Hello SBEA Members,

I trust you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As for me and my family, we again counted our many blessings. I hope you did the same and were able to share quality time with family and friends while you feasted on the bounty of the harvests.

By now you are like me and many others. You are running a foot race to meet all obligations and expectations before the semester ends for the holiday break. All of us share this special time of the year in different ways. No matter how you celebrate, please know your SBEA Board and I wish you a truly wonderful, joyous season full of cheer and love.

With the above paragraph, I alluded to differences in beliefs and celebrations. That is one of the many beautiful things about this wonderful place we call home (the United States of America). No matter where you live in the world, we all have special occasions and ways that we recognize these events.

For example, did you know Sweden has one of its most special celebrations on December 13? It is called St. Lucia’s Day. On this day, a young girl who was martyred is remembered for her faith. One person is selected to be a national St. Lucia. People are visited in hospitals with much singing and eating of ginger snap biscuits. Other countries who recognize St. Lucia’s Day are Denmark, Norway, and Finland. [https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/sweden.shtml](https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/sweden.shtml)

On December 6 in Germany, boots are placed at the front door. Often a plate of food is placed with the boots. The food is supposed to be for a white horse of Santa Claus. Those who were nice will have boots full of goodies like fruits and nuts. Those who were a little naughty would find switches.

Italians recognize January 6 as an important day. This is the day recognized when the Three Wise Men arrived at Bethlehem to present Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Children in Italy are visited by Befana, a good witch who failed to recognize the importance of the Three Wise Men’s mission. After the Three Wise Men left, Befana regretted her choice. She gathered the toys of her child who had died to carry to the child the Wise Men intended to visit and became lost. The legend goes that Befana continues delivering gifts to children in hopes she will locate the Baby Jesus. [http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/Christmas-Around-the-World-Lessons-and-Activities.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/Christmas-Around-the-World-Lessons-and-Activities.shtml) [https://www.tripsavvy.com/la-befana-and-epiphany-in-italy-1547307](https://www.tripsavvy.com/la-befana-and-epiphany-in-italy-1547307)

With our region being from the South, we have traditions as well that other parts of our country may not observe. For instance, were you aware the first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday was Alabama in 1836? Arkansas and Louisiana followed a few years later. It wasn’t until 1870 that Christmas was recognized as a legal holiday.

Jamestown, Virginia, helped us with the tradition of the evergreen. The settlers believed the evergreen to be a symbol of hope and good fortune. The overall South began the practice of incorporating magnolias and pine in the holiday decorations.
No one Southern state seems to be given credit for the citrus fruit we give in stockings. Candy and toys were not always prevalent gifts. Citrus fruit was a rarity at one time. It was hard to obtain because of logistics and therefore was very expensive. People would use the citrus for its smell and to decorate. The fruit was used in what we know today as Ambrosia.

Pecan pie as a Southern tradition can be attributed to Louisiana. The story goes that French settlers to Louisiana prepared the dessert with pralines and divinity. Pecans are in abundance in the fall, and this abundance helped make them a staple for holiday merry making with the nutcracker.

To learn more about these traditions, visit the Porch Company’s website at https://porchco.com/couple-southern-christmas-traditions-may-not-heard/. One of the last things mentioned are the lyrics to one of my favorite Christmas songs. This newsletter will close with these lyrics. Read to the end to learn what these words are.

**STATE SPOTLIGHT**

**ARKANSAS**

Real world experience, business partnerships, and community service—these are just a few of the great things going on in business education classrooms across the great state of Arkansas. The Arkansas Business Education Association is proud to highlight some programs as well as some individual business education successes across our great state.

In Wynne, Arkansas, instructor Chris Davis had three students receive national recognition at the National Career Academy Coalition Conference for building the mobile app used at the conference in October. These students worked with conference planners to design and then deploy it. The app was used by conference attendees to check workshop information, access social media, contact information, the conference program, and a hotel map.

Justin Neel, an instructor at Caddo Hills High School, recently received some exciting news! The Glenwood Chamber of Commerce and Caddo Hills High School entered a partnership that would allow four Caddo Hills’ students the opportunity to be paid employees of the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce. These new employees will be able to complete office tasks, meet with community leaders and business owners, and aid in the processes of local chamber events.

Another wonderful example of real-world experience and business partnership is happening at Ozark High School in Ozark, Arkansas. OHS has entered into a partnership with Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus and Bank of the Ozarks. Students who complete the program’s banking courses during the junior and/or senior year may then enter the summer training phase at Bank of the Ozarks’ Operations Center in Ozark. The summer program consists of approximately eight weeks of paid training.

