

Montana ACTE Extends Early-Bird Registration to October 8

Early-bird registration for the [Montana ACTE Fall Institute 2021](#) has been extended to Friday, October 8. The early-bird registration rate for Montana ACTE members is \$145 and first-time attendees can register for \$85.

The Montana ACTE Fall Institute 2021 will be held in Bozeman at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn. Complete details can be found on the [Professional Development](#) page of the Montana ACTE website. An Institute Registration Packet, which include the Fall Institute schedule and links to the online registration system, is available under the Institute Documents heading.

Both Perkins and State CTE/VoEd funds can be used to support your participation in the Montana ACTE Fall Institute.

NGPF Now Accepting Registrations for Certification Course Cohort #17

Registration is now open for the [Next Gen Personal Finance \(NGPF\) Cohort #17 Certification](#) Cohorts.

NGPF Certification Courses are a perfect, and free, professional development event for your fall. Sessions are just 2 hours a week and start the week of October 18.

- Increase your confidence in your personal finance content knowledge
- Have ready-to-implement resources to bring to your students
- Empower yourself as an expert at your school site
- Earn a Certification Badge to share on your email signature, resume, and LinkedIn
- Continue earning your credits for [NGPF Academy](#) this fall.

What teachers are saying:

This was my first course. It was easy to navigate and participate. I felt it was well worth my time and I came away with some great resources to use next year.

As this is my first course, I wasn't sure what to expect. There was lots of information, and they did a great job giving time to digest the information. I loved the breakout rooms as they allowed for conversation and additional processing time.

Five courses are available during this cohort:

- Banking & Budgeting
- Credit
- Investing
- Advanced Investing
- Paying for College

[Register today](#) for an NGPF Certification course.

Earn OPI Renewal Units for Virtual and Out-of-State Professional Development Events

Are you planning to attend the ACTE CareerTech VISION conference in New Orleans or via the virtual option? What about Adobe MAX? If you are planning to participate in out-of-state or virtual professional development, be sure to earn OPI Renewal Units for the events.

Local schools/districts can approve your out-of-state and virtual events for OPI Renewal Units; this approval is no longer done by the Office of Public Instruction. Please check with your school or district office prior to the events to get details about the information needed to get pre-approved for OPI Renewal Units.

Remember, you need 60 Renewal Units every five (5) years to renew your Montana Educator License

Adobe MAX—The Creative Conference for 2021 is Virtual and FREE

Speaking of Adobe MAX, the [2021 Adobe MAX](#) conference will be held virtually this year, October 26-28. Adobe has waived the registration fee for this year's MAX—you get to participate for FREE.

Find your path to inspiration and learn new skills in 400+ sessions and labs across these tracks:

- [3D and AR](#)
- [Collaboration and Productivity](#)
- [Creativity and Design in Business](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Graphic Design](#)
- [Illustration and Digital Painting](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [Social Media](#)
- [UI and UX](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Meet the Adobe Teams](#)

[Adobe MAX](#) is not your ordinary virtual event---find inspiration in live and on-demand sessions; get a front row seat to the latest Adobe magic and innovations; take fun breaks with musical performances and special guests; connect with speakers and other MAX attendees; and have some creative fun and win great prizes.

Mark Your Calendars for ISTE Live 2022—June 26-29

The [International Society for Technology in Education](#) (ISTE) is excited to announce the return to a live [ISTE Live](#) in 2022. ISTE Live 2022—Empowering Educators. Elevating Equality—will be held June 26-29 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The 2022 conference will also offer a virtual option.

For more than four decades, the ISTE conference has been recognized as one of the world's most influential education events. It's where educators and education leaders gather to engage in hands-on learning, share best practices and hear from the brightest minds from the world of education and beyond.

The annual event attracts over 16,000 attendees and industry representatives, including teachers, tech coordinators and directors, library media specialists, education leaders, tech providers and researchers from around the world. Attendees enjoy over two dozen featured voices on our mainstage, thousands of sessions in a variety of formats and a massive expo hall.

Due to the global pandemic, the ISTE conference went fully virtual in 2020 and 2021, using a custom-built platform that allowed real-time collaboration with presenters and attendees, gamification features designed to deepen learning and engagement, and an archive of more than 1,000 learning experiences that attendees could return to for six months.

