



A Region of NBEA

September 2016 Volume 16 Issue 2

On the Web at www.wbea.info

What's Inside

President's Welcome Continued	2
NBEA Board of Directors News	3
WBEA Awards Nominations	3
WBEA 2017 Conference	4
Kenny Assmus Bio	5
Cengage Advertisement	5
WBEA Award Nominations	6
WBEA Legislative Update.	6
Leadership in WBEA	7
Fraiser Advertisement	8
NBEA: Your Professional Connection	9
Call for WBEA Awards	10
WBEA Professional Development Form	11
WBEA Legislative Update	12
WBEA Legislative Update	13
Friends of WBEA	14
MBEA is Gearing Up	14
WBEA Legislative Update	15
Friends of WBEA Form	16
NBEA Executive Board News	17
WBEA 2016-2017 Board Picture	17
Uncoming Events	18

Western News Exchange

A Message from your WBEA President...

By Elaine Stedman, WBEA 2016-2017 President, Sidney, Montana



Welcome to the new school year. It is truly my pleasure and honor to be serving as your 2016-17 WBEA President. I look forward to working with a great Executive Board and the members of our various S/T/P's during the course of the year.

As many of you know, I retired from teaching after over 37 years in May. It has truly been a strange August not having to prepare my classroom, buy supplies, work with my BPA board, and develop new lesson plans. I have assumed a role as the CEO of our county Boys & Girls Club. I am thoroughly enjoying this new challenge which utilizes many of my business skills as I run a \$500,000 operating budget and a \$6.1 million capital campaign, but more importantly, it allows me to continue to work with young people, my greatest passion.

Your Executive Board met in beautiful Bozeman, MT, in June to set goals and prepare for the upcoming year. We spent many hours developing POW's, the strategic plan, the bylaws, and the P & P's so that they truly represent the work of our wonderful organization. Many thanks to Kay and Ken for their behind-the-scenes work in getting these documents ready for our perusal.

This is truly your newsletter, so please feel free to send Chris Liebelt-Garcia, our Newsletter Editor, articles about the work that your S/T/P does during the year, lesson plans from your teachers, or highlights of awards and/or honors received by your members so that we can all be kept abreast of the great work being done by business educators in our region.

One of the goals that I set for my term as your President was to travel to as many state and regional conferences as my schedule and my budget would allow. I had the pleasure of attending the Nevada ACTE conference at Lake Tahoe in July and the ABEA conference in Prescott, Arizona (which coincidentally is also the home of my oldest son, his wife and two of my four grandkids), and I'm looking forward to Boise, Idaho, Bellevue, Washington, and Bozeman, Montana in October, followed by Fremont, California in November and ACTE in Las Vegas early in December. The new year will include Utah ACTE in Orem in February and NBEA in Chicago in April. I also hope to attend the Mountain Plains Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota (ironically, a conference from another region will be the closest conference to me geographically). I am also waiting on dates from some other states and provinces, so stay tuned! It is truly re-vitalizing to travel to these other conferences to see how other organizations function and thrive.

Western News Exchange

Page 2

2017 WBEA Conference Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20

WBEA 2016-2017

Executive Committee www.wbea.info

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A Message from your WBEA President...(Continued) By Elaine Stedman, WBEA 2016-2017 President, Sidney, Montana

A reminder that WBEA 2017 will be held in beautiful Bozeman, MT, February 17-20. Bozeman is located in the heart of Gallatin Valley in an idyllic setting at the base of the mountains. There are two world-class ski resorts in the area, and Yellowstone Park is also within an easy drive. Yellowstone in the winter is truly remarkable. Our keynote speaker will be Sarah Calhoun, the founder of Red Ants Pants. I have heard her presentation, and it is inspiring, humorous and informative. Google Red Ants Pants; it really is an inspiring story of entrepreneurship in Montana. We also have great workshops and tours in store for you.