Another passion among Arkansas business educators and their students is community service. Two Arkansas FBLA members were recognized as Prudential Spirit of Community Award Honorees. The Senior-Level State Honoree was FBLA District I State Vice President Anna Claire Richey from Paris High School. She organizes an annual community “tea party” that has collected more than $100,000 in gifts and donations over the past four years to brighten the Christmas season for foster children.
The middle-level honoree Alexis Roberson, an eighth-grader at Riverside High School, launched a campaign that collected more than 1,500 coloring books and 600 boxes of crayons for hospitalized children in memory of her best friend.

FBLA state officers Molly Anderson from DeWitt High School and Garrett McWhorter from Bearden High School are also passionate about community service; the pair presented “New Ideas for Community Service” at the FBLA National Fall Leadership Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. They shared creative ideas for community service projects with workshop attendees.

Our local FBLA chapters continually participate in service activities. Paris Middle School FBLA received 1st Place in the Nation this summer for their community project “Smiling Seniors”; they made it their mission to see nursing home patients smile.

Judy Hick’s students at Charleston High School collected 280 new books for Arkansas Children’s Hospital!

Riverside Middle School FBLA adviser Michele Freeman is helping her students understand the importance of sharing. They are starting a Career Clothes Closet for students so that they will have the proper business attire at FBLA meetings. Some simply can’t afford to buy clothes for conferences, and so they can borrow the clothing and return it after the event. Their chapter plans to meet with Dr. H. Steve Leslie, the Program Coordinator for the Neil Griffin College of Business Career Closet at A-State, to discuss how to start the Career Clothes Closet.

Real world experience, business partnerships, and community service—these are the things that will help students in our classrooms, local communities, states, and our nation grow. Across our state, business professionals are in our classrooms more than ever before. Schools are implementing mentor programs and internships, and teachers are participating in externships. A change is coming—an exciting change! The Arkansas Business Education Association is proud of our educators and our students, and we are ready to embrace the change!

YOUR STATE will be SPOTLIGHTED too! See chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>STATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>ARKANSAS</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>Florida</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
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2018-19 SBEA BOARD MEMBERS

Michelle Taylor, President  
michelle.taylor@rcu.msstate.edu

Marie Coleman, President-Elect  
marie.coleman@sowela.edu

Tracie Opolka, Secretary  
tracie.opolka@hackettschools.org

Janet Kreider, Treasurer  
janet.kreider@vbschools.com

Deana Goodwine, Membership Director  
deana.goodwine@acboe.net

Dana Dingell, Past President  
dtdingell@fcps.edu

Elisha Wohleb, Convention Coordinator  
wohleec@auburn.edu

Geana Mitchell, SBEA Representative to NBEA  
geanamitchell@hotmail.com

Deana Goodwine, Membership Director  
deana.goodwine@acboe.net
UPCOMING STATE CONFERENCES

<table>
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<td></td>
<td>Twitter at @drvhemby</td>
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<td>Virginia Beach, VA</td>
<td><a href="https://sites.google.com/view/vbea/home">https://sites.google.com/view/vbea/home</a></td>
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2018 SBEA CONVENTION

Below are some pictures and details from the 2018 SBEA Convention held in Mobile, Alabama. It was co-hosted by the Alabama Business Education Association and the Mississippi Business Education Association. There were more than one hundred members in attendance with seven people from two other regions: Mountain Plains and Western Business Education Association. Attendees were able to choose from more than fifty general sessions, vendor sessions, and technology sessions during the three-day convention. Thank you, Carole Deere from Mississippi for sharing these photos with the SBEA membership.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

SBEA BOARD DINNER

Dana Dingell, SBEA President, providing opening remarks.

Murphy High School ROTC, Mobile, AL (Presentation of Colors)
The 2019 SBEA convention will be October 23-26 in Daytona Beach, Florida. More details will be coming soon about the technology and interest sessions to be presented during the conference to be held at The Plaza Resort and Spa. The Plaza Resort and Spa has a full-service spa to aid you with relaxing. Get ready to pamper yourself at the spa or visit some of the nearby local attractions. Mark your calendar NOW to attend!

The 2019 National Business Education Association (NBEA) convention will be April 16–20 in Chicago, Illinois, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown on the Magnificent Mile. Information sent from the national office states there will be “cutting-edge and innovative sessions and workshops.” If you are looking for ways to learn about technology or specific content, you will want to attend the NBEA Convention. We hope to see you in Chicago. Visit the NBEA website for more information at www.nbea.org.

