

Career



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY

May 2016

ACRP Webinar Resume Writing in the Technology Age

Date: May 17, 2016

Time: 10 am

Marie Zimenoff from the Resume Writing Academy will share what's new in resume writing, research on resume writing effectiveness, and how online application systems, screening by electronic scanning, computerized candidate ranking, and other innovations affect how we guide job applicants in developing marketing materials. We'll debunk some of the myths around these systems and show you how you can help your candidates create documents that stand out while passing the tests of the technology. Join us to be more confident, learn the latest trends, and get better results for your candidates.

To register for the webinar [click here](#)

Training Makes a Difference

Our trainers have been busy this year providing training all over the

UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 Montana College Fairs

Western Montana Region

Dates: September 26 - 29, 2016

Expected Attendance: 4,150

Fair Sites: Butte, Helena, Missoula, Hamilton, Polson, Kalispell

Central Montana Region

Dates: September 19 - 22, 2016

Expected Attendance: 3,360

Fair Sites: Bozeman, Livingston, Billings, Lewistown, Great Falls, Cut Bank

Eastern Montana Region

Dates: September 12 - 15, 2016

Expected Attendance: 1,790

Fair Sites: Havre, Glasgow, Sidney, Glendive, Miles City, Colstrip

Detailed Schedule of Events

state. Many of the people we have trained this year have used MCIS for years and yet almost every one of these MCIS users came away learning something new. On our follow up surveys we asked the following question: What are some specific ways you plan on using the things you learned during training? We think that hearing how others are planning on using MCIS is helpful to other career practitioners. Here are some of their answers:

- I will train the vocational teachers/students to use this tool more in the classroom
- I plan to use MCIS workbooks with the elementary students I work with. Fifth graders may start using the online interface next year.
- We are already using quite a few of these but are planning on implementing these across the curriculum with English teachers. Excited to see how it all comes together and works.
- I want to use the inventories more for students to get a better understanding of their strengths, abilities, and passions.
- Doing more assessments with clients who are ambivalent about what they'd like to do for work.
- I need the students' profiles for their transition IEPs.
- Show students how to look at similar occupations that come up when you look at one of the ones they explore. Use Short Form Interest Profiler to get started. Show certain pertinent sites, such as Physical requirements (especially for voc rehab people,) or Outlook, after people do reality check.
- I am planning on spending direct instruction time with all grades 7 thru 11.
- I plan to use this program to help students make decisions regarding class selections and transition for life after high school.
- Most of our students already have a profile; the whole school plans to integrate MCIS during our advisory period.
- Getting middle school kids thinking about their future goals. Getting elementary students thinking about their interests and goals for the future.
- We are going to first use our Orientation to begin all students on a portfolio. Then as they progress through school we will have them increase their skills and portfolio to help students with all aspects of their college hunt and/or career hunt. We are also excited that for the kids that do not plan to attend college or are SPED this program is linked to Voc. Rehab. and to Job Service. I was also glad to see Job Corp as an option for some careers. GREAT
- Helping Apprentices use MCIS
- I will be more comfortable in setting up student accts. Will be able to review student's profile if they started them elsewhere.
- I plan on using those tests (practice tests) to help prepare

<http://www.montanacollegefairs.com>

More News

Learning Styles Survey Update

About a year ago we added the Learning Styles Survey (LSS) to MCIS as an assessment to help determine if students prefer Visual, Auditory or Tactile learning style. We got great feedback about the assessment and so have developed an on-line version to easily save results. Previously students had to download a PDF and then re-upload the completed form in order to view the results. The new version's look and feel is similar to the built in Career Cluster Inventory (CCI). The results are easy to understand and retrieve again later when saved in the portfolio.

Montana Money Magic

High school students investing in their future

Learning how to manage money while earning match dollars through the Montana Money Magic program is a worthwhile investment of time and energy, according to Kaytlynn from Missoula.

"I participated in the Montana Money Magic program because free money was hard to pass up," said the 18-year-old Big Sky High School student, explaining that every dollar matters when trying to cover the cost of postsecondary education.

Administered by nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation, the program allows qualifying Montana students to earn a 3-to-1 match on their savings while attending financial literacy classes. Student who earn the maximum match receive \$1,350 to help pay for educational expenses.

"I'm not done saving quite yet, but I have a feeling most of my money will go to paying

students.