In closing, I want to encourage you to explore two of my passions—professional development and CTSO's. Don't just join your professional organization—be an active member. Every day we set the bar for our students. One of the best examples we can give them is how to grow and develop as a professional. Active involvement in your professional organizations is so key. The networking opportunities, the possibilities for growth and development, the knowledge you will gain, and the friends you will make simply can't be matched. If you don't serve as an advisor to a CTSO, I strongly urge you to consider it. Membership in a CTSO can be life-changing for your students, and one of my biggest joys as an educator was to watch "my kids" grow and develop in skills, self confidence, and leadership through their involvement in BPA. It truly is the part of teaching I miss the most.

Have a great year. I look forward to meeting many of you during my journeys around the country. I'll look forward to seeing you all in Bozeman in February. Remember, a percentage of your Perkins funding must be used for professional development—why not use it to join us in Montana!



WBEA AWARD NOMINATIONS

Welcome back to school!

We hope you are off to great new adventures
with your students!

It's time to start thinking about teachers at your school, district, and state who you would like to nominate for our WBEA Awards!

Applications are due December 1, 2016!

Please see the WBEA webpage for applications! http://www.wbea.info/awards.html

Page 3

NBEA Executive Board of Directors' News

By Roietta Fulgham, American River College, Sacramento, CA

Here are two items to place on your calendar for the upcoming 2016-2017 year.

Recognize Excellence in Business Education - Deadline December 1, 2016

Attend NBEA Annual Convention ~ Chicago - April 11-15, 2017

Recognizing Excellence in Business Education

Each year NBEA accepts nominations for outstanding individuals. *The deadline is December 1, 2016*. The award categories are as follows:

Middle School Teacher of the Year~This award recognizes outstanding contributions to business education by a middle school business educator.

Secondary Teacher of the Year-This award recognizes outstanding contributions to business education by a secondary business educator.

Postsecondary Teacher of the Year~This award recognizes outstanding contributions to business education by a postsecondary business educator.

Collegiate or University Teacher of the Year~This award recognizes outstanding contributions to business education by a senior college or university business educator.

Distinguished Service Award for an Administrator or Supervisor-This award recognizes outstanding contributions to business education by an administrator or supervisor of business education.

Distinguished Service Award~This award recognizes outstanding contributions to business education by an institution, organization, business firm, government agency, or individual associated with any of these groups.

For more information about eligibility for these awards or to obtain nomination forms, please contact NBEA at 703.860.8300 or nbea@nbea.org

NBEA 2017 Annual Convention

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile April 11-15, 2017
Details coming soon.

WBEA 2016-2017 Executive Committee (Continued)

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MONTANA 2017

Elevating Business Education

www.wbea2017.info

Friday, February 17, 2017 – Monday, February 20, 2017 \$200 Conference Registration (if registered by December 1, 2016) Online registration will be available at www.wbea2017.info by September 20, 2016.

Best Western GranTree Inn, Bozeman, Montana

For reservations, call (406) 587-5261

Use Group Code 806427 (Montana Business Education Association)

FAX: (406) 587-9437

EMAIL: grantree@grantreeinn.com

WEB: www.bestwestern.com/grantree

The group rate is set from Tuesday, February 14 to Tuesday, February 21

\$92 daily rate includes a breakfast buffet and free WiFi

Airport Code: BZN - Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (formerly Gallatin Field)

Free hotel shuttle from the airport; use Alaska, Allegiant, Delta, Frontier, or United airlines

College Credit: One (1) Graduate level credit available from MSU Billings

Conference tours (1-2 hours) include the following:

American Computer Museum - robotics and computer tour -- http://compustory.com/

Pioneer Museum - http://gallatinhistorymuseum.org/

Cooking class with 1 of the top 20 women entrepreneurs under 40 years of age for 2015; Brie Thompson, Olivelle Owner -- http://www.olivelle.com/

Gibson Acoustic Guitar shop

http://www.themusiczoo.com/blog/2011/factory-tour-gibson-montanas-acoustic-guitars/

