

The Wednesday Reader
August 30, 2017

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. Today marks the beginning of the Wednesday Reader for the school year—your weekly informational email containing details about professional development opportunities, events for students, curriculum resources, funding opportunities, and other interesting items for your use.

Please feel free to share any resources, events, and ideas you may think may be interest t other Montana business education professionals. Have a great year ~ *Eric Swenson, Business Education Specialist, eswenson@mt.gov*.

Professional Development Event Specifically for those New to the Business & CTE Classroom

The Office of Public Instruction’s Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting a *New CTE Professionals Workshop* on Wednesday, October 18, at Fairmont Hot Springs, prior to the start of the 2017 Montana ACTE Fall Institute.

The New CTE Professionals Workshop is a **FREE** professional development opportunity designed specifically for Career & Technical Education professionals in their first, second, or third year in the classroom, or for those teachers new to Career & Technical Education in Montana.

This professional development opportunity will provide teachers who are new to the classroom, as well as those with less than four years of experience, with information on a variety of topics essential for success in the career and technical education classroom including

- Perkins funding,
- State CTE funding,
- Advisory boards,
- Professional development,
- Professional organizations,
- Montana’s Career Pathways Initiative and the Development of Statewide Pathways
- CTE and program-area standards and guidelines, and
- Career & Technical Student Organizations.

The workshop will be held at Fairmont Hot Springs ([1500 Fairmont Road, Anaconda](#)) from 8 am to 4 pm. The training is free of charge and lunch will be provided for attendees. Up to six (6) OPI Renewal Units will be offered. Attendees are responsible for their own travel and substitutes.

Additional details about the New CTE Professionals Workshop, including a schedule of events, are currently posted on the Secondary CTE page of the OPI website (<http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html>) under the **In The News** heading and can be downloaded via the following link: <https://goo.gl/VYJJHb>. If you have problems accessing the New CTE Professionals Workshop, please let me know and I can email it to you.

Registration for the 2017 New CTE Professionals Workshop can be completed and submitted online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/B92N6VV. The deadline to register is Monday, October 2.

Please note, registration for the 2017 New CTE Professionals Workshop does not also include the Montana ACTE Fall Institute. Registration for the 2017 Montana ACTE Fall Institute must be submitted separately. Montana ACTE Fall Institute registration details can be found at montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml.

Registration is Now Open for the 2017 Montana ACTE Fall Institute—Cheers to 100 Years!

This October, Montana Career & Technical Education professionals from across the state will gather in Fairmont Hot Spring outside of Anaconda, Montana, October 19-20, for the most exciting CTE event of the year in Montana.

This year's theme is "Cheers to 100 Years". The Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act of 1917 was an act of the United States Congress that promoted vocational agriculture to train people "who have entered upon or who are preparing to enter upon the work of the farm," and provided federal funds for this purpose. Join us in celebrating 100 years of Career and Technical Education.

The Keynote Speaker this year will be Bob Green retired as the Head Football Coach at Montana Tech following the 2010 season after leading the Orediggers for 24 seasons and spending almost 40 years in the coaching profession. During his tenure, Tech had its most successful period ever in football. Green compiled a record of 140 wins, 116 losses, and 1 tie. In the 78 years of football prior Green's arrival, Montana Tech had only won a total of 152 games, coupled with 272 losses. During Coach Green's time at the Butte College, the Orediggers placed first, tied for first, or second in the Frontier Conference 16 times. Green led the Diggers to the NAIA National Playoffs 5 times including the 1996 National Championship Game.

This year's [Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#) places you first in line to learn how you and your students benefit from the roll out of the new Montana Statewide Career Pathways. The Fall Institute opens Thursday morning, October 19 with the traditional opening ceremonies at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, just 15 miles west of Butte, Montana. The rollout of the Montana Statewide Career Pathways highlights a jam-packed agenda designed for you to:

- earn 12 continuing education credits including the new "power presentations" from institute exhibitors and division-specific pathways presentations
- discover the latest in products and services that help you improve your teaching from CTE oriented exhibitors at the annual trade show
- join your friends and colleagues to catch up on their new teaching techniques at the Thursday night networking social or dinner and drinks at one of Butte's fun restaurants or clubs
- congratulate the teachers recognized at the annual awards luncheon.

