



Business & Marketing Education



April 14, 2021

Wednesday Reader

Registration for MCEE's Two Spring Challenges Ends Tomorrow, April 15

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is excited to announce they will officially host both the [Montana Economics Challenge](#) and the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#) this spring. There is no cost to compete in either Challenge. Registration is open now and testing for both Challenges will need to be completed by April 15, 2021.



As an added incentive this year, MCEE will offer a \$500 cash team prize for first place in the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#) and \$500 for the winners of both divisions in the [Montana Economics Challenge](#).

As always, all top performing teams will have a chance to compete at regional, and potentially national, competitions, which will also be held virtually.

MCEE is already arranging partners for 2022 and hope to gather again for in-person competitions.

On the bright side for this year, MCEE hopes to attract new interest without the geographic barriers of travel to Helena in March.

Thank you to this year's sponsors: Montana Banker's Association, First Interstate Bank, BNSF, and the [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#).

For questions regarding either the [Montana Economics Challenge](#) or the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#), please contact Dax Schieffer, MCEE Executive Director, at mcee@montana.edu.

Montana State CTE (VoEd) & Perkins Funding Applications Due Tomorrow, April 15

All high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#) for both Montana State CTE (VoEd) allocations and Perkins Grant Application.

The 2021-2022 Montana State CTE (Vo-Ed) Funding is an allocation based on the 2020-2021 school year data entered in Terms of Employment Accreditation and Master Schedules (TEAMS) and with Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO's) State Directors' membership rosters. The funding is allocation-based and requires only a "Yes" in the [application](#) to receive the school's allocation for the 2021-2022 school year.

Carl D. Perkins provides funding to strengthen the Career and Technical Education programs offered to students; helping them to explore careers in high wage, high skill, and in-demand career fields. There are 16 Montana Career Pathways allowing students to explore the areas of Agriculture Education, Business and Marketing Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, and Industrial Technology Education. Courses and programs must be taught by instructors endorsed in the respective curricular area.

The grant application and 2021-2022 allocations will only be made available to those schools indicating that they wish to apply for Perkins in the [application](#).

The Montana State CTE (VoEd) and Perkins Funding application can be accessed and completed [here](#). The deadline to submit applications is April 15, 2021.

Elementary districts are not eligible. For assistance, please contact the Career and Technical Education Division at 406.444.9019.

First Annual Virtual Game of Life—Register Today, Game Plays on Friday

[Montana DECA](#) and [Sky Federal Credit Union](#) are pleased to announce the first annual [Virtual Game-of-Life](#). This live and interactive video conference platform takes students through the challenges and uncertainty of daily living. From getting a job and buying a car, to purchasing insurance and owning a home, the Game of Life targets financial literacy through a fun, interactive, and realistic approach.



The [Virtual Game of Life](#) is free to all high school students and can be completed in 40-minutes or less, allowing for students to participate in a single class period.

The Game of Life is offered Friday, April 16, 2021, 9 am-3 pm. Students simply [register](#) for the Game of Life, and login when it is convenient between the hours of 9 am and 3pm (MDT).

Cyber.org Announces the Virtual Cyber Education Discovery Forum

[Registration](#) is now open for the [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#) to be held virtually, June 21-23. The Cyber Education Discovery Forum is a three-day virtual professional development event designed to help you reset, regroup, and refresh with new cybersecurity content and strategies as you head into the 2022 school year.



Attendees will spend their mornings in hands-on workshops led by CYBER.ORG Curricula Development Specialists. After lunch, attendees can choose from various breakout sessions, networking activities, and visit the virtual exhibit hall.

Cyber Education Discovery Forum highlights include

- Interactive workshops during the mornings
- Workshop supplies and conference swag bags will be shipped to you ahead of the event
- Breakout sessions that explore new perspectives and resources you can immediately use
- Networking sessions with guided topics to connect you with other attendees
- Keynotes from education leaders

[Registration](#) is \$35.00. Please visit the [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#) page for a listing of morning workshop topics and afternoon breakouts.

Registration is Now Open for NGPF's Certification Course Cohort #11

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) announces [registration](#) is open for the last Certification Course Cohort of the school year, Cohort #11.



