

THE WEDNESDAY READER
March 30, 2022

Please note—I will be out of the office for vacation beginning this afternoon and back on Wednesday, April 6. Have a good April Fool's Day, a hoppy Easter, and a relaxing break for those having spring break/a long weekend this weekend.

Tomorrow is Deadline for Montana Quality Educator Student Loan Assistance Applications

Tomorrow, March 31, is the deadline to submit applications for the [Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program](#).

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the quality educator [student loan assistance](#) program as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The Office of Public Instruction is responsible for administering the program.

Newly hired quality educators who teach or work in a subject that has been identified as a "critical quality educator shortage area" at an "impacted school" are eligible to receive state paid loan assistance for up to four years, so long as they remain a full-time employee at an impacted school.

The [program](#) provides for up to \$3,000 of state-funded loan repayment at the end of the first year of teaching, up to \$4,000 at the end of the second year, and up to \$5,000 at the end of the third year. In addition, the school district has the option to offer up to \$5,000 at the end of the fourth year, but this is entirely a local decision.

Explore Accounting with Paradise Park: A Four-Week Accounting Activity

[Start Here, Go Places.](#)[®] is excited to share a new four-week accounting activity which begins this week. In [Paradise Park](#), students are hired by one of the largest, most-popular amusement parks in the U.S., as management accountants who will help make decisions about its future and new offerings.

Students are provided park data and receive a new scenario each week with three potential new features or offerings. They will team up with their classmates to assess each option, select the best one to implement and provide some rationale as to why they made the decision they did.

Week 1 is available for [download now](#). Keep an eye on your inbox for week 2, releasing April 5.

Need a free teacher account to access Paradise Park? Sign up for your free account at [Start Here, Go Places.](#)[®]

Save the Date—Teaching Economics Professional Development Seminar

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is pleased to offer Montana educators a no-cost professional development seminar for July 14-15, 2022, at Montana State University.

This is an opportunity to improve teaching economics and personal finance led by leading researchers and instructors at Montana State University. MCEE and its sponsors will cover lodging, meals, materials, and mileage to Bozeman to remove any barriers to participation.

The program will be structured in alignment of the new Economics State Standards with opportunity to earn 14 renewal unit credit hours. MCEE and its board of directors will host its celebration of teachers dinner the evening of July 14.

Enjoy two days in beautiful Bozeman, Montana, at the MSU Campus. Classes will be offered in Linfield Hall. Teacher's lodging will be on campus.

MCEE and sponsors will cover expenses for:

- Lodging
- Mileage
- Meals
- Parking
- Class Materials

Registration will open mid-April with additional details. Please feel free to email mcee@montana.edu for any questions or clarifications in the meantime.

Montana Team Nutrition Program Seeking Farm to School Coaches

[Montana Team Nutrition Program](#) at Montana State University is seeking three Farm to School Coaches to lead and facilitate a school team during the [Montana Farm to School Institute](#).

Each Farm to School Coach will be paired with one team consisting of four-eight individuals based on geographic proximity and alignment between team goals and coach expertise. Applicants must have the ability to attend the required Summer Retreat on August 16-18 at Chico Hot Springs and all the required trainings and meetings.

This is a contracted position from April 2022-June 2023.

Applications are being collected until April 8, 2022. Visit the [Montana Farm to School Institute website](#) for qualifications, expectations, and to apply. Final decisions will be made soon after the school teams have been selected.

For question, please contact Aubree Roth, Montana Farm to School Coordinator, at aubree.roth@montan.edu.

Friday, April 8, is Deadline to Complete Testing for Econ & Personal Finance Challenges

The Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is pleased to announce they will host the [Montana Economics Challenge 2022](#) and the [Personal Finance Challenge 2022](#).

To inspire more participation and remove any financial or travel barriers, both programs will be made available at no charge to schools and available completely online.

With the help of sponsors, the software fees are covered and MCEE will award \$500 to all the first place teams, \$250 to second place, and \$100 to first place. There will be two divisions for the Economics Challenge.

In economics we love incentives. The top performers in Montana have opportunities to compete at regional and national levels, including possible all expenses paid travel to New York City of the national Economics Challenge.

Registration is open now and all testing will need to be completed by April 8, 2022, to determine the Montana winners. Once teachers are registered, they will have access to practice exams and additional preparation resources.

Visit the [Montana Economics Challenge 2022](#) and the [Personal Finance Challenge 2022](#) pages for other details.

Thank you for the competition sponsors First Interstate Bank, BNSF, and the Montana Financial Education Coalition.

For questions, please contact Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

Summer Teacher Externship Opportunities

Looking for something new to do this summer? Montana Work-based Learning Collaborative is offering 40 teachers a one-week externships to be immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies need to succeed in the industry or in a career pathway.

