development opportunities, events for students, curriculum resources, funding opportunities, and other interesting items for your use.

Please feel free to share any resources, events, and ideas you may think may be interest to other Montana Business Education professionals. Enjoy your day and have a great year ~ *Eric Swenson, Business Education Specialist, eswenson@mt.gov.*

Professional Development Opportunities for 2020-2021

With the ongoing issues being experienced by Covid-19, traditional professional development events scheduled to be held in the fall and winter are switching to virtual events. Additionally, some events moved from summer to fall dates are also opting to go virtual; while some events have been cancelled.

Below are some updates for upcoming events this fall and winter.

--OPI New CTE Professionals Workshop: Virtual, Date(s) TBD

--Montana ACTE Fall Institute: Virtual, October 15-16

--Adobe Max–The Creativity Conference: Virtual, October 20-22

--ACTE Region V Virtual Conference: October 29, 2020

--Jump$tart National Educator Conference: Canceled for 2020

--International Society for Technology in Education's ISTE 20 LIVE: Virtual, November 29-December 5

--ACTE's CareerTech VISION National Conference: Virtual, November 30-December 4

--NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference: Virtual, Week of December 7, 2020

--Western Business Education Association (WBEA) 2021 Conference: Changing to Virtual, February 12-15, 2021

Please use the links above to get more information including registration, fees, and schedules of events. Organizations will be updating their sites regarding their virtual events as details are finalized and information is available.

Get Your [Updated] Montana Business Education Planning Calendar & Course Codes Manual for 2020-2021

To help plan your school year, including professional development opportunities and Career & Technical Student Organization events, download your Montana Business Education Planning Calendar for 2020-2021 today. Please note, this version was updated August 25 to reflect additional events moving from face-to-face to virtual.

Additionally, the 2020-2021 edition of the Montana OPI TEAMS K-12 Course Codes, Business & Marketing Education Reference Manual is also available for download. Please be sure to review the Notes for Business Education-Related Courses and Course Updates and Endorsement Additions for FY2021 Course Listings sections for important details and updates for the new school year.

It is also highly recommend teachers utilize the TEAMS Course Coding Worksheet to align your 2020-2021 class offerings to the proper course codes and to ensure correct enrollment numbers are entered into TEAMS. Once completed, please share your Worksheet with the individuals within your district/school who enter data in TEAMS. Remember, once TEAMS closes for the Fall Data Entry, courses cannot be changed or added.

If you have any issues accessing the files above, please let me know via email at eswenson@mt.gov.

Earn OPI Renewal Units for Participating in Virtual Professional Development & Hosted Webinars

With many regional and national conferences moving to virtual this fall, as well as if you want to participate in curriculum-related training webinars—such as those hosted by EverFi, CodeHS, Take Charge Today, Next Gen Personal Finance, or the National Business Education Association—you can earn OPI renewal units for your participation.

For the past few years, local school districts have been given the ability to approve OPI renewal units for events and trainings hosted by out-of-state providers.

To see if your school or district is registered with OPI as an Approved Renewal Unit Provider already, check the OPI Renewal Unit Provider Directory.

If your school is not an existing Approved Renewal Unit Provider, an administrator can fill out the Registration form on the Renewal Unit Provider System.

Questions regarding the Renewal Unit Provider System can be sent to OPIRUPS@mt.gov.

Perkins V E-Grant Application is Now Live

The Perkins V E-Grant application is now live. Schools will be able to access the application and complete all sections except the Performance Measures section. Once the 2019-20 performance measures are loaded, you will be able to compete that section.

Need help with your E-grant application? A how-to video is now available on the Perkins V website.

Remember the deadline for Perkins V application is September 15, 2020. Applications needs to be completed in E-grants along with a completed and uploaded Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) saved as a Doc or PDF file.

Quick Perkins V resource links include the Perkins V website, the CLNA, Department of Labor Dashboard, and a listing of Perkins Liaisons.

2020 Secondary Rural Reserve Grant RFP

The OPI's Career, Technical, & Adult Education unit has been awarded some additional funds to help support smaller schools with additional Perkins dollars via the 2020 Secondary Rural Reserve Grant.

Purpose: To create career awareness, recruit, and retain students within a CTE Secondary Program of Study that leads to a high skill, high wage, or in-demand occupations.

Awards: Grants of up to $2,000 each will be available to secondary Perkins eligible: school districts who receive less than $5,000 in Perkins funding and are considered remote rural schools as defined by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Schools will need to have completed the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and E-Grant application as well.

The request for proposals is available at http://opi.mt.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=BNTFnr0Gdp4%3d&portalid=182.

For more information, please email shannon.boswell@mt.gov.