Cohort #11 will run for five (5) weeks, April 20-May 15, and include nine hours of coursework from 10 courses:

- Advanced Investing*
- Banking & Budgeting
- Behavioral Finance
- Career
- Credit
- Insurance
- Investing
- Paying for College
- Psychology of Money**
- Taxes

**To enroll in Advanced Investing, you must take and pass Investing first.*

***Psychology of Money no longer requires Behavioral Finance as a pre-req; it is open to all.*

Visit the [NGPF Cohort #11 page](#) for the complete course schedule and to register.

NGPF's Spring Nearpod License Grant Application is Open

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is excited to announce they will be providing another round of [Nearpod license grants](#). As of today, over 1,300 teachers have taken advantage of this opportunity.

If you are chosen as a recipient, you will get access to one Premium Plus level Nearpod license with all of the bells and whistles including access to Nearpod's 8,500+ pre-created Nearpod lessons. You will also have easy access to NGPF's Nine-Week course, Semester course, and Middle School Nearpod lessons.

Both NGPF and Nearpod recognize the time and effort educators have put into making sure lessons are both engaging and rigorous for your students. NGPF hopes having access to a student engagement platform like Nearpod will provide you with more instructional options in your classroom whether in-person, virtual, or hybrid.

[Complete the application](#) by Monday, April 19, 2021.

Factors that will be considered while reviewing applications:

- *Whether you are teaching personal finance or a finance-related course*
- *Your experience with using Nearpod*
- *Participation in NGPF Nearpod PDs*
- *Your WHY*

Applicants will be notified by Friday, April 23, 2021.



Celebrate Financial Literacy Month with Resources from EVERFI

April is Financial Literacy Month and EVERFI has resources to celebrate with your students.

Interested in learning about the financial education resources available at no cost to your district? Check out EVERFI's [Financial Literacy Month Hub](#).



EVERFI
**Financial
Literacy
Month**
Financial Skills for All Students

[Elementary](#), [Middle School](#), and [High School](#) Financial Literacy Month Calendars: These calendars provide teachers with 15-30 minutes of financial education every day for the month of April.

[First Day Deck to Introduce EVERFI's Resources](#): Educators can use this PPT deck for their first day using one of EVERFI's programs.

EVERFI recently announced the findings of a two-year efficacy study conducted by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute on our FutureSmart, middle school financial literacy program. The newly released findings from the study—which were also published in the [Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning](#)—affirm significant knowledge gain in the subject matter and advocate that more such learning be provided to students.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Women in STEM: In March, the NHL, NHLPA, and EVERFI hosted a Women in STEM event to celebrate professional women at the NHL who utilize STEM as part of their careers. After taking the Future Goals Program, girls are 28% more interested in pursuing a career in STEM in comparison to boys, who are 22% more interested after participating in the digital resource. To listen to the event, see the recording [here](#).

On-Demand Webinars: We know time is limited these days, so we have recently created [15-minute on-demand webinars](#) for educators.

Scholarship Opportunities: EVERFI and our network of K-12 Sponsors offer students more than \$100,000 in college savings scholarships annually. Encourage students to take advantage of these [opportunities](#).

CAREER SPARK: A College & Career Exploration Event for High School Students

[Gallatin College Montana State University](#) announces two college and career exploration events for high school students—Career Spark—April 28 and May 3 or 4.



On April 28, Gallatin College invites high school students to join an interactive live stream session to explore southwest Montana education and career options and learn tips for college and career readiness. Related virtual content and college and career exploration resources will be accessible to attendees through May 28. The April 28 virtual event begins at 12 pm (MDT).

Gallatin College MSU will host a *limited capacity* in-person Open House, May 3 and 4, at their east campus location for interested students. Attendees will engage with instructors and industry partners to learn about more than 12 Gallatin College programs and employment opportunities they can lead to. The Open House will begin at 5 pm (MDT) both days. **Face mask and RSVP required.**

[RSVP](#) for the April 28 [Virtual Event](#) and/or for one of the [Open House](#) options, either May 3 or May 4.

For questions, please contact Gallatin College at 406.994.5536.

