

MBEA Spring Newsletter 2022

Hello fellow CTE Professionals. I don't know about you but for me this year has gone by faster than any year before it. Good luck with all you're doing to finish your year strong.

The BPA State Leadership Conference was held in Billings March 13-15, and it was excellent to be back in person! There were nearly 1200 members present, including for the first time at a live state conference, middle school students! The State Officer Team and the Executive Board did a great job of planning an engaging and well-run conference. Over 150 middle and high school students qualified for Nationals and will be headed to Dallas, Texas, May 4-8. More than \$15,000 was donated to Montana Special Olympics. Jill Page was honored as the Advisor of the Year, and the Simms chapter received the Spirit of Professionalism Award.

Because many of the MBEA board members are also BPA advisors, we got together for a little bit during the conference to brainstorm ideas for the 2022 Fall Institute. MACTE's plan for this year is to again have a broad CTE focus on Thursday and break out into division-planned sessions on Friday. This year's conference will be held at the Billings Hotel and Conference Center October 20-21, 2022. The feedback we received from attendees last year centered around preference for hands-on activities that can be taken back to the classroom with little or no prep on your part.

Here are some of the ideas we're tossing around. Low-prep lessons that you can work through as a class or have students do independently will be one session. OPI's Eric Swenson will have an update, and he plans to have an activity or two that we can take home and do, supplies included. We hope to focus our third session on personal finance and piquing student interest with engaging and energetic lessons that help kids see a connection to real life. We're once again partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and Montana YE/Empowered, so expect great things from their involvement. We are also planning to have a social on Thursday. When plans are finalized, we'll get more information out via the Wednesday Reader. Anyone with ideas or eagerness to present, please contact President Mandy Wichman at mandy.wichman@hobson.k12.mt.us.



Helena, Montana
February 16-19, 2023
Distinctly Business Education
Uniquely WBEA

In case you haven't heard, Montana is hosting the Western Business Education Association conference in Helena in February, 2022. President Eric Swenson has put together an enthusiastic committee and has most of the planning already done. There are tours scheduled, a call for presentations that is open and found [at this link](#), and registration that will be open very soon. Watch the Wednesday Reader and the [MBEA website](#) for more information, and save the date for February 16-19, 2022!

Work-based learning has become a huge topic of discussion among CTE professionals in Montana and around the nation. Helping our students find opportunities to spend time with employers can be a struggle for many teachers, especially in rural Montana. Another snag can often be holding students accountable while not adding to the already heavy workload of our teachers. Mandy Wichman has spent the last few years re-vamping the program at Hobson High School, with the goal of adding real-world application and increased responsibility for her students. Though many of Mandy's students are being raised on family farms and ranches, she strongly encourages them to choose to work for an employer other than mom or dad to gain valuable employability skills. She has created and shared a folder of the documents and forms that she uses in her own WBL cooperative program. Definitely reach out to Mandy if you have items to add to the [Google folder](#) or questions about what you find there.