This year, [ISTELive 22](#) will be a hybrid event featuring powerful voices and offering a treasure trove of content and resources for attendees in New Orleans and those attending virtually around the world.

Visit the [ISTELive website](#) for more details and to sign up to receive conference updates.

In 2023, ISTE Live will be held in Philadelphia (June 25-28) and in Denver in 2024, June 23-26.

TEAMS Virtual Work Sessions Being Held Throughout October

The Office of Public Instruction's Accreditation office is offering TEAMS Virtual Work Sessions in October to assist with completing the TEAMS report.

There are five webinars intended for brand new users and nine webinars for returning users that discuss FY2022 TEAMS updates. Sessions will be held via Zoom and will have time to work on your individual TEAMS report.

Click [here](#) to view the full TEAMS Webinar Schedule or visit the [Accreditation and Educator Preparation](#) website.

AIM Webinar Zoom Links for October including Fall CTE Data Collection

Below is information for AIM Webinars taking place during the month of October. Please visit the [AIM Webinars](#) webpage for the complete 2021-2022 AIM Webinar Schedule.

AIM Webinars Taking Place in October: Fall CTE Collection.

This collection ensures that the Date Contacted and Post-Graduation Status fields for CTE concentrator students who graduated in previous spring school year (2020-2021) are populated and accurate. These students should be contacted during the second quarter.

Please see the [AIM Fall CTE User Guide](#) for more information.

ZOOM LINK Info: Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 2:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88179992185?pwd=NjFQSGhvWHFnOTFNZm5NYURTUnpUz09>

Meeting ID: 881 7999 2185 Password: 336424

Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999 Meeting ID: 881 7999 2185 Password: 336424

Nominations Being Accepted for the MBEA Awards Program

The [Montana Business Education Association](#) (MBEA) is now seeking nominations for its 2021 awards program.

Nominations can be submitted for

- Outstanding New Teacher of the Year
- Outstanding Business Teacher of the Year
- Distinguished Service Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award (ACTE)

Nominations can be submitted to MBEA Past President Calie Wineinger using the online nominations form at forms.gle/5XHWGA2pd8soqm4r5. The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 13.

For questions regarding the MBEA Awards program, please contact MBEA Past President Calie Wineinger at cwineinger@froidschool.com.

The 2021 Payback Challenge is Here; \$75,000 in Scholarships for Students Available

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is excited to announce the [2021 Payback Challenge](#) with \$75,000 of scholarship funding for high school students.

This scholarship contest officially opened on Monday, September 27, 2021 and is open to all high school students in the United States.

[Payback](#) is NGPF's most popular arcade game and has earned several Webby Awards to date. Millions of players hit the site each year to try and "win the game," which simulates the college experience from applying to college all the way to graduating and possibly receiving a job offer; but that is ONLY IF you can make it to graduation without dropping out or being put on academic probation! Game ON.

The 2021 Payback Challenge details, rules and prize amounts are available on the NGPF [blog](#). [Subscribe to NGPF's Blog](#) so you don't miss the big announcement.

You can also bookmark this webpage [link](#), which has the details about how to enter this scholarship contest: ngpf.org/paybackchallenge.

Curious about previous winners? Check out these blog posts featuring some pretty cool teens who have won this scholarship in the past:

- [4th Annual Payback Challenge Winners](#)
- [3rd Annual Payback Challenge Winners](#)
- [2nd Annual Payback Challenge Winners](#)
- [1st Annual Payback Challenge Winners](#)

FREE Montana Educator Wellness Center from EVERFI

You've been there for others. Now it's time to be there for YOU.

[EVERFI](#) has partnered with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana to provide mental wellness resources designed specifically for educators. Check out the Montana Educator Wellness Center [here](#).

The 5-10 minute lessons featured in the [Montana Educator Wellness Center](#) translate evidence-based best practices on mental well-being into actionable, just-in-time learning specifically designed for educators and school leadership.

Topics include:

- Mental Well-Being Basics
- Managing Mental Health Challenges
- Developing Resilience
- Students isolate & control variables to see how different materials affect protection & maneuverability
- Mindful Living
- Building Strengths & Developing Motivation

- Strategies for Stress Management
- Supporting Loved Ones with Mental Health Challenges

Take a minute out of your day for you, and explore a lesson.

