

MBEA Update

The 2018 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference was held at Montana State University-Billings, Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center, and the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. One thousand two hundred and twenty-five students, local chapter advisors, and chaperones gathered in a spirit of friendship and goodwill as the Montana Association assisted the members through participation in the areas of competitive events, leadership, community development, and professionalism. Students demonstrated their knowledge in business and technological skills and abilities in over 60 different competitive events from within the five core assessment areas of Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication and Management, Marketing and Communication. The top finalists in each event advance to compete at the National Leadership Conference this spring in Dallas, Texas from May 9-13.

The state conference also included keynote Tuff Harris and various workshops on topics including entrepreneurship, social media, robotics, leadership development and dance on Monday morning. For the first time, BPA Montana hosted a Education Fair at SLC. Twelve post-secondary institutions attended. Monday afternoon BPA held their annual MT BPA "Special Olympics Walk" and "Respect Rally—BPA Style" presented by Special Olympics Montana. Additionally, local chapters donated over \$12,000 to Special Olympics Montana as their state-wide philanthropic organization.

Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation Sponsored three \$500.00 BPA scholarships which were awarded to Cash Cota of Roundup, Kelli Ober of Cascade and Morgan Wertheimer of Hobson. Shayla Armer of Skyview was awarded a \$250 scholarship sponsored by MBEA. 110 Statesman Torch Awards; 60 Membership Recruiter Awards, and the Spirit of Professionalism Award went to the Billings West High School chapter. Terri Norman from Capital High School was recognized as the MT BPA Advisor of the Year and will now compete for the National BPA Advisor of the Year.

During the state conference eight secondary members participated in the state officer campaign process with the following six being elected to office for the 2018-2019 school year:

President: Anna Slivka, Winifred High School

Vice President: Calvin Beighle, Hellgate High School

Secretary: Mackenzie Wiegand, Simms High School

Communications Director: Braiden Ranstrom, Columbus High School

Public Relations Director: Hannah Rasmussen, Powder River County High School

Membership Director: Ayden Anderson, Twin Bridges High School

The 2018 Montana DECA conference was held February 11-13 in Fairmont Hot Springs. There were over 450 students in attendance at this year's conference competing in a variety of Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Management events.

During the Montana State DECA conference students had the opportunity to compete in various competitive events, visit the exhibitor hall, 2018 Montana DECA Miracle Mile for Cystic Fibrosis and even a DECA DJ and pool party. These three-days

provided students with the opportunity to hone in on their Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Management skills competing with DECA students from across the state.

This year's DECA International Career Development Conference takes place April 20-25 in Atlanta, GA. Qualifiers will have the opportunity for members to demonstrate their college and career ready knowledge and skills by participating in DECA's industry-validated Competitive Events Program, aligned with Career Clusters, National Curriculum Standards and 21st Century Skills in the areas of marketing, finance, hospitality, management and entrepreneurship. More than 1,000 business professionals serve as expert judges to evaluate DECA members' mastery of these concepts.

Summer Updates:

Be on the lookout for the Summer Updates in Eric Swenson's Wednesday Reader. He will be offering a couple of day trainings throughout the state this summer. These are an excellent way to learn some new ideas for next school year.

WBEA Conference Highlights:

This year's Western Business Education Association conference was held February 15-18 in Boise, Idaho. This year's conference offered a variety of sessions, tours and networking opportunities. Sessions ranged from Forensic Accounting, Business Communications, and Co-curricular Project Based Learning. Each of the sessions offered provided some excellent ideas to help re-energize yourself for the next few months of the school year. There were also quite a few tours available for attendees which included: Scentsy Tour, Boise State, JUMP and even a local distillery. Not only were there some excellent sessions and tours, the Idaho Business Education Association offered a few networking opportunities including a Idaho Steelhead hockey game and a evening social event at the Boise Art Museum. Each of these opportunities provided attendees with the opportunity to network with other business educators from across the western part of the United States and Canada.

Nicole Bogunovich, MBEA President