

Financial Information – We have received our second CTEI payment – payments are on the way. I will submit a Perkins amendment on Wednesday or Thursday. Please e-mail me if you need to add an amendment on behalf of your district. As a reminder, when making an amendment, please e-mail me to let me know and tell me what the changes are to your grant. This helps with turn-around time at ISBE.

Classroom Resource – The biggest “hit” of our ongoing Blended Learning Class has been Kahoot. Kahoot is an interactive and fun way to quiz, review for tests, take a poll, etc... It will provide you with a spreadsheet breaking down the results by individual (or team) and by question. Best of all, it is my favorite price, FREE. <https://getkahoot.com/>

Policy – A 3rd year Social Studies mandate may be coming. The Civics Education task force is holding hearings in regards to recommendations they intend to make regarding improving student’s understanding of Civics. The report is here <http://www.isbe.net/reports/il-civic-ed-task-force2014.pdf> – page 9 is where their findings start with recommendations starting on page 12. The only remaining Civics Education task force hearing is scheduled for November 6 in Carbondale. Comments to the task force may also be submitted via email through November 7, 2014, at CETFR@isbe.net. I encourage you to e-mail the task force as I am concerned with the possibility of losing another elective opportunity. E-mail me if you would like to see what I wrote to the committee.

Articles and Video Resources

Suze Orman on “**Our economy’s most dangerous threat**” – spoiler alert – it is student loans

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/suze-orman-economys-most-dangerous-145629402.html>

“**Ivory Tower**” creator interviewed - A twenty minute interview with “Ivory Tower” creator Andrew Rossi. Like another recent article I shared with you, he also references the 1,120% increase in higher education since 1978. One excerpt:

“The movie “Ivory Tower” really tries to put everything together in one comprehensive look at the philosophical framework for higher education and the reality of how, as a business, it is creating a generation of people that are in so much debt that their lives are really in trouble.” - Andrew Rossi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofuhlR4LAgQ>

Powerful testimony on the importance of learning a skill. USA Today piece entitled “**Highly educated, unemployed and tumbling down**”

“The conventional wisdom that more education bears fruit in the labor market gets turned on its head when it comes to unemployment. For people with masters and even doctoral degrees, long-term unemployment is especially insidious.”

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2014/10/19/cnbc-overeducated-underemployed/17390047/>

A fantastic JJC promotional video showing students talking about some of their CTE programs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miy_54F1vI&list=UUsyAEyqvDzZYj3WYM2UTzaA

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of students –

Brian