The rollout of the Montana Statewide Career Pathways is the high point of the Institute. Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Career Technical Education (CTE) division administrator T.J. Eyer described the new program as a transition from school based (secondary and postsecondary) pathways to a new system of statewide pathways designed to expand opportunities for students and minimize logistical challenges for teachers. Among the new program's strengths is an emphasis on dual enrollment, worked based learning and industry recognized credentials.

Representatives from OPI, the commissioner's office (OCHE), and the Pathway Coordinators from Montana's two-year colleges host the rollout including giving you the opportunity to meet with them during the institute sessions and at the trade show.

Download the 2017 Montana ACTE Fall Institute Registration Packet at montanaacte.org/prodevel.shtml and register today to secure your place at the October 19-20 Fall Institute. Plus, phone Fairmont Hot Springs resort now to guarantee your room at very favorable Montana ACTE rates (\$93+tax for Singles) at 406.797.3241 or 800.332.3272.

FinCamp Coming to Fairmont Hot Springs Friday & Saturday, October 21 & 22

[Next Gen Personal Finance](http://www.ngpf.org) (NGPF) (www.ngpf.org) and the [Montana Business Education Association](http://www.mbea.org) (MBEA) are excited to announce [NGPF FinCamp: Montana](#) will be held at Fairmont Hot Springs on Friday afternoon, October 21 and Saturday morning, October 22.

As part of their support to educators nationwide, NGPF is hosting FinCamps (Financial Camps) nationwide to connect personal finance educators. FinCamps build the community of personal finance educators, providing opportunities for collaborative discussion about pedagogy, and increase teacher's own knowledge about personal finance topics.

[NGPF FinCamp: Montana](#) will piggy-back off of the 2017 Montana ACTE Fall Institute; however, you do not have to attend the Montana ACTE Fall Institute in order to attend [NGPF FinCamp: Montana](#).

[NGPF FinCamp: Montana](#) is a financial education professional development event featuring:

- Collaboration* with educators
- Content* to grow your knowledge
- Curated* resources for your class
- a *Customized* approach to meet you needs

The FinCamp in Montana will consist of 2 sessions—session 1 is Friday afternoon only (1:30-4:30 pm) and session 2 will include Friday afternoon along with a Saturday morning session (9 am-Noon). For those interested in attending both sessions (Friday afternoon AND Saturday morning), your hotel accommodation will be covered and you will also receive a \$100 stipend at the completion of the professional development session.

In addition, OPI Renewal Unit will be available for those who attend either the Friday afternoon session only or the Friday afternoon & Saturday morning sessions.

Registration for the first ever [NGPF FinCamp: Montana](#) can be completed online at www.bit.ly/2xaBWjG. Complete registration by Friday, September 22.

Questions regarding [NGPF FinCamp: Montana](#) can be sent to MBEA President Elect Nicole Bogunovich at bogunovichn@billingssschools.org.

NGPF Can Help You Update Your Financial Literacy Curriculum

[Next Gen Personal Finance](http://www.ngpf.org) (NGPF) (www.ngpf.org), a nonprofit, has a passionate belief that all young people deserve a FREE, engaging and high-quality financial education to equip them with the knowledge and skills to thrive. Founded in 2014, thousands of educators in all 50 states rely on NGPF's website as their "one stop" shop for personal finance resources and professional development.

With a plethora of resources for educators to choose from, they are often asked, “How is NGPF different?” We think these four Cs are what separate us from other providers:

Customizable: NGPF curriculum is created using Google Docs, enabling you to customize our resources to meet the specific needs of your students.

Curated: NGPF spends thousands of hours searching hundreds of websites to bring you the most engaging videos, interactives and articles.