Educator Externships are a unique professional development opportunity where teachers are immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies needed to succeed in that industry or career path.

Some of the Business who are offering externships are:

- Wood's Powr Grip, Laurel
- Diversified Plastics, Missoula
- CM Manufacturing, Missoula
- Spika Design & Manufacturing, Lewistown
- Mystery Ranch, Bozeman
- Applied Materials, Kalispell
- Class One, Kalispell
- Red Oxx Manufacturing, Billings
- H-E Parts Mining, Billings
- Intercontinental Truck Body, Anaconda
- SRS Crissafulli, Glendive
- Hi-Country Snack Foods, Lincoln
- Montana Silversmiths, Columbus
- Tuscano Machine, Big Timber
- Blackhawk, Manhattan
- PDM, Manhattan
- Wheat Montana, Three Forks
- West Paw, Bozeman

The experience strengthens an educator's teaching abilities and brings relevant, real-world context into the classroom. Externships are often transformative for educators, students, and industry partners. Impacting just one teacher allows a company to reach between 20-150 students each year.

Please fill out the [survey](#) to receive more information. Want more information? Please contact opicte@opicnet.org.

Introducing Apple Learning Coach—Apply Today

Raise your hand if you are an instructional coach, a digital learning specialist, or a coaching educator.

[Apple Learning Coach](#) is a free professional learning program that trains instructional coaches, digital learning specialists, and other coaching educators to help teachers get more out of Apple technology. It is a dynamic mix of self-paced lessons, workshop sessions, and personal creative projects—and participants may be eligible to receive continuing education credits.

Apple Teacher is excited to share that [applications](#) for Apple Learning Coach are open now through April 19.

[Learn more and apply today.](#)

Contact your local Apple team or email applelearningcoach@apple.com for more information.

ISTELive 2022—Attend in New Orleans or from Home

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) will be holding the 2022 conference—[ISTELive 22](#)—in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 25-29. This year, ISTE is offering both a live and virtual option for conference participants.

ISTE is offering three different registration options—All-Access Pass, ISTE Year-Round PD Package, and ISTE Live 22 Lite Virtual Pass.

For complete details about each option, including pricing, visit the [ISTELive 22](#) site. Pricing for each registration option increases after May 3.

MCEE Partners to Offer Economic Empowerment Online Curriculum & Training for Teachers

Improve in the classroom while earning renewal unit hours with an online professional development opportunity in economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship.

In partnership with the Virginia Council on Economic Education and their center at Virginia Tech, the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) has partnered to offer a 15-hour [Economic Empowerment](#) online curriculum and training that will qualify teachers for renewal unit credits upon completion of the course.

In addition, MCEE will cover half the cost with a \$60 scholarship for the first 25 Montana educators to sign up.

This is for grades 4-12 with limited to no background in economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship as it covers basic content. MCEE hopes to reach younger educators who are adjusting to the new state standards in Career & Technical Education and Social Studies.

MCEE will host a more advanced, in-person professional development seminar at Montana State University in July (details to be announced soon).

Register for the [Economic Empowerment](#) online curriculum and training before April 1, 2022. See more details in this [flyer](#).

Click [here](#) to go directly to the training [registration](#). For payment, don't forget to type: "MCEE \$60 Scholarship" to qualify for discounted rate.

Questions/Suggestions? Please contact Dax Schieffer, MCEE Executive Director, at mcee@montana.edu.

Back for 2022—Montana Business Education Summer Update Regional Workshops

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Montana Business Education Summer Update will be held during Summer 2022. The Summer Update will be held at three (3) different locations across the state.

--Billings: Wednesday, July 27 @ Skyview High School
--Kalispell: Tuesday, August 2 @ Glacier High School
--Helena: Thursday, August 4 @ Capital High School

Each session will be held at no cost; however, participants are responsible for their own travel. For planning purposes, plan to arrive at your site no later than 9 am and the day will conclude by 4 pm. There will be an hour break for lunch, on your own. OPI renewal units will be available.

A complete list of topics, schedule of events, and a registration link will be available later this month. While the Summer Update is free, registration is required for materials planning to ensure everyone attending goes home with all the resources.

Save the Date for Scratch Week 2022

[Scratch](#) turns 15 this year and they are excited to invite you to Scratch Week and a special birthday event to celebrate this exciting milestone with them.

Join Scratch on May 19 for Scratch's 15th Celebration. The virtual event is open to their global community of developers, educators, students, families, and supporters.

Scratch Week runs from May 15-21 and is a celebration of Scratch packed with virtual events and activities for Scratchers around the world.