Bridger Brewing - business and taste testing - http://www.bridgerbrewing.com/

Museum of the Rockies -- https://museumoftherockies.org/

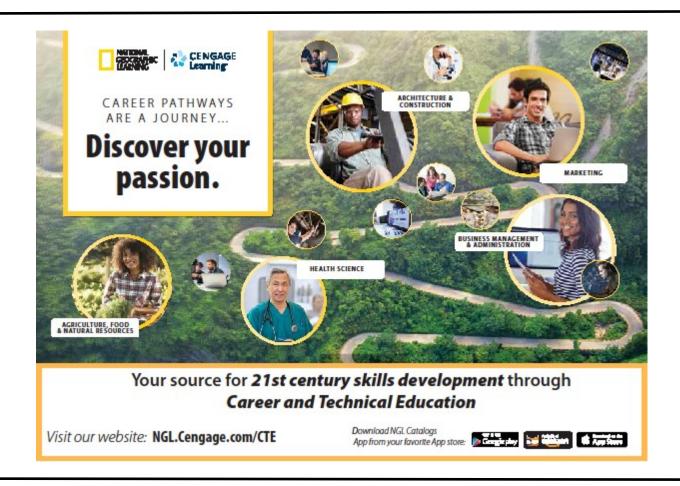
Meet Kenny Assmus

By Kenny Assmus, Interim President, UBEA, Lehi, Utah

Kenny Assmus has been teaching Computer and Business classes at Willowcreek Middle School in Lehi, UT for five years. Before he started working in the classroom, he worked for his hometown professional soccer team, Real



Salt Lake. Training employees and interns specific duties and jobs inspired him to go back to school and earn his teaching license. Assmus has a passion for teaching and learning and inspires all of his students to do the same. He started the state's first Middle Level FBLA chapter, and has since helped grow the division to over 12 active chapters and over 220 active members in four years. His middle school chapter has won state the past two years and has qualified 24 students for Nationals. When he isn't in the classroom he enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and trying new recipes on Pinterest. He is married to his beautiful wife Jerah and they are the proud parents of two wonderful children.



WBEA Legislative Update

By Tina Fulks, Legislative Director, Las Vegas, NV

Welcome back to school. Or in some cases welcome to your first day of retirement from teaching. That of course does not mean that you are out of the education business. Whether you are still teaching or retired, we are all still working hard to insure Business and CTE education stays on the mind of education decision makers.

With 16 Career Clusters® and more than 75 different career pathways, today's CTE offers students a wide variety of professions to pursue. Career pathways cover nearly every sector of today's economy—and it's no wonder why. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the five fastest growing occupations, all five require an associate degree or less.

From agriculture to healthcare, CTE is a critical component to building an American talent pipeline that will meet 21st century workforce demands. However, for students looking to enroll in CTE programs, navigating the many different options can be overwhelming. (Jarrod Nagurka)

The political climate is shaky at best. The outcome of this election could have far reaching consequences on Business and CTE education. So stay vigilant. Keep talking to all of the people that matter. From students, to the President of the United States, let's make sure they all know that Business/CTE Education is the insurance they need for a strong US economy.

Here are a few updates and statistical information that you can share as you are talking with those that matter.

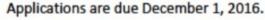
New ESSA Implementation Resources-Posted in part by Mitch Coppes

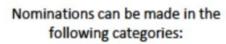
As the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) moves forward, there are new tools available on engaging K-12 education stake-holders, including the CTE community, in the process. *Understanding ESSA*, a new website from the Collaborative for Student Success, aggregates state-by-state information on implementation, including announcements for upcoming state outreach events, news updates and links to state resources.

The Council of Chief State School Officers has a guide for stakeholder outreach that includes practical tips for states to engage ESSA stakeholders as well as examples of best practices that states are already using. ACTE has published a series of fact sheets on the CTE components of ESSA available here, and all of our online ESSA resources are available here. (Continued on Page 12)

WBEA AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE!