Current: NGPF’s exhaustive web research ensures they stay atop trends that your students need to know; from robo-advising to financial apps to mobile banking, they are there with activity ideas to build their skills

Comprehensive: Whether you are looking for a full semester turn-key curriculum, supplementary activities or projects, an engaging video, or PD opportunities to challenge you, NGPF offers a full suite of curricular resources and teacher development to meet ALL of your needs

All NGPF curriculum and professional development services are provided to educators at NO CHARGE. NGPF’s founder created an endowment that funds the organization’s operations.

What NGPF Offers

Personal Finance Curriculum for High School or College Students: Next Gen Personal Finance offers a fully customizable curriculum of more than 65 lessons, organized into 12 units, that high school and college educators use to teach anything from a single class period to a full year course. Their well-structured lessons contain current “best of” the internet resources, curated by our team of experts, and enhanced by NGPF original discussion prompts, activities, projects and assessment questions.

Personal Finance Supplemental Materials: For the experienced teacher who already has an established curriculum, NGPF offers a comprehensive and a well-curated bank of supplemental resources that are easy to implement in your classroom, including:

- [Activity Bank](#) [140+]
- Common Core-aligned [Project Bank](#) [50+]
- Original [Case Studies](#) [10]
- [Data Crunch](#) worksheets [65]
- [Video Library](#) [300+]
- [Interactive Library](#) [40]
- [Fine Print](#) [13] teaches students to interpret financial documents
- [Assessment Bank](#) containing multiple choice questions[800+; Registration required]

Professional Development Opportunities: NextGen Personal Finance wants every personal finance educator to be confident in the classroom and pride themselves on offering the most complete suite of FREE professional development services, including:

- Monthly [webinars](#) provide teaching strategies and highlight trends in personal finance.
- Daily [NGPF blog](#) posts with ideas to bring current events into your classroom.

- An online [Professional Learning Community](#), where educators collaborate to provide customized feedback to each other.
- The Q&A Forum gets answers to your questions while expert educators share their insights in our weekly [podcasts](#).
- Monthly [newsletters](#) and [surveys](#) delivered straight to your inbox.
- Workshops and sponsorships of [conferences](#) around the country (more than 20 events in 2016!).

Interested in learning more or viewing the materials and resources? Check out NextGen Personal Finance at www.ngpf.org and plan to attend the [NGPF FinCamp: Montana](#) at Fairmont Hot Springs on October 20 and 21.

Save the Date—JumpStart Coalition National Educator Conference in Washington, DC, November 3-5

The [2017 JumpStart Coalition National Educator Conference](#) (jumpstart.org/nec17.html) (#JSNEC17) is the only national conference dedicated to personal finance education in the PreK-12 classroom and the professionals who teach it. The [2017 JumpStart Coalition National Educator Conference](#) will be held November 3-5 in Washington, DC, at the Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel.

Registration opens Wednesday, September 6; the cost is \$425 for classroom teachers and \$575 for other educators.

[Scholarships](#) are also available through national sponsors to help attendees cover costs to attend. For a listing of available scholarships for the [2017 JumpStart Coalition National Educator Conference](#), visit jumpstart.org/2017-national-educator-conference-scholarship-opportunities1.html.

The conference features:

- Tools, resources, information and support for teaching personal finance in the classroom.
- Workshops designed to introduce new content and resources as well as personal development.
- Plenary sessions featuring nationally recognized speakers.
- Networking with your peers from across the country!
- Exhibit Hall devoted to Financial Education Resources
- Opening Night Gala
- 15 Professional Development Hours for Teachers
- Optional Activities: financial educator certification testing, investment workshops and various teacher networking opportunities.

Details about the [2017 JumpStart Coalition National Educator Conference](#) can be found at jumpstart.org/nec17.html.

Learn more about the conference from [last year's program](#). Also, stay up to date on registration, speakers and more the [conference Facebook page](#) or follow [#JSNEC17 on Twitter](#).

Scholarships Available for the 2017 JumpStart Coalition National Educator Conference in DC

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These scholarships cover conference registration including: six meals (from Friday evening through Sunday noon) two nights in a private room at the Renaissance Washington Hotel; materials and full participation in the conference. Some include travel and other benefits. Criteria, deadlines and conditions vary and are set by the sponsoring organization. Please read each offer carefully!