This resource is available at no-cost to the entire education community in Montana. Please share the resource with fellow educators.

In addition to this free resource for teachers, you also have access to [Mental Wellness Basics](#) lessons for your students. Have questions or want more information? Just reach out to [Sean Thomas](#), the local support here in Montana. Sean and can be reached at sthomas@everfi.com.

Download Updated Montana Business Education & CTE Curriculum Resources

A shared Montana Business Education Curriculum Resources Google Drive folder can be accessed at bit.ly/MTBusEd21-22.

This shared drive contains the files found within the Montana Business Education Curriculum Resources binder. Many of these files have been updated for the 2021-2022 school year.

Files within the folder include

1. Montana Business Education Planning Calendar for 2021-2022
2. An updated binder title page which lists the new Montana CTE K-12 Standards
3. An updated Framework for Business Education Montana aligned to the new National Standards
4. Updated Business Professionals of America and DECA competitive events crosswalks
5. TEAMS K-12 Course Codes for 2021-2022 Business & Marketing Education Reference Manual
6. A TEAMS Worksheet (PDF) to code your courses & share with your school's TEAM data entry rep
7. A TEAMS Worksheet (Word) to code your courses & share with your school's TEAM data entry rep
8. The complete National Standards for Business Education (5th Edition Released Fall 2020)
9. Montana CTE K-12 Content Standards Reference Guide (New as of July 1, 2021)
10. Montana Statewide Career Pathway & Secondary Programs of Study for Business & Marketing Education

If you have issues accessing the [shared folder](#), please let me know.

TEAMS is Now Open & will Close November 1 for Fall & Spring Course Data Reporting

The Office of Public Instruction's [Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule](#) (TEAMS) system is now open. Data reported in TEAMS includes all courses being taught for the 2021-2022 school year, number students enrolled, and the length of extended contracts, if offered. TEAMS will close for data entry on November 1.

For Career & Technical Education programs, TEAMS data is used to determine State CTE/VoEd funding allocations and Montana Career Pathways. Therefore, it is imperative the CTE data schools report is complete and correct.

All local courses taught are aligned to a national course code when entered into TEAMS. To ensure all courses are correctly reported, please work with you school's officials on coding courses to the correct codes. The complete listing of [Montana OPI TEAMS K-12 Course Codes](#), and a [worksheet](#) for sharing your courses, can be downloaded from the [Montana Business Education 21-22](https://bit.ly/MTBusEd21-22) shared Google folder at bit.ly/MTBusEd21-22.

If you teach more than one course during the same class period, be to list each course and its enrollment separately. In the fall, all courses to be taught for the year must be entered; in the spring, only the enrollments for second semester or second & third trimesters can be updated—no new courses can be added following the November 1 closing of TEAMS.

If you have questions about coding your courses, please let me know.

Additional information and resources for TEAMS can be found on the [TEAMS page](#) of the OPI website.

Applications Now Being Accepted for the National Center for Women and Information Technology

This is the 10th year.

For a number of years, the NCWIT (National Center for Women and Information Technology) has given national awards to high school girls. The [NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing](#) is for young women with aspirations and achievements in technology and computing.

This year will be the tenth year that there also will be a Montana contest for Montana girls. The time to submit applications is September 1-November 5 and application materials can be found [here](#).

There are many qualified high school girls that would apply if they just had a little push from a leader like you. Any interested female high school student would need to fill in the online application, and get a parent and a school official to approve it to be entered into both the national and Montana contests.

Montana has had winners from high schools in Absarokee, Anaconda, Arlee, Beaverhead, Billings Senior, Billings West, Bozeman, Bozeman Petra, Broadwater, Butte, Cascade, Cut Bank, Great Fall High, Hamilton, Helena Capital, Helena High, Hobson, Jefferson High, Libby, Missoula Big Sky, Missoula Hellgate, Missoula Sentinel, Noxon, Park County, Red Lodge, Seeley-Swan, Sidney, Simms, and Whitefish High Schools.

The NCWIT hopes your school will be represented on the winners list this year, but girls have to apply.

NCWIT is looking forward to recognizing Montana's talent, and hope that you would encourage the young women that you know to apply. Sometimes all they need is a little encouragement and you are the person to provide that.