We know you work with fabulous teachers that are very deserving of a WBEA Award! Please take a minute to nominate them now.





- Distinguished Service Award
- Outstanding Business Educator
 - Outstanding CTSO Advisor
 - Communication Award

The applications are located on the WBEA website:

http://www.wbea.info/awards.html



Join the WBEA Leadership Team

Here's your opportunity to run for an office and be a member of the WBEA Executive Committee and Executive Board. In addition, you will be working with a dynamic group of leaders from across the region.



Election of Officers

WBEA President-elect - This is a three-year commitment that includes President-elect, President, and Past President. The candidate must be from the Arizona Business Education Association (ABEA), which will host the 2019 WBEA Conference.
WBEA Treasurer - This is a two-year term of office. The candidate can be from any WBEA S/T/P.

Requirements for an Officer

Each officer must be a member in good standing of NBEA/WBEA.

Candidates for all offices must have attended a WBEA Executive Board meeting and served as a member of the WBEA Executive Board (refer to P&Ps, 1010.1 and 1010.2) for one full year within the last ten years.

Each candidate for an office must be in good standing with the S/T/P that nominates him/her.

Details

Term of office begins on July 1, 2017.

Duties of an officer

WBEA Bylaws, Article III, Elections; Article IV, Duties of Officers http://bit.ly/WBEA-Bylaws
WBEA Policies and Procedures Manual and Appendices, Section 1010, Membership; Section 2000, Executive Committee; Section 3000, Officers; Section 3100, Duties of Officers. http://bit.ly/WBEA-PoliciesProcedures

How to Apply

Submit A3030, Résumé Form for Nominees, located in the WBEA Policies and Procedures Manual and Appendices, Page 43. http://bit.ly/WBEA_PoliciesProcedures

Form A3030 must be received in Hawai'i by November 15, 2016, 11:59 p.m. HST.

Mail A3030 form:

Mrs. Kay Ono, Professor Business Division Chair Leeward Community College 96-045 Ala Ike Pearl City, HI 96782

OR E-mail A3030 form: kayono@hawaii.edu AND businesscooped@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP ★ LEADERSHIP ★ LEADERSHIP ★ LEADERSHIP ★

WBEA Committee Directors for 2017-2018

If you would like to be a member of the WBEA Executive Committee and Executive Board as a Committee Director for next year (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018), please express your interest in an e-mail to President-elect Dona Orr at Dona.Orr@CTE.Idaho.gov. WBEA seeks representation from as many S/T/Ps as possible on the Executive Committee. Being a director is an excellent way to prepare and learn the responsibilities associated with being an officer of WBEA.

Page 8

2017 WBEA Conference Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20



Looking for a new way to teach **Economic concepts?**

FREE TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Limited travel and substitute teacher bursaries available (up to \$325 per person). Light breakfast, lunch, lesson plans, dvds and other free, take-home resources available.

november

Economic Demise of the Soviet Union

EDMONTON, AB

november

Economics of Disasters

BURNABY, BC

Learn more: www.FreeTeacherWorkshops.org

FREE HIGH SCHOOL SEMINARS

A fun-filled day of presentations, games and activities introducing economic principles. Programs run from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

GRADES 10-12

The Westin Bayshore VANCOUVER, BC



OR



GRADES 7-9

The Westin Bayshore VANCOUVER, BC november

Learn more: www.FreeHighSchoolSeminars.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION: student@fraserinstitute.org or toll-free: 1-800-665-3558 ext 575

NBEA: YOUR PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

Professional liability insurance of \$250,000 at no additional cost

Excellent publications (Forum, NBEA Yearbook, Keying In)

Savings on a variety of professional publications, curriculum standards, educational resources, and promotional items

Networking with business educators

National Business Honor Society for high school students.

Professional development opportunities –WBEA 2017 Conference, February 16-20, 2017 in Bozeman, MT and the 2017 NBEA Convention & Trade Show, in Chicago, IL.