Find updates on daily activities, event registration, and more on the [Scratch Week site](#).

Summer 2022 Computer Science Professional Development for Montana's K12 Teachers

The Montana State University, Montana Tech, Salish Kootenai College, and the University of Montana have teamed up again to provide a series of [computer science professional development](#) opportunities for Montana K-12 teachers during Summer 2022.

The plan is to offer four unique professional development opportunities in the Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC), Mobile CSP, Python Modules, Game Programming and/or the Joy and Beauty of Data (JBD) during the summer of 2022. All classes are geared towards Montana high school and middle school teachers who would like to offer these courses in their local schools.

Python Modules: June 13-17, 2022; in-person only

Learn how to integrate modules that emphasize Python programming and computational thinking into high school science and math classes. Modules are fully developed and ready to go. They vary in length and difficulty. Opportunities to develop custom modules for your own classes will be provided and supported.

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC): June 13-17, 2022; in-person only

JBC (Joy and Beauty of Computing) offers students an overview of the world of computing, as well as a gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language. It examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition and introduces exciting ideas and influential people.

Game Programming: Self-paced, Online

Game programming using Unity

Mobile CSP: Summer 2022, Online

Mobile CSP is based on the College Board's emerging Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles curriculum framework for introductory computer science. Students will learn computer science by building socially useful mobile apps. In addition to programming and computer science principles, the course is project-based and emphasizes writing, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Details about the course curriculum can be found at mobilecsp.org.

Visit the UM's [Montana Teachers Summer 2022 PD](#) page for more details and to register to participate. Montana K-12 teachers will be eligible to receive OPI Renewal Units for each course completed.

Montana Financial Education Coalition Mini-Grants Now Available

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) is pleased to announce the opening of their 2022 [mini-grant applications](#).

The MFEC is proud to promote local efforts to expand financial education across Montana. The [mini-grants](#) are intended to help support activities in local communities that are rooted in Financial Literacy Awareness. The MFEC places an emphasis on applications which target high-needs populations and that create a best-practice or tool that is replicable.

The deadline for the submission of the MFEC mini-grant applications is April 15, 2022.

Fun Facts & Trivia

In the *Yukon* board game, players want to be the smartest prospector and collect most of the valuable gold.

The playing area consists of a 7x7 card grid.

The starting player may decide to take a card from the row or the column where the gold digger is standing.

This card is placed in front of the player, and the gold digger is moved to the spot the card occupied previously, ending the player's turn.

The next players may always take a card moving in a perpendicular direction from the previous movement.

The gold digger always moves to the newly freed spot.

The Yukon is home to the highest peak in Canada and Mount Logan (19,551 feet above sea level) is also the second-highest peak in North America.

Mount Logan was named after Canadian geologist Sir William E. Logan who spotted it in 1890.

Mount Logan, located in Kluane National Park, has the world's largest circumference of any non-volcanic mountain around the base at approximately 12.5 miles long and three miles wide.

The Yukon's Carcross Desert is the world's smallest desert, measuring 1.6 square miles, and has rare plants such as the Yukon lupine, Baikal sedge flower, as well as dart moths and dune tachinidae.

One of the most popular events in the Yukon is Dawson City's Great Klondike International Outhouse Race.

The race is one of the Yukon's oldest running events and has been a Dawson City tradition since the 1970s.

The Yukon territory was named after the river whose name has been derived from the native Gwich'in language word 'Yuk-un-ah', which means 'great river'.

The Yukon River, the biggest river on the North American continent in terms of volume of water flow, became famous in the period from 1896 to 1903, when in hope of making a quick fortune prospectors stampeded it.

This period is known as the Klondike gold rush, and an estimated 100,000 people were prospecting gold during that time.

The Yukon River is 1.980 miles long, flowing from northern British Columbia, through the Yukon, and across central Alaska to the Bering Sea.

Despite its length, there are only four vehicle-carrying bridges across the river.

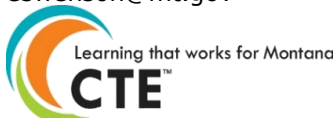
A car ferry crosses the river at Dawson City in the summer; it is replaced by an ice bridge over the frozen river during the winter. The Yukon River is home to one of the longest salmon runs in the world as Chinook, Coho, and Chum salmon return to their terminal streams in Alaska, the Yukon Territory, and British Columbia.

The Chinook have the longest journey, with an estimated 35–50% bound for Canada.

As salmon do not eat during their spawning migration, Yukon River salmon must have great reserves of fat and energy to fuel their thousands-mile-long journey; therefore, Yukon River salmon are noted for their especially rich and oily meat.

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.

Eric Swenson
Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov



"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