FREE Summer '21 Online Scratch Course—Learn for the First Time or Update Your Skills



The University of Northern Iowa's Department of Computer Science is again offering an online summer course [Intro to Programming with Scratch](#). The course is intended for teachers of all disciplines and grade levels (K-12) wanting to learn how to program with Scratch and ways to incorporate Scratch into their classroom.

The online course will run June 14-July 23, 2021. The course can be completed as an audit for free or receive graduate credit for \$100.

The course will utilize version 3.0 of [Scratch](#), which was released in early 2019. If you have used Scratch in the past and want to check out the updates in the new version, or if you would like to try Scratch for the first time, this is a great opportunity.

[Scratch](#) is a free, online, graphical programming language/learning environment that allows students to learn about computer programming and computational thinking without worrying about complicated syntax. It was created by the Lifelong Kindergarten Lab at the MIT Media Lab and is designed for students aged 8-18 but is used by programmers of a variety of age and experience levels.

This course is appropriate for teachers of all disciplines who teach grades 3-12 grade.

Participants will learn how to use Scratch for interactive art, animated storytelling, and game development. Previous programming experience is not a requirement for this course.

Please visit the [Intro to Programming with Scratch](#) course page for more details about the course and to pre-register.

Montana teachers can complete the course and either apply the graduate credit towards license renewal or get district approval to complete the course for OPI Renewal Units; 12 OPI Renewal Units can be earned by successfully completing the course via the audit (free) registration option.

Beauty and Joy of Computing Summer 2021 Virtual Professional Development Workshops

[Beauty and Joy of Computing](#) (BJC) is a College Board-endorsed AP Computer Science Principles curriculum and professional development based on the themes of creativity and social impacts. Since 2012, BJC at University of California Berkeley has provided professional development to more than 600 teachers throughout the U.S., reaching more than 5,000 students. BJC is excited to announce that this summer, they will be offering [two different workshops](#)—one for the middle/early high school curriculum, and the other for the high school curriculum.



The Summer 2021 workshops will be held virtually and will be week-long sessions. [Multiple options](#) are available for the BJC high school curriculum with the virtual workshop for the middle/early high school curriculum being held July 19-23.

The workshops are free; however, a non-refundable \$75 registration fee is charged to hold your spot. All course materials and year-long ongoing support are free.

For eligible teachers participating in the Summer Middle School/Early High School workshop only, BJC is offering a \$1,000 stipend. Participants will receive half of the stipend (\$500) for completing the professional development and submitting research consents and pre-instruments at the beginning of the academic year. Participants will receive the other half of the stipend (\$500) for submitting mid-year instruments and post-instruments at the end of the academic year.

Contribute to a New National Career Clusters Framework Impacting Learners & the Workforce for Generations to Come

Advance CTE is launching a crowdsourcing [portal](#) to modernize The Career Clusters® Framework. From April 1 to May 7, [Advance CTE](#) invites you to complete a set of idea challenges to ensure The National Career Clusters Framework (The Framework) bridges education and work, empowering each learner to explore, decide and prepare for dynamic and evolving careers.



Twenty years ago, the states and key stakeholders built and launched The National Career Clusters® Framework. Over the past two decades, Advance CTE has been its steward. The world of work continues to change rapidly, and it is time to modernize The Framework's structure and design to ensure its relevance for current and future needs of learners at all levels and of the workplace. Thus, Advanced CTE needs your help.

This effort is not designed to tinker around the edges, adding a new Career Cluster or renaming one of the existing Career Clusters. Advanced CTE is seeking to completely reimagine the way The Framework is organized to reflect the current and future world of work.

Advance CTE is seeking bold and innovative ideas to help us construct a new, modern, and enduring Framework. Users will be able to submit responses to one or multiple different idea challenges, which are estimated to take from 15 minutes to an hour, depending on how many you choose to submit.

Once the [innovation portal](#) is closed, Advance CTE will review submitted responses and identify those to move forward to the next step, which is to build a set of prototypes for a new Framework. Advance CTE will then lead a collaborative process through 2022 to develop, populate and validate a renewed Framework.

Your voice and input are vital. Visit the [portal](#) to submit your idea today. Advance CTE thanks you for your collaboration in this important work.