If you have already submitted your dues, THANK YOU! Your continued NBEA membership helps keep our business education associations strong!

National Business Education Association Western Business Education Association

Name			
Preferred Mailing Address			
City, State, Zip			
Phone	E-mail		
M	EMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION:		
Professional (NBEA and WBEA)	\$85		
Professional/International Socie	ty of Business Education (NBEA/NCBEA and ISBE)\$115		
Professional & ARBE – Delta Pi	fessional & ARBE – Delta Pi Epsilon\$145		
	METHOD OF PAYMENT:		
Check Payable to NBEA	NBEA, 1914 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1596		
Visa	a MasterCard		
Card Number			
Expiration date	3 digit code		
Signature			

(Required for all charges)

Note: payment may be made online at <u>www.nbea.org</u>

NBEA/WBEA



We know you work with fabulous teachers that are very deserving of a WBEA Award! Please take a minute to nominate them now.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1, 2016!!

Nominations can be made in the following categories:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Outstanding Business Educator
- Outstanding CTSO Advisor
- Communication Award

HURRY!

APPLICATIONS ARE
NOW ONLINE AND
DUE VIA E-MAIL
DECEMBER 1, 2016

Applications are also being accepted for the WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship until December 1, 2106 as well! If you are currently enrolled in an Advanced Degree program, we would love to reimburse you for part of your tuition fees!

All applications are located on the WBEA website: http://www.wbea.info/awards.html

Applications and questions should be directed to Kristina Yamada at KYamadaUT@comcast.net.

WBEA 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING APPLICATION

(Please note: This application is in addition to actual WBEA Conference Registration)

Name			
Preferred Mailing Ad	dress:		
Street			
City, State/Province,	Zip/Postal Code		
School		hool E-mail	
Home E-mail			
State/Territory/Prov	ince in which you belong:		
Number of years emp	bloyed as a business education teach	ner?	
Number of WBEA _	NBEA	conferences	you have attended
How much do you ki	now already about the structure of V	WBEA/NBEA?	
Very lit	ttle Some knowledge	Quite a bit	Not sure
I am currently serving	g as:		
□ S/T/P President-e	lect	□ Other:	
□ Currently, not serv	ring in a leadership position; interes	ted in learning more	about NBEA/WBEA
Complete this application	ation and e-mail or mail by Decemb	per 1, 2016 to:	
	Roietta Fulgham (<u>roietta.t</u> American Ri 4700 College Sacramento,	ver College Oak Drive	<u>edu</u>)
Questions, contact:	t: Roietta Fulgham, PDLT Director, <u>roietta.fulgham@arc.losrios.edu</u> Donna Orr, WBEA President-elect, <u>dorr@uidaho.edu</u> Linda Snider, WBEA Membership Director, <u>botlinda.snider@gmail.com</u>		

Page 12

2017 WBEA Conference Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20

WBEA Legislative Update (Cont'd from Page 6)

By Tina Fulks, Legislative Director, Las Vegas, NV

Wide Range of Support for Perkins Reauthorization-Posted by Alisha Hyslop

Since the House Education and the Workforce Committee passed its version of Perkins back on July 7, support has grown for that bill and the reauthorization process generally. Many industry groups, as well as educators, are interested in seeing a new Perkins signed into law.

In an Op-ed in *The Hill*, Mac MacCarthy, senior vice president for the Software & Information Industry Association, voices support for many areas of the bill, including programs of study, work-based learning, the new local needs assessment and business and industry connections. He also emphasizes the importance of funding the law adequately to meet business and industry needs:



These reforms are vital if we are to adequately prepare students for the realities of the workforce

today and tomorrow. But at the same time, a serious policy for providing students with skills and employers with a pipeline of qualified employees must include serious funding levels. Despite the fact that our workforce challenges have gotten more complex – and will continue to do so – the legislation calls for a CTE funding level that is more than \$5 million below FY2007. While it does increase funding over current levels, there can be no doubt that a greater commitment will be needed.