Perkins Nontraditional Occupations CTE Programs of Study Grant

Purpose: To create career awareness, recruit, and retain students within a CTE Program of Study (secondary + post-secondary) that leads to a high skill, high wage, or in-demand occupation that is nontraditional by gender.

Nontraditional Occupations by Gender: Montana utilizes data from the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) Nontraditional Crosswalk for determining program eligible for nontraditional funding. You can visit the complete list here.

Awards: Grants of up to $15,000 each will be available to Perkins eligible: school districts, two-year programs, tribal colleges, community colleges or consortia to support the successful recruitment and retention of students in CTE Programs of Study (POS) that lead to a career which is nontraditional by gender*.

Note: Only Perkins Eligible entities in good standing are eligible to apply.

Questions: For questions about the submission process or for a copy of the grant, please contact Perkins Program Manager Katy Brooke at kbrooke@montana.edu.

Sign Up Today to Receive CTE- and Perkins-Related Updates & Newsletters from OPI

The Montana Office of Public Instruction uses the GovDelivery system to send out official OPI communications, periodic updates from programs, details for data collections, and regularly scheduled communications to schools and partners.

Within Career & Technical Education, information is sent out regarding Perkins, State CTE/VoEd funding, CTE & Perkins data collections, and a monthly CTE Newsletter. Additionally, information is sent out via the GovDelivery system for Egrants updates, TEAMS, Professional Learning, and AIM.

If you would like to begin receiving these various updates, you can self-subscribe via the OPI website. Just go to opi.mt.gov, click on the Leadership heading, then select "Subscribe to OPI Emails." On the next page, enter your email address and click the Submit button.

You will be taken to the Subscription Topics page where can select the emails and updates you wish to receive. For all items related to Career & Technical Education and Perkins, select the checkboxes for CTE Data Collections, TEAMS, CTE Newsletter, CTE/Perkins, and E-Grants.

You can always update and add to your subscriptions at any time by following the same steps.

A New CTE Learning Hub Course is Now Live—Moving CTAE to Online and Remote Learning

Designed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction's CTE Specialists, the free OPI Learning Hub course *Moving CTAE to Online and Remote Learning*, will take you through the basics of what you need to know to move your Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses to online/remote learning. Topics include the basic principles and foundations of online learning to specific considerations for your CTE content area.

The complete course can be completed in about three hours and does not needed to be completed all at once, the course can be completed as your time permits. After completing the course, an OPI Renewal Unit certificate will be awarded for three (3) renewal units.

Follow these steps to access the *Moving CTAE to Online and Remote Learning* on the Learning Hub:

1. Go to the Teacher Learning Hub (learninghub.mrooms.net)

2. Log in or create an account using the link in the upper right corner

3. Once logged in, you can register for the course

4. From the homepage, click the Search Courses button

5. Scroll down and click on the Academic Content Areas category and then Career & Technical Education

6. Click the course name and then the "enroll me" button

7. This will take you into the course

Once in, click on the Course Information and Navigation activity to watch an overview video for how to navigate the Hub.

When you create your account, you will receive a confirmation email, be sure to check your junk mail. If your email server blocked the confirmation email, please submit a help ticket to manually confirm your account.

If you cannot find the course when you return to the Hub at a later time, read this self-help article. Any additional Hub questions can be directed to Jessica Bryant at jbryant3@mt.gov or submit a help ticket.

OPI Learning Hub Courses Offering Support for Online Learning

Take a look at these additional courses to help support your interests and planning for the new school year and the exciting potential for online, remote, or blended learning integration.

Introduction to Online Course Design: introduction to the basics of online learning and design (1 renewal unit)

Digital Accessibility Fundamentals: tutorial on how to make digital content accessible to all learners (1 renewal unit)

More than Making the Grade–An Introduction to Standards-based Grading: an overview and introduction to the planning process (2 renewal units) *Part 2 is coming soon.*

UDL: Digital Tools and Digital Learning: covers the basic principle of universal design for learning, practical strategies, and tools for all grade levels (2 renewal units)

Digital Citizenship: learn to foster students' safe, ethical, and responsible uses of technology (2 renewal units)

Tech-ify Your Classroom! The Basics of K-5 Technology Integration: covers the basics of meaningful, effective technology integration in grades K-5 (4 renewal units)

Platform specific courses: Google Suite for Beginners (6 renewal units), Google Suite Advanced (20 renewal units), Student Created Digital Learning Portfolios–SeeSaw (15 renewal units)

Content Standards Public Hearing and Written Comment Period

The Board of Public Education will be holding hearings for public comment on Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, Library Media and Information Literacy, Social Studies, and Technology Integration Standards on Wednesday, September 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to: Peter Donovan, Executive Director, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 200601, Helena, Montana, 59620-0601; telephone 406.444.0302; fax 406.444.0847; or e-mail pdonovan@mt.gov, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., September 9, 2020.