Celebrating Montana High School Seniors with Reach Higher Montana's Senior Send-Off



Reach Higher Montana is celebrating the graduating Class of 2021 and invites all seniors to share their post-high school plans through [Senior Send-Off](#). Reach Higher Montana is awarding over \$30,000 in prizes for participating students. Prizes include scholarships, tool and equipment packages, laptops, iPads, AirPods, and more. Students must [register](#) by April 23 to be included in the prize drawings.

Whether the next steps are apprenticeships, military service, entering the workforce, or enrolling in college, graduating high school is an important milestone worthy of celebration. There is no cost to participate, and students have the opportunity to win some [great prizes](#) by sharing their post-high school plans.

Early-Bird Registration for ACTE's Hybrid CareerTech VISION is Now Open

The Association for Career & Technical Education's (ACTE's) [Hybrid CareerTech VISION](#) will offer attendees a highly interactive conference experience online and on-site in New Orleans, Louisiana, that will give you unlimited access to learning, sharing and networking this December 1-4, 2021.

[Registration](#) is now open with early-bird rates available for on-site attendees through August 15.

Interested in presenting? The [call for proposals](#) is open through April 15.

Please visit the [CareerTech VISION 2021](#) site for complete event details and associated deadlines.



You're Invited to Karel Con 2021, the 3rd Annual CodeHS Teacher Conference

[Karel Con](#) is a FREE 3.5-hour virtual conference for computer science educators. It is a great opportunity to learn from other amazing computer science educators, network, and explore new ways to use the [CodeHS](#) platform.

[Karel Con](#) will be held Saturday, April 24, 2021, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm (MDT). All conference events will be held via Zoom.

Karel Con includes three, 45-minute breakout sessions of your choice and networking opportunities with other computer science teachers.

Please register by [April 9](#) for this FREE professional learning opportunity. Check with your district/school about receiving OPI Renewal Units for your participation.

Teachers can register for a [FREE CodeHS account](#), if needed, before Karel Con begins.

[Karel Con 2021](#) will also provide exclusive raffle prizes. Attendees will receive a hardcover copy of the new *Read Write Code* book by CodeHS CEO, Jeremy Keeshin. Attendees will also be entered into a raffle to win a MacBook Air or one CodeHS Pro License for the 2021-2022 school year.*

**The Pro License can only be won by a teacher currently using CodeHS Free.*



Scratch Week 2021. Save the Date.

The [Scratch Team](#) has exciting news to share: [Scratch Week](#) is coming soon.

From May 17-23, the Scratch Team is hosting a weeklong celebration of Scratch, packed with virtual events and activities for Scratchers around the world. Stay tuned on the [Scratch Week site](#), where the latest information and scheduling details will be shared.



This year's events and activities are currently under wraps, but keep an eye on the [Scratch Week page](#) and [@Scratch](#) on Twitter for more information.

In the meantime, visit the [Scratch in Practice](#) and the main [Scratch](#) websites for ideas, resources, and tools for both teaching and learning computational thinking and coding skills using Scratch.

Save the Date for the Virtual NGPF FinLit Conference

The 2021 Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) [Virtual FinLit Conference](#) will be on April 24, 2021. The conference will showcase 18 new, timely, and updated Virtual PD sessions, with a bonus 1-hour session on the 'State of Financial Education in the U.S.'

NGPF is excited to gather educators from all around the country to learn and engage together on all things financial education—especially with April being Financial Literacy Month.



Come and join NGPF; as with all things at NGPF, the conference is free and open to all.

When [registering](#) for the 2021 Virtual FinLit Conference, please note:

- You must register for each session you want to attend, including the State of Financial Literacy Education session.
- Please do not register for more than one session in a single time slot.
- If you want to attend more than one session in the same hour, don't worry, these sessions will be repeated through our regular NGPF VPD scheduling starting late April. To make for a cohesive and engaging experience, NGPF asks that you do not jump from session to session in the middle of an hour.
- For each session you attend, you will get [one \(1\) NGPF Academy credit](#); each session will also have a gift card raffle.

For a complete listing of session topics and to register to participate, please visit the [2021 NGPF Virtual Conference](#) site.