STATE SNIPPETS

ALABAMA

Join us for the first ABEA conference of its kind! The We Love Biz Ed Conference will be held Saturday, February 2 at the Brock School of Business at Samford University in Birmingham. Come dressed comfortably (a day without "teacher clothes") and dive into a great experience with sessions driven by YOU. This day will be an unconference, EdCamp-like experience that is designed to give you what you came for. Bring your ideas, questions, challenges, and best practices to share, and get ready to learn with people like you -- the BEST business educators in Alabama! More info at www.albusinessed.org.
FLORIDA
Looking at the Florida Business Technology Education Association website, nominations are being accepted for the Outstanding Educator and for Outstanding Business Student. A grant and a scholarship respectively are being awarded. Officer nominations are being accepted as well. Check out FBTEA at https://www.fbtea.org for more news.

GEORGIA
The Georgia Business Education Association website had several people recognized on its pages under AWARDS. The 2018 GBEA Teacher of the Year was Shannon Anderson-Rush. The GBEA New Teacher of the Year was Melissa Busbin. There were four students listed as 2018 FBLA Scholarship winners. They were Sarah Sargent, Alexis Gray, Payal Patel, and Bianca Torres. More details about GBEA can be found at http://www.gbea-online.org.

KENTUCKY
Kentucky Business Education Association spotlighted on its website one of its outstanding business educators. Mr. Ed Crutchleo is a new educator. He has been teaching for two years Microsoft Office Specialist, business communications, financial literacy, and keyboarding courses. He stated on the site his favorite course is business communications because his students debate one another and learn to disagree respectfully.

Kentucky also recognized two student scholarship recipients. They were Wilson Switzer who was sponsored by Kim Simons and Landon New who was sponsored by Dr. Faridah Awang. Each young man is very active in high school and FBLA. Check out the KBEA website for more news at http://www.kbea.org/news.

LOUISIANA
The Louisiana Business Education Association is accepting applications for secondary and post-secondary scholarships. The organization is currently seeking nominations for Business Educator of the Year and Outstanding Contributions to Business Education in multiple areas. Look at the Resources page. There are multiple links for educator help including EdPuzzle, Symbaloo, and Canva. For more information about LBEA, visit http://laabe.weebly.com.

MISSISSIPPI
As co-host with Alabama for this year’s SBEA conference, Mississippi held its annual meeting in Mobile. During that meeting new officers were installed. The state meeting was well attended by the membership. Special guests included Dr. Jan Treichel, Executive Director to NBEA; NBEA President Margaret Blue; and NBEA Past President, Dr Diane Fisher. Special guest speaker was Claire Loupe of the United States Federal Reserve of Atlanta – New Orleans Branch. Jeannette Bennett of the United States Federal Reserve of St. Louis – Memphis Branch attended the meeting.

During the meeting, SBEA President Dr. Michelle Taylor was recognized for her contributions in business education for the state of Mississippi. She was honored to receive 2017-2018 Distinguished Service Award. The state association also acknowledged her efforts on behalf of business education at the regional, national, and international levels. More information about MBEA can be found at https://msmbea1950.wordpress.com.

NORTH CAROLINA
Upon viewing of the North Carolina website, one can see a link for a scrapbook. When this link is clicked, one can see ten folders for the past ten years of NCBEA history. It is a cool way to see people and great things that happened in the year
for business education. Nice idea, North Carolina! SBEA may need to follow your lead with this awesome idea. Check out the NCBEA website at https://www.ncbea.org/index.htm.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina’s website provided information on the front page for its annual convention in Myrtle Beach. The convention dates for SCBEA are February 20-24. The link to register along with travel information is given. The last couple of years’ newsletters were available for viewing. South Carolina is currently accepted nominations for awards. To learn more about SCBEA and its officers, visit http://www.scbea.org.

TENNESSEE

Currently, there is not an active business education association in Tennessee. However, one of its business education instructors is doing an amazing job at helping all business educators stay abreast of the latest trends. Dr. Virginia Hemby-Grubb is a professor at Middle Tennessee State University. Often, she posts to Twitter ideas that we can use in the instructional process. For instance, she tweeted on November 23 about using the YouTube blurring tool in the video editor. The short article from Richard Byrne at Free Technology for Teachers even provided videos to help demonstrate this process. One other tweet she posted recently was also from Richard Byrne at Free Technology for Teachers. The article explained how a QR code could be used for voice recording. Dr. Grubb is always sharing ideas for instructional use. You can follow her on Twitter at @drvhemby.

VIRGINIA

The Virginia Business Education Association has a busy few months ahead. On its website, the dates are given for winter board meeting, leadership development, and many conferences. VBEA is very active on the behalf of business educators with regards to legislative issues. This is not surprising with Robin Albrecht involved in this process. She is very passionate about business education and anything that affects it. This is one reason why she is the SBEA Chair for the Legislative Committee. Upon review of the site, there are three goals the VBEA Legislative Committee have. They are:

1. Keep the Association informed of legislative issues at the State and National levels.
2. Establish a State legislative team.
3. Continue expansion of State legislative network of teachers.

Robin definitely shares with the SBEA legislative committee items that affect all business educators in our region. Thanks, Robin, for your dedication to us! It is most appreciated.

Check out more about VBEA at https://sites.google.com/view/vbea/home.

WEST VIRGINIA

The state conference is scheduled for March 7–March 9 in Charleston, West Virginia. More information about WVBEA and the conference can be found at http://wvbea1.wixsite.com/wvbea. Educators in West Virginia have a curriculum called FoolProof. This is a peer to peer teaching resource that can be used with middle and high school students. The curriculum has been recognized on Good Morning America. It appears that there are videos, quizzes, assignments, and group activities for financial literacy topics. Here is a link to West Virginia FoolProof site: https://www.foolproofme.org/westvirginia
These are just a few examples of differences around the world in celebrations for this time of the year. With these differences, we as educators have opportunities to help our students learn some business ideas. We can help teach students about consumer price indexes, logistics, inflation, and so much more.

One lesson I came across was entitled “The PNC Christmas Price Index Lesson.” This is a free downloadable PDF. The lesson relates to the holiday song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Students investigate changes in the economy and costs for goods and services. Trends are identified, and the impact of these trends on the stock market(s) are projected. [https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/aboutpnc/CPI/2017/2017-PNC-CPI-Lesson(Inspire).pdf](https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/aboutpnc/CPI/2017/2017-PNC-CPI-Lesson(Inspire).pdf)

Another idea is the tree. Many countries around the world use trees in decorations. Have you considered the effects of using trees? This next site has a free one-page PDF to download to promote the idea of natural resources being used in holiday celebrations. Trees need fertilizer, but the effects of resources like copper in lights is also given. Cost benefit analysis, anyone???

It is ironic that one of Arkansas’s upcoming ideas of service learning is like the one I had for another newsletter. We definitely had not discussed this previously. So, I will say this is a case of great minds thinking alike.

The end of the year generally finds people and businesses in a more generous mindset. They are more willing to make donations. Have you considered creating a project for donors to choose to fund?

Donors Choose is an organization that aids educators with funding projects. Have you pondered the idea of taking students to see a business, event, or landmark that is outside of your area or even the country to learn more about international business, politics, or history? If so, one of the barriers to implementing the idea is generally funding. Create a Donors Choose project. Then, take the students to see the world or event. Assist students with seeing all the international business aspects from the adventure.

Here are some links to aid with creating the project.
[http://ditchthattextbook.com/2015/03/20/12-tips-for-funding-classroom-projects-on-donors-choose](http://ditchthattextbook.com/2015/03/20/12-tips-for-funding-classroom-projects-on-donors-choose)

Service learning is an opportunity to aid students with understanding other cultures, business mindsets, and more. Service learning can help build character as well. There are many websites and ideas for service learning. A word of caution – be sure the students and you will be covered in the event of an accident. Look into the liability for the project.

Check out these links for service learning.
[https://www.donorschoose.org/blog/service-learning-project-ideas](https://www.donorschoose.org/blog/service-learning-project-ideas)
[https://www.ceesa.org/phocadownload/servicelearning/part_3_organizations_resources/10_PeopleToPeopleIntl/4_ptp_i_service-learningprojectideas.pdf](https://www.ceesa.org/phocadownload/servicelearning/part_3_organizations_resources/10_PeopleToPeopleIntl/4_ptp_i_service-learningprojectideas.pdf)
[http://character.org/key-topics/service-learning](http://character.org/key-topics/service-learning)
[https://www.weareteachers.com/7-creative-ideas-for-service-learning-2](https://www.weareteachers.com/7-creative-ideas-for-service-learning-2)
MEMBERSHIP

We at SBEA appreciate your membership in our organization. We are a stronger organization because of you. Please share with your colleagues at the secondary and collegiate levels the benefits of membership with SBEA and NBEA. A copy of our membership application can be found on the NBEA website at https://www.nbea.org/newsite/member/join.html.

Finally, as your SBEA president and on behalf of your SBEA Board, we would like to wish all our membership a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe during your travels. Make lots of wonderful memories as you share time with your family and friends.

Michelle and the SBEA Board

“Christmas in Dixie, it’s snowin’ in the pines
Merry Christmas from Dixie, to everyone tonight”
—Christmas in Dixie, Alabama, 1982