The American Farm Bureau Federation got in on the action as well, sending a letter encouraging the law's swift passage. In a post on *Morning Ag Clips*, AFPF President Zippy Duvall emphasized "A skilled workforce is needed in rural America, just as it is in urban and suburban communities."

As we at ACTE prepare for Congress to return later this fall and move forward on Perkins, we worked with our partners at Advance CTE to prepare a comprehensive summary of the House bill. Please take some time this summer to review the summary and let us know if you have any questions or concerns!

Some Postsecondary Education Required-Posted by Catherine Imperatore

More than 95 percent of new jobs created since the Great Recession are held by individuals with some postsecondary education, according to America's Divided Recovery: College Haves and Have-Nots.

Since 2010, bachelor's degree holders have garnered 4.6 million jobs, associate degree holders gained 3.1 million jobs and 80,000 jobs went to those with a high school diploma or less. Sixty-five percent of the workforce now has education beyond high school. In addition, workers with some postsecondary education have most of the "good" jobs: full-time jobs that pay more than \$53,000 per year and offer benefits.

Management and health care occupations saw the most job growth. In addition, the share of workers with postsecondary education in fields like manufacturing increased.

Through CTE, students can earn postsecondary credentials that prepare them to work in these and other vital career fields. (*Continued on Page* 13)

WBEA Legislative Update (Cont'd from Page 12)

By Tina Fulks, Legislative Director, Las Vegas, NV

DOL Announces \$50.5 M in Apprenticeship Grants-Posted by Sean Lynch

Last week, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced \$50.5 million in federal discretionary grant funding to expand the availability of registered apprenticeship programs. The Apprenticeship USA State Expansion Grants will award 33 grants ranging from \$700,000 to \$3.2 million to states in order to help expand and integrate apprenticeship opportunities, including through connections with education and workforce systems. The grants will enable states to increase their efforts to market apprenticeship programs to new sectors and populations, increase their outreach to business and industry partners and innovate new approaches to the model.

"The Obama Administration is 'all in' on apprenticeship for a simple reason: it works," said DOL Secretary Thomas Perez in a release on the announcement.

States applying for consideration must submit their applications by September 7, 2016, and can access additional information here. The funds are a part of DOL's broader \$90 million funding strategy announced in April to strengthen the apprenticeship system nationwide, and build on the Obama Administration's previous investment of \$175 million in 2015.

New Guidance on Gender Equity in CTE-Posted Alisha Hyslop

On June 15, the Department of Education released new guidance in the form of a "Dear Colleague" letter on gender equity in CTE, particularly focused on both Perkins and Title IX requirements. The letter was written jointly by the Department's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) and Office for Civil Rights (OCR), "to make clear to recipients that all students, regardless of their sex or gender, must have equal access to the full range of CTE programs offered...This letter serves to support and inform recipients by clarifying the legal obligations to ensure equitable access to CTE programs, and by providing examples of issues that may raise concerns regarding compliance with these obligations."

The requirements in the letter are not new, as it goes on to state, "This guidance does not add requirements to applicable law, but provides information and examples to inform recipients about how the Department evaluates whether covered entities are complying with their legal obligations." Topics covered in the letter are comprised of federal funding Recipients' obligations to prevent and remedy sex discrimination in CTE programs, including:

- recruitment and promotional activities
- admissions and access to classes and schools
- counseling and appraisal materials
- Title IX procedural requirements
- notice of nondiscrimination
- Title IX coordinator
- grievance procedures
- Title IX Requirements related to enrollment, retention, and academic of students of the underrepresented sex
- pregnancy and parental status
- sex-based harassment

In addition, a set of examples is included around recruitment and promotional activities, admissions, access to classes and schools, counseling, pregnant or parenting students, and sex-based harassment. Additional technical assistance resources and information on promising practices is expected to be released soon. (*Continued on Page 15*)

Make Your Contribution to WBEA



CLICK TO CONTRIBUTE "Friend of WBEA" contributions are welcome from any instructor, company, or organization in the WBEA region to strengthen and support the Western Business Education Association. Contributions can be any amount. Any "Friend of WBEA" contributor who is not a WBEA/ NBEA member, but is a retired business educator or a part-time instructor, will receive the following benefits with a \$20 contribution:

- Full access to the WBEA website
- Delivery of the Western News Exchange newsletter by e-mail
- Regional WBEA conference fees at member rates.

REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 16

MBEA is Gearing Up!

By Chad Eichenlaub, Telecommunications Director & WBEA Webmaster, St. Regis, MT

MBEA is gearing up for another exciting school year. We will be hosting our Fall Institute in Bozeman, Montana, October 20-21. The theme this year is "I AM CTE". Exciting new offerings during the Fall Institute will include sessions led by industry leaders, 30 minute Big Sky Pathway sessions, and focus sessions with college faculty. Click the following link for more information and to register: http://montanaacte.org/documents/registration.pdf

Save the date... February 16-19... The 2017 Western Business Education Association Conference will be held at the **Best Western GranTree Inn** in Bozeman, Montana. I look forward to sharing this experience with you as we elevate business education through world-class workshops, recognize professional accomplishments with the WBEA awards program, and provide invaluable networking opportunities.

WBEA Legislative Update (Cont'd from Page 13)

By Tina Fulks, Legislative Director, Las Vegas, NV

Honesty: A Critical Employability Skill-Posted by Catherine Imperatore

Honesty is rated the *most important of nonacademic skills* by supervisors and employees in the ACT National Curriculum Survey 2016.

Other important nonacademic skills rated highly include sustaining effort, cooperating and maintaining composure. In addition, lacking conscientiousness and lacking problem-solving ability can have particularly negative impacts on employees, across both nonacademic and academic skills.

The survey also delved into technology skills. Supervisors responded that they want employees with:

- Basic computer terminology skills
- An understanding of information security
- The ability to use email
- An understanding of information ethics, such as copyright, attribution and piracy
- The ability to use operating systems

Career Readiness Lacking in College-Posted by Catherine Imperatore

Career readiness is important to postsecondary students, but 60 percent don't feel well prepared for the workforce, according to a survey from Mcraw-Hill Education.

Students are increasingly focused on college as career preparation—71 percent in 2016 say this is an "extremely important" aspect of their postsecondary education, up from 66 percent two years ago.

However, only 40 percent of college seniors say their experience in college has been very helpful in preparing them for a career. Students in STEM majors are most likely to feel optimistic about their career prospects.

Specific elements of career preparation that students value include work-based learning, career preparation tools, alumni networking and the development of employability skills. In particular, 78 percent of students cite interpersonal skills as important for the job search and 67 percent wish they had had more access to work-based learning and similar professional experiences.

Finally, more than half of respondents would have taken advantage of free tuition at a community college, if it had been available.

U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$54 Million in Grants-Posted by Sean Lynch

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced Tuesday the award of \$54 million in grants to 14 public private partnerships nationwide to support job training programs and associated support services for families under the "Strengthening Working Families Initiative." Each grant will provide between \$3 and \$4 million to representatives from the public workforce system, including local community colleges, as well as partners including economic development agencies, employers and community- or faith-based organizations.

The grants will promote support services that overcome barriers associated with skills training for adult students, such as providing child care services and increasing flexibility for program delivery times or locations. U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez said that, "the grants we're awarding today will help more working parents find affordable, high-quality child care while training for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

The new program is made possible through proceeds from the H-1 B temporary visa program, which allows employers to bring foreign workers into the U.S., and, per DOL's release, "intended to raise the technical skill levels of American workers and, over time, help businesses reduce their reliance on temporary visa programs."



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By Roietta Fulgham, American River College, Sacramento, CA

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