Hearing Time	Notice	Subject
10:00 a.m.	10-54-134	Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption and Repeal - K-12 Career and Technical Education Content Standards.
10:15 a.m.	10-55-135	Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption - K-12 Computer Science Content Standards.
10:30 a.m.	10-55-136	Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal - Library Media Content Standards.
10:45 a.m.	10-53-137	Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal - Technology Integration Content Standards.
11:00 a.m.	10-55-138	Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal - K-12 Social Studies Content Standards.

For any questions about the hearings, please contact Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education, at kmstockton@mt.gov.

Zoom Meeting Information

--Meeting Link
--Meeting ID: 931 6232 7751; Password: 838190
--Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999
--Find your local number: https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/ahvwp4KLh

For other questions, contact Colet Bartow, Senior Manager, Teaching and Learning Department, at cbartow@mt.gov.

All Teachers in Montana have Access to Digital Real-World Learning Programs

EVERFI empowers educators to bring real-world learning into the classroom and equip students with the skills they need for success--now and in the future.

Thanks to partners who share this mission, EVERFI's digital resources and professional development are available to K-12 schools at no cost. Topics include college & career readiness, career exploration, financial literacy, social-emotional learning, STEM, entrepreneurship, and more.

The full resource list is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wmNEchmMjm77Zo4nml3Eoo2ZSutHSZl5/view.

To get started on the digital resources go to everfi.com/newteacher and/or contact your local Schools Manager for support: Sean Thomas at sthomas@everfi.com or 208.731.7746

To access the On-Demand Professional Develop Webinars on these topics and receive continuing education certificates, go to https://everfi.com/k-12/webinars.

Rural Tech Grants from the Rural Tech Project

The Rural Tech Project is a $600,000 challenge meant to advance technology education in rural high schools by inviting high schools and LEAs to propose technology education programs that use distance-enabled learning and competency-based education.

Up to five finalists will each receive an equal share of the $500,000 Phase 1 cash prize pool and progress to Phase 2. In Phase 2, finalists will receive personalized support to plan, run, refine, and report on their programs. At the end of Phase 2, one grand-prize winner will receive a $100,000 cash prize.

At the end of this project, insights will be compiled from all finalists and lessons learned will be published as a resource for other communities. By learning from their student-centered models, Rural Tech Project hopes to help other schools create their own technology education programs and increase access to skills for rewarding, in-demand careers.

High schools and local educational agencies interested in participating in the Rural Tech Project should submit a program proposal by October 8, 2020.

Interested applicants can learn more and sign up for challenge updates at ruraltechproject.com. Please feel free to reach out to Alicia Criscuolo, alicia.criscuolo@ed.gov, with any questions.

Technology Grant Program from Cyber.org

CYBER.ORG (cyber.org)'s technology grant program is designed to support teachers and qualified extracurricular programs to provide cyber education to K-12 students in the United States. Grants are awarded based on the availability of funds, geographic representation, and demonstrated need, with preference for applicants who intend to use CYBER.ORG curriculum materials.

Those interested can complete the online grant application.

Next Gen Personal Finance Registration is Open for Certification Course Cohort #5

Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) invites teachers of financial literacy/personal finance courses to become a distinguished Personal Finance Educator by enrolling in the NGPF Certification Program.

Registration is now open for teachers to participate in four courses: Paying for College, Taxes, Insurance, and Banking.

Fall courses will be held over a 5-week period in efforts to accommodate fall schedules. Each course will have a single 2-hour session per week, culminating in 10 total hours. An exam will be completed at the end of the course(s) to gain certification from NGPF.

Please note, ***courses begin this week***.

Complete details, including course content and scheduling, are available at ngpf.org/certification-course. If you choose to participate, be sure to get approval from your school/district to be able to earn OPI Renewal Units.

Take Charge Today Announces Fall Webinar Series

This fall, Take Charge Today, will be hosting a fall series of webinars going through the Intuit Education Simulations paired with TCT lessons as well as "Going Online with Take Charge Today" to explore the tools that Take Charge Today has to help you with your virtual classroom.

--Budgeting for Income and Expenses: Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 PM ET/3:30 PM PT
--TurboTax Simulation: Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 PM ET/3:30 PM PT
--"Going Online with Take Charge Today": Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 PM ET/3:30 PM PT
--Comparing Savings Accounts: Wednesday, October 7, 6:30 PM ET/3:30 PM PT
--Credit Reports and Scores: Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 PM ET/3:30 PM PT
--Evaluating Credit Card Offers: Wednesday, November 4, 6:30 PM ET/3:30 PM PT

Details for each webinar, including how to participate, is available at takechargetoday.arizona.edu/pro-dev/webinars.

Recorded webinars can be found by clicking the Webinar tab in the TCT Video Library.

