



## CSPD State Council Meeting January 8, 2016

### **Ed Ready: Ryan Shrenk, Cindy Noland, and Virg Hale**

Twenty eight percent of students arrive on Montana college campuses needing remedial courses. In response, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation made a \$2.4 million gift to the Montana Digital Academy at the University of Montana to launch a statewide project designed to help students avoid remedial coursework when they attend college. With the funding, the Montana Digital Academy will test EdReady, a curriculum from the National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) that was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It is intended to help students boost their scores on commonly used placement exams so they can begin their post-secondary education without remedial help.

The [EdReady](#) program is for all students in Montana from middle school through college who want to:

- prepare for upcoming local math classes or curriculum
- supplement their skills while taking a math class
- revisit possible gaps in general math skills
- become better prepared for college math
- practice math skills needed for a desired career path
- study and review math concepts for a standardized exam

Students can be signed up in the following ways:

- through their secondary school
- through their college campus
- through their adult basic education center
- as an individual

EdReady also offers professional development sessions designed to help implement the program in local schools.

### **Special Education Director Update: Frank Podobnik**

The ESEA reauthorization will have implications on special education and professional development offered in the future. The federal budget was passed and there will be an increase for special education and Title I.

### **Teacher Learning Hub and Learning Opportunities Portal: Tara Steinke**

The [Teacher Learning Hub](#) is a learning network on the Moodle platform, dedicated to providing free high quality professional development and training for all K-12 educators throughout Montana. The program aims to minimize the time teachers spend away from their classrooms to attend trainings as well as save school districts money on professional development costs. Self-paced and facilitated courses are available. Currently 1,500 individuals have used the Teacher Learning Hub.

The [Learning Opportunities Portal](#) includes all the courses from the Teacher Learning Hub and training opportunities from professional development providers across the state. Please check

the website to make sure your region's events are listed. If they are not, please add your events or send them to Tara to add.

**Future Meeting Dates**

- May 4, 2016: State CSPD Partnership Meeting
- May 5, 2016: State CSPD Council Meeting