- Combining it with their Junior Year Career Report and starting my Jr High Kids with it
- I plan to implement the middle school program with our 7th grade students first and then continue with it each year thereafter. Our 11th grade students also use the program in their English class and we are going to see if we can implement it into a core class for each grade level.
- We have a better understanding of what PEP Talk and MCIS have to offer, and thus the training helped to make our PEP Talk more effective and useful for the students. We will use more of the resources, like Reality Check and the resume builder.
- Incorporating the website into my English lessons in regards to the students Future Stories
- I am an instructional coach at BMS. I believe that this website is very useful for our students. I will encourage the staff to use it. I am sure the AVID classes will use the site in a meaningful way. I would like to see the CT or Advisory classes use it to get the students started in career planning.
- I plan to track my Upward Bound students' progress through their high school career and beyond.
- I will be having students build portfolios - I think in the past they were just logging in and doing their inventories and printing them. We are lucky to be able help our students with all that is available in MCIS
- I plan on directing students with no formal post-graduation plans to the assessments in order to begin the formulating stages of a post-graduation plan. For students who have plans I will encourage them to use the site for resume building and to keep track of higher education plans.
- I initiated a mandatory component of MCIS for my program.
- We plan on looking at the most common careers that our students are interested in when inviting guest speakers or college faculty. We will also use information gleaned from MCIS assessments to help decide what workshops to provide for our students.
- I will be walking my grandson through MCIS - how to look for MT schools offering engineering and the costs of them.
- Work with Student Support Center staff and work study students to promote and assist Helena College utilize the MCIS material.

[To read more on how your peers are using MCIS click here](#)

Contact Pam Brandt or Donetta McDowell at mcrn@mt.gov or 800-541-3904

for tuition and books,” Kaytlynn said.

In Fiscal Year 2014-15, students who participated in the program accumulated \$106,650 through the program which they used to pay for dual enrollment classes, tutoring, computers, welding supplies, books, and more.

Kaytlynn said she's confident the lessons shared by Ellen Smith, SAF's outreach manager in Missoula, will benefit her throughout her lifetime.

“I didn't have a favorite lesson, but I did enjoy the class as a whole,” said Kaytlynn of the financial literacy portion of the program. “Doing all the extra activities Ellen assigned to us was the best part. They really tied everyday life into what we were talking about.”

According to Kaytlynn, the section dedicated to interest rates was particularly of interest to her, explaining the information would prove helpful when she needs a loan for school or some other item.

To qualify, students must be 16-18 years of age; in high school; and from a family with an income of less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Counties that are included in this project include: Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Cascade, Choteau, Teton, Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Yellowstone, Broadwater, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Ravalli, Mineral, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Madison, Powell, and Granite.

For more information, call (877) COLG4ME (265-4463) and select the outreach manager in your area, or click here <http://www.smartaboutcollege.org/outreach/>.

This project is funded under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements

[FASFA](#) [Big changes are on the way for 17-18 academic year](#)

Montana students accustomed to completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at the beginning of the calendar year may now fill out this important form in the fall.

In September 2015, President Obama announced that change to the federal student aid process, along with the opportunity for families to use income information from their “prior-prior year’s” taxes to complete the FAFSA.

“This is a big change and we don’t know yet how Montana schools, counselors and financial aid officers will revise their processes to address the new circumstances of the FAFSA,” said Rhonda Safford, statewide coordinator of College Goal Montana. “But at Student Assistance Foundation (SAF), we believe it will make filling out the FAFSA easier and less stressful for Montana families.”

As part of the FAFSA changes, this form — that allows students and families to access federal student aid for the 2017-18 academic year — will be available on Oct. 1, 2016.

Safford says this shift in timing better aligns with college application efforts, providing students and families with the ability to tackle both of these tasks at once rather than separately.

In addition, she is particularly encouraged that FAFSA filers this fall will be able to use their 2015 tax information (prior-prior year) to fill out the form.

“FAFSA filers who are trying to meet the priority filing date at Montana colleges on the current system are often unable to take advantage of the IRS data retrieval tool because they haven’t completed their taxes,” Safford said. “By allowing the use of tax information from the prior-prior year, more families will be able to use this tool that automatically populates information in the FAFSA.”

Safford emphasizes that the FAFSA process for the 2016-17 academic year remains the same, but students and parents should keep their eyes and ears open for information about changes to the process in coming months.

For more information about the FAFSA, or other postsecondary preparation-related topics, visit SmartAboutCollege.org or call (866) COLG4ME.

Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with the knowledge and tools to

herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.

[Montana's AmeriCorps Recruitment](#)

Montana’s AmeriCorps programs have recruitment cycles beginning at different times over the year. If you’re interested in beginning a career with a meaningful National Service experience, we encourage you to look to Serve Montana’s AmeriCorps In Montana page.

<http://serve.mt.gov/amicorps-in-montana/>

Programs that are currently recruiting feature an Apply Now button, and links to Montana’s fifteen distinct AmeriCorps and VISTA programs can be found on the page.

[Montana Economy at a Glance](#)



This month’s featured article:
The Economics of Rural Health Care

Montana is a rural state. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates there are only 6.8 people per square mile in the state, making the population twelve times more dispersed than the national average. There are plenty of advantages to living in Big Sky country: fresh air, privacy, little traffic, proximity to national parks and outdoor activities, to name a few. The rural landscape is what draws many people to the state, and it isn’t something most Montanans are interested in changing. However, such a low-density population does create some difficulties, particularly in providing health care.

[Read More](#)

pursue and fund their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants and public benefit programs - to date more than \$30 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org.

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