If you are teaching financial literacy/personal finance and you currently do not have a free Take Charge Today account, visit takechargetoday.arizona.edu and click the green Create an Account button today.

Access the CodeHS Back to School Guide & Checkout Upcoming Free Webinars

CodeHS (codehs.com) is ready to help you prepare for the new school year and invites you to review the CodeHS first day checklist, virtual teaching resources, week zero lesson plans, upcoming webinars, and much more.

First, CodeHS has put together a Back to School Guide.

Next, CodeHS has a series of free webinars on a variety of topics to help you prepare for the school year.

--Getting Started with CodeHS: Wednesday, August 26 @ 3 pm MDT
--Teaching in a Blended Setting: Monday, August 31 @ 10 am MDT
--Choosing the Right CodeHS Course: Wednesday, September 2 @ 2:30 pm MDT
--Easily Create Your Own Assignments: Thursday, September 3 @ 3 pm MDT

Learn more about each webinar and view additional offerings, including additional dates for the webinars above, at help.codehs.com/en/articles/3828382-codehs-virtual-events.

Additional resources include the Teacher Toolbox, the Knowledge Base, and the CodeHS Community by join the CodeHS Facebook group, becoming a CodeHS Certified Educator, or by attending a free PD workshop.

To learn more about the curriculum and learning opportunities available from CodeHS, and to create your free teacher account, please visit codehs.com.

Virtual Teaching Summit from CSTA—Teaching CS in a Virtual World

It is clear that virtual learning will be part of teaching for at least the next school year, and the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) knows that CS educators are looking for the best way to adapt to their classrooms.

Join CSTA for their Virtual Teaching Summit, a one-day event designed to support CS teachers with strategies and best practices to assist in transitioning classrooms to a virtual environment.

The Virtual Teaching Summit will be held Saturday, September 12, from 11 am to 6 pm (EDT).

To participate the fee for CSTA+ Members is $5.00 through September 8 and $20.00 from September 8-12; for CSTA Basic and non-members, the fee is $20.00

A full event agenda will be available soon.

iKeepSafe Announces Change to a Virtual Format for 2020 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference

iKeepSafe, together with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), announces a change in the format of the 2020 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference from in-person to virtual.

In an effort to be mindful of the disparate impacts of COVID-19 to include health concerns, travel restrictions, budget impacts, and based on the conference's continued commitment to equity and inclusion, the Conference will be reimagined to bring the community spirit and networking energy to an inspiring and engaging online space.

The NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference, previously slated to take place on December 7-8, 2020, in St. Louis, Missouri, will now be a virtual experience where attendees will engage with cutting-edge presentations, networking, and resources—all from the safety and comfort of their home or office.

During this exciting virtual event, attendees will:

--Participate in live interactive breakout sessions led by industry experts
--Hear from inspiring keynote speakers
--Access recordings of other sessions presented during the conference
--Explore the virtual exhibitor hall, where they can schedule one-on-one meetings with exhibitors and discover the latest technologies, products and services
--Connect digitally with presenters and peers to network, share ideas, and discuss best practices

More details about the reimagined conference experience will be shared later this summer at k12cybersecurityconference.org and at #2020NICEK12.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Angelfish is a type of ray-finned fish.

Angelfish can be divided in two main groups: marine and freshwater angelfish.

Freshwater angelfish, also known as cichlids, are native to South America and can be found in the Amazon river and various ponds and lakes.

Marine angelfish are diverse group of more than 85 species of fish that inhabit warm, shallow waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Thanks to their unusual shape and beautiful colors of the body, both freshwater and marine angelfish are very popular aquarium fish.

Angelfish can reach 2 to 24 inches in length, depending on the species.

Marine angelfish can be red, blue, green or yellow-colored and covered with various bright markings and bands.

Freshwater angelfish are silvery-blue colored and covered with dark, longitudinal stripes.

Both freshwater and marine angelfish have thin, laterally-compressed body, small mouth and long dorsal and anal fins.

Identification of male and female angelfish is not an easy task because they are equal in size and have same coloration of the body.

Angelfish are omnivores and they like to eat sponges, algae, jellyfish and small fish.

Freshwater angelfish are more carnivorous in nature and like to eat bloodworms, shrimps, and insects.

Experts claim that angelfish are very intelligent creatures that can recognize their owners (when kept as pets).

Young freshwater angelfish often live in the group, while adults prefer solitary life.

Female angelfish produce 100 to 1000 eggs per season.

Freshwater angelfish lay eggs in the neat rows and both parents guard the eggs and protect offspring when they hatch.

The eggs of marine angelfish float freely during the incubation period and serve as food for many plankton feeders.

Freshwater angelfish mate for life; when one partner dies, the other lives out their life in celibacy.

Angelfish can survive 10 to 15 years in captivity.

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