P.S. There also is a Montana educator award (with \$250 for professional development) given each year. Do you know a good teacher that you should encourage to apply (maybe you?)? Encourage them to go to [apply](#).

Questions? Visit the Aspirations in Computing [FAQ](#) page.

Presidential Scholars Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open for the [2022 Presidential Scholars program](#). You may nominate up to 10 males and 10 females for a total of 20 students for the general component of the program, and an additional five students for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) portion.

In the general category, nominations are encouraged for students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship, but might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT, Arts, or CTE recognition processes. All high school seniors graduating between January and August 2022, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, independent schools, or

home schools are eligible. The 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

In the CTE category, all high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and August 2022, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial, independent, or home schools are eligible. Candidates will be reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals experienced in CTE; 60 applicants to be named as semifinalists. The 60 CTE semifinalist applications will then be reviewed by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. All 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Nominations are due November 24, 2021. Contact the U.S. Presidential Scholar program staff in October for follow-up submissions instructions. All nominees will be announced and invited to apply in January 2022 by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Office; therefore, you do not need to contact your candidate(s). Completed applications will be due in February 2022; Scholars will be announced by mid-May 2022.

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, its criteria, and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, click [here](#).

Questions? Contact Executive Director Simone Olson at 202.205.8719 or Simone.Olson@ed.gov.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Dungeons & Dragons (abbreviated D&D) is credited with being the first role-playing game, but its origins date back to 1969 when Gary Gygax met Dave Anderson at the second Gen Con and the two expressed interest in working together to design game rules.

Dungeons & Dragons started out as a tabletop game in 1974 and quickly became the dominant product of its genre.

Dungeons & Dragons did not start out as a proper game on its own; instead, it was a companion book to a miniature-based tabletop wargame called Chainmail.

The first *Dungeons & Dragons* set featured three booklets shipped in a woodgrain-colored cardboard box.

Comprised of Men & Magic, Monsters & Treasure, and Underworld & Wilderness Adventures, this first, hand assembled set sold out its 1000 copy production run in just 11 months.

Now, 40-plus years later, over 20 million people have generated more than \$1 billion in *Dungeons & Dragons* sales.

Many credit the concepts first introduced in *Dungeons & Dragons* as playing a major influence in fiction, film and video games that are still felt today.

In the game's early cultural heyday of the 1980s, it was not out of the question to see a "*Dungeons & Dragons* Club" complete with club photos in select high school yearbooks across the country.

Tunnels & Trolls (abbreviated T&T) was a direct and very early competitor to *Dungeons & Dragons*, which utilized many similar concepts to the Gygax/Anderson creation.

Individuals such as Stephen Colbert, Vin Diesel, Jon Favreau, Matt Groening, Chris Hardwick, Moby, Mike Myers, Patton Oswalt, Karl Urban, Nathan Fillion, Gerard Way, Wil Wheaton and Robin Williams have spoken out over the years in support of the game and self-identified themselves as players.

Filmmaker Jon Favreau has credited the game with giving him a really strong background in imagination, storytelling, and understanding how to create a tone and sense of balance in a narrative.

The Worldwide *Dungeons & Dragons* Game Day, November 3, is celebrated across game stores in over 40 countries every year.

Back in the 80s, *Dungeons and Dragons* debuted on TV in the form of a cartoon serial.

The cartoon featured a group of plucky youngsters are thrown into another realm filled containing, you guessed it, dungeons and dragons.

The youngsters were given a set of magical artifacts and were guided by a wise old dungeon master in their quest to finish the evil Mage Venger.

For more than thirty years, *Dragon* magazine imparted wisdom on all things *D&D*, including a 'Sage Advice' column where players can sound out the experts about various problems they're having within the game.

The movie version of *Dungeons and Dragons* was not as successful as the game; made on a budget of \$45 million, the entire run of the film was only able to gather a measly \$33 million.

Suffice to say the disastrous performance of the movie scared off Hollywood from trying to adapt the *Dungeons and Dragons* game for the big screen again.

When the *Dungeons and Dragons* movie came out, it became pretty obvious that it was borrowing heavily from another highly popular franchise: Star Wars.

The whole *Dungeons and Dragons* movie was basically a reworking of *The Phantom Menace* and included a character modeled on the most hated Star Wars character, Jar-jar Binks.

Also, there is a maze scene which steals directly from *Indiana Jones*.

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