Registration is Now Open for the First Virtual Dual Enrollment Summit Hosted by UM

Calling all educators, staff, and administrators of high schools and colleges (two-year or four-year). The University of Montana Missoula College, along with the University of Montana Summer Office and Reach Higher Montana, invite you to save the date and join them virtually for the first-ever Montana [Dual Enrollment Summit](#) taking place virtually on June 17, 2021.

As some of you know, the Summit was originally planned for last summer, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to move it from 2020 to 2021 to ensure the health and safety of our participants, speakers, and staff. In preparing for this year's Summit, overwhelming response has been received to host it virtually for 2021, with the hopes of coming together in-person in 2022.



The [Dual Enrollment Summit](#) is a professional development opportunity for the educators, staff, and administrators of high schools and colleges. The Summit aims to provide an opportunity for connections and networking between college and high school faculty, staff, and administrators to support continuous improvement, quality, and rigor in dual enrollment course offerings to Montana high school students.

Registration is now open, and space is limited, so [sign up today](#). OPI Renewal Units will be available if requested. Please contact Jordan Patterson at jordan.patterson@mso.umt.edu with any questions.

The University of Montana also invites proposals for the Summit, with the sessions aimed at the professional development of others and common goals of celebrating the current successes and highlighting the best practices of dual enrollment in Montana, as well as improving the quality of Montana dual enrollment. For information on submitting a proposal, please click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jordan Patterson in the UM Dual Enrollment office at jordan.patterson@mso.umt.edu or to Becka Simons in the UM Summer Office at becka.simons@mso.umt.edu.

Cybersecurity Curriculum Workshop from Gallatin College

Gallatin College MSU and Clark State Community College present a two-day [Cybersecurity Curriculum workshop](#) for Montana high school teachers, June 17-18, 2021.

Selected participants will review cybersecurity lab activities, complete workshop labs, and prepare to teach 50+ minutes of cybersecurity curriculum during the 2021-2022 school year.

Participants will receive \$500, an iPad, and cybersecurity curriculum for student instruction.

The workshop will be held at the Gallatin College East Campus, 705 Osterman Drive, in Bozeman.

Space is limited to 10 attendees. Get more details and apply to attend [here](#).

Fun Facts and Trivia

White-spotted bamboo sharks belong to the family *Hemiscyllidae*. Other bamboo shark species include the brownbanded bamboo shark and the epaulette shark.

Bamboo sharks are slow-moving bottom-dwellers, unlike other more well-known sharks such as the great white.

The common name of the bamboo shark is “longtail carpet shark” as they have extremely long tails that are longer than the length of the rest of their body.

They are also known as “cat sharks” because the nasal barbels near their mouths look like cat whiskers.

The nasal barbels are sensory organs helping them locate food hidden in the sand.

Bamboo sharks also have spiracles, which are openings behind the eyes that help them take in oxygenated water.

Their fins are thin and not very muscular and are mostly used for propping themselves up in the sand.

White-spotted bamboo sharks have dark brown stripes on a lighter brown/gray background, and white spots.

They can grow to be about three feet long.

White-spotted bamboo sharks prefer inshore, shallow, tropical reefs.

They have such slender bodies that they are able to glide between coral branches and hide in the crevices of reefs.

Their ranges are the Indo-West Pacific Ocean regions of Madagascar, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Japan, and the Philippines.

Bamboo sharks eat other invertebrates and small fish that also live in the warm, shallow waters they enjoy.

They only grow to about 37 inches in length and are harmless to humans.

In fact, bamboo sharks are sometimes kept as pets in home aquariums.

They enjoy eating chunks of squid, shrimp, clams and scallops in their tanks.

In the wild, bamboo sharks mostly feed at night.

Like their bodies, their teeth are also small and are used for grasping or crushing softer prey.

For eating harder shelled prey, their teeth can literally pivot backwards; this helps to protect the tips of the teeth and provides a continuous hard and flat surface to crunch on crab or clam shells.

Bamboo sharks lay eggs that are usually about five inches long.

For questions, please contact:

[Eric Swenson](#), Business Education Specialist - 406.444.7991

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