VISA Innovative Educators

Visa's Practical Money Skills is looking for innovative educators who teach personal finance to sponsor at the Jump\$Start Coalition National Educator Conference in Washington, D.C., from November 3-5. The \$1,000 sponsorship per educator includes the \$425 conference fee and travel expenses up to \$575. The deadline to apply is September 15. Application details are available at practicalmoneyskills.com/teach/innovative_educator/nominate.

Benefactor Scholarships

Benefactor Sponsors allow Jump\$Start Coalition to allocate funds to teacher registration scholarships. To help spread the benefit to teachers across the country, priority will be given to teachers from geographic areas underrepresented in conference registration.

Benefactor Scholarships cover the registration fee for teachers to attend the 2017 Jump\$Start National Educator Conference, November 3-5, in Washington, DC. While the teacher registration price is \$425, the value of this scholarship is much more. Registration includes the conference, two hotel nights and six conference meal events. Note that scholarship recipients (*or their schools*) are responsible for transportation, and incidental and optional costs. Apply by September 29. (*Note: The sooner you apply, the better; this is not a deadline. See application for details.*)

Benefactor Scholarship details can be found at www.jumpstart.org/assets/files/Teacher%20Conference/Scholarships-2017.pdf.

Montana Financial Education Coalition

In the past, the Montana Financial Education Coalition (MEFC) has offered three (3) scholarships for \$500 each. While the details for this year have not been posted, check the MEFC website—www.mtmfec.org—after the first of September for details and application guidelines.

Continuing Professional Development Pipeline Project from CSTA

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) (csteachers.org) is pleased to announce, in partnership with the Infosys Foundation USA, the development of the [Continuing Professional Development Pipeline Project](#).

The [Continuing Professional Development Pipeline](#) (www.csteachers.org/page/CPDPipeline) is designed to provide value for teachers, districts, professional development providers and students.

The pipeline will:

- Personalize learning plans that guide a teacher in selecting the professional development best meeting their current and future needs and interests.
- Create professional development-based communities providing greater support for teachers who pursue or complete various professional development programs.

--Certify professional development completion in the form of digital badging and certificates so that teachers can provide authenticated evidence to their schools regarding professional development they complete.
--Track professional development over time via a digital portfolio that further assists a teacher in selecting future professional development options and manage their overall career development.

Preliminary information about the [Continuing Professional Development Pipeline](http://www.csteachers.org/page/CPDPipeline) can be found at www.csteachers.org/page/CPDPipeline. More information about the Pipeline will be available in the coming months.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Aardvark is the first word in the English dictionary and it's also a fascinating and elusive animal which can be seen frequently at the Limpopo-Lipadi Wilderness Reserve of Botswana.

The name aardvark is not even English; it comes from South Africa's Afrikaans language and means 'earth pig' or 'ground pig'.

The aardvark can eat up to 60 000 ants and termites in one night, thanks to its nearly 12 inch-long sticky tongue.

Aardvark burrows, often in termite mounds, can be up to 43 feet long and have several entrances.

Aardvarks change burrows frequently, providing opportunity for subsequent residents like wild dogs, pythons, warthogs and South African shelduck.

Aardvarks are nocturnal and travel up to nearly 10 miles every night, foraging for food, and can grow up to 6 feet long and weigh up to 130 pounds.

With the body of a pig, ears of a rabbit, tongue of an anteater and tail of a kangaroo, Aardvarks are in fact the only species in its order (*Orycteropus afer*) and probably mostly closely related to elephants

Aardvarks are classified as omnivores, but they are truly insectivores, consuming termites and ants exclusively.

While eating, the aardvark's long, rabbit-like ears are rotated backwards, listening for any sign of approaching danger.

Aardvarks are found in a wide variety of habitats in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is the part of Africa below the Saharan desert.

Aardvarks favor areas with ample supplies of ants and termites such as savannas, grasslands, woodlands and bushland but tend to avoid rocky or swamp areas, as they are less suited to digging.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh