

There are many things happening over the next few months for FCS professionals! Be sure to read through this information below to stay current. Unfortunately, it's also the time of year when retirement announcements start to appear in my email box or via a phone call. If you plan to retire and/or you know there will be a FCS position opening in your school, please let me know as soon as possible so I can keep our job seekers posted. Also, House Bill 356 is still in progress; please contact Montana ACTE or the Billings School District to learn how you can help get this bill passed and read the articles below.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Billings March 15 – 17 at the Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference!

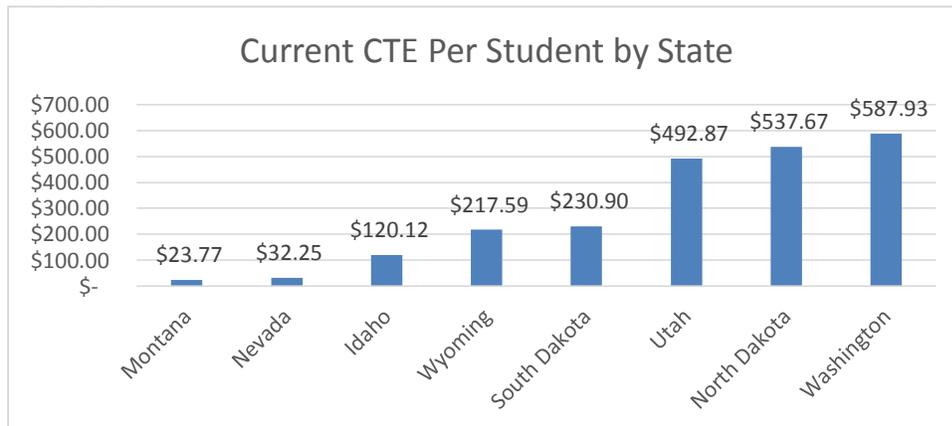
## [House Bill 356: Career-tech legislation would benefit students statewide by Terry Bouck, Billings Public Schools Superintendent](#)

School districts have a profound need to continually stay ahead of students. We look at technology today and think, "What will these students need in 10 years?" What kinds of programs will they need to get where they are going, particularly when not all students are headed in same direction? At the same time, districts must be looking at dropout rates and why students in our buildings are struggling. How do districts decrease the dropout rate among students? All of these problems are related, in that we need to step outside of traditional thinking and look at what will arm students to prepare them for entering the workforce and/or college readiness. We need to be more divergent in our approach to students. We need to adjust how we focus on these students and to look at the students who are not engaged. Enticing students to stay in school means education today needs to be inclusive.

You could ask almost any leader in any district in Montana and he or she will tell you that one vital way to do this is through Career Technical Education, or CTE. CTE is a focus on career-readiness for our students. It is a chance to provide a learning-centered environment where students can acquire the knowledge, skills and character necessary for whatever future path they may choose. Moreover, our economy today demands a better educated workforce; one that is equipped to handle jobs requiring more complex knowledge and skills than ever before. CTE helps fill this need, as well. For some Montana students, CTE is the difference between graduating or not, or being employed or not, and for some Montana businesses, it can mean a better prepared workforce and thriving business. Only by providing businesses with a solid workforce can we bring—and maintain—businesses to the state. By supporting businesses and business opportunities, we build and maintain communities, both urban and rural.

Today Montana ranks near the lowest of all states for funding the added costs for Career and Technical Education in the nation and yet, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 18 of

the 20 fastest growing occupations within the next decade will require career and technical education.



Being near the bottom isn't just a matter of pride, it's a dollar matter. For example, in Washington for every dollar invested in secondary CTE programs, taxpayers receive \$9 in revenues and benefits. It makes sense to invest in the futures of Montana's communities, in all size of communities. Right now that investment is lacking.

Fortunately, legislation to increase CTE funding is proposed under HB 356, written by Representative Donald Jones. The legislation would distribute new funding proportionately over 150 high school districts across the state—that's benefitting over 150 communities state-wide. In short, the bill will benefit students and businesses of all sizes and needs, in a proportionately equal manner. The potential to benefit the state as a whole is huge, and we are at a critical moment in the future of this bill. This week the legislature will review and vote to move the bill forward. Please email today and encourage legislators to make sure the Appropriations Committee passes HB 356.

Supporting this bill supports not just one community, but over 150, not just one student, but over 40,000 and not just one business but countless Montana businesses. The bill is clear-cut, fair, proportionate, and responsible in the area of accountability. This is good sense for Montana. Please contact legislators today. For information and easy access to House Appropriations contact information, please visit [www.billingsschools.org](http://www.billingsschools.org).

**Bouck asks for support ahead of CTE bill hearing article** in the Billings Gazette published on March 3, 2015 can be found here: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/bouck-asks-for-support-ahead-of-cte-bill-hearing/article\\_949c2b94-853d-5432-acd9-f80429371c3b.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/bouck-asks-for-support-ahead-of-cte-bill-hearing/article_949c2b94-853d-5432-acd9-f80429371c3b.html)

## *FCS Positions Available*

The following schools are advertising for FCS teachers in Montana. Please share these job openings with potential applicants.

- Chinook High School
  - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/4C475F6D-3B9ACA00-036243BA>

- Dawson County High School in Glendive
  - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/374CD198-3B9ACA00-035F4F59>
- Harlowton High School
  - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/501030F7-3B9ACA00-03607077>
- Libby High School
  - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/CD1632F5-3B9ACA00-036247EB>
- White Sulphur Springs High School
  - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/5FA5A135-3B9ACA00-03621478>
- Wolf Point High School
  - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/6DAA7540-3B9ACA00-0361A687>

## *Missoula College Big Sky Pathways Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Training*

Information from Missoula College for the upcoming Big Sky Pathways Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Training was sent via email to all high school FCS teachers. This will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 10:30am – 2:30pm at Missoula College. This is the **only** pathway training that is being sponsored by a Montana postsecondary institution within the Hospitality & Tourism and Culinary Arts fields. Missoula College has been a great partner for the FCS field with pathway work, and I hope you will consider attending. *This training is for schools with existing pathways as well as those looking to create a new pathway in this field.*

Are you unsure if your pathway was approved or completed or you just can't remember? Please go to our website to find your approved pathways: <http://www.mus.edu/BigSkyPathways/clusters.asp>. Each school district is required to have at least one approved pathway on file. FCS programs are also encouraged to have an approved pathway on file regardless of other CTE programs in your district.

If you have questions about the training, please contact Jennifer Young Bear at 406-243-7902 or [jennifer.youngbear@umontana.edu](mailto:jennifer.youngbear@umontana.edu).

## *Missoula College Tips for Teachers Course June 15 – 19*

Information from Missoula College regarding their annual summer Tips for Teachers class geared toward FCS teachers was sent out via email recently. It will be held June 15 – 19, 2015, and the topic this year is Food Service Sanitation. If you need more information, please visit their website at <http://www.mc.umt.edu/outreach/>.

## *Montana Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Conference – April 15 – 17*

The Montana Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (MAFCS) will hold their annual Spring Conference in Hamilton, Montana on April 15 – 17. Information on the conference was sent via

email to all current MAFCS/AAFCS members as well as via my email contact list. If you have not received the information and you are interested, please let me know and I will re-send it.

## *No Kid Hungry Essay Contest*

An email with an exciting opportunity for your middle school students – the first annual [No Kid Hungry Essay Contest](#) will be coming to your inbox soon! This statewide essay contest is designed to get students **grades 6-8** thinking about the far-reaching implications of childhood hunger in their area, and also about solutions to this problem. Essays should be 400-600 words, and address one of the two prompts offered: “Why is it so important to end childhood hunger in America?” and, “What could you, your friends/family, or your school do to help end childhood hunger in your community?”

Each teacher can nominate up to three of their students’ essays to submit to the statewide contest (submissions are due March 27). The winners of the statewide event will be announced by First Lady Lisa Bullock during next month’s [Fight Childhood Hunger Week](#) (April 13-19), and great prizes (up to \$200 per student and \$1000 per school) will be awarded to winning students and schools.

Look for more information in your email or email me to ask for additional information.

## *Nutrition Related Field Scholarship from the Montana School Nutrition Association*

Do you have any seniors in your school that are planning to pursue a degree in a nutrition related field? If so, please share this scholarship opportunity with them. The Montana School Nutrition Association is offering a \$500 scholarship awarded to a high school senior with a GPA of at least 2.0 and will be pursuing a degree in a nutrition-related field. The scholarship is offered by MTSNA in partnership with Western Marketing. The application deadline is April 15, 2015. The scholarship is awarded on May 1. More information can be found at <http://www.mtsna.org/scholarships--awards.html>.

## *‘Your Guides’ Printed Brochures Still Available*

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) has printed **Your Guides** still available for distribution to secondary instructors and students. The **Your Guides** are convenient brochures highlighting all the two year college workforce development certificate and degree programs in Montana, and it’s updated on a yearly basis. The PDF version is posted here: <http://www.mus.edu/2yr/YourGuide.pdf>. If you’d like some for use in your classes and/or school, please contact Katie Spalinger at [kspalinger@montana.edu](mailto:kspalinger@montana.edu) at the OCHE office.

## *Thought of the Day*

“Minds are like parachutes; they work best when open.”

~ Thomas Dewar, Scottish businessman

## Calendar of Events

March 15 – 17, 2015: Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Billings, MT  
April 15, 2015: Missoula College Big Sky Pathways Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Meeting, Missoula, MT  
April 15 – 17, 2015: Montana Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Conference, Hamilton, MT  
April 15 – 18, 2015: ACTE Region V Conference, Overland Park, KS  
April 17 – 19, 2015: National ProStart Competition, Anaheim, CA  
June 7 – 10, 2015: NAEYC's [2015 National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development](#), New Orleans, LA  
June 18 – 20, 2015: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual CAFÉ Leadership Conference, Niagara Falls, NY  
June 24 – 27, 2015: AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo, Jacksonville, FL  
July 5 – 9, 2015: FCCLA National Leadership Conference, Washington, DC  
October 28 – 30, 2015: [National Career Pathways Network Annual Conference](#), Dallas, TX

### Facebook Group Links

Please click on the link and ask to be added for some great conversation & resources:

- ✓ Montana FCS Educators Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/168470129878554/>
- ✓ Montana FCCLA Chapter Advisers Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/248102661886036/>

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