

### **Registration for Montana Business Ed Summer Update Workshops Opens Next Week**

Registration for the Montana Business Education Summer Update workshops will open next week, Wednesday, April 13. The Summer Update will be held at three (3) different locations across the state. While the Summer Update is free, registration is required for materials planning to ensure everyone attending goes home with all the resources.

- 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.

Topics will include, but not be limited to, Interactive Activities for Teaching Accounting, Color Accounting, Montana Business Education & CTE Program Update, and more.

### **Additional Perkins Funding Available through the 2021-2022 Rural Reserve Grant**

The purpose of the [Rural Reserve Grant](#) is to create career awareness, recruit, and retain students within a CTE Secondary Program of Study that leads to a high skill, high wage, or in demand occupations.

There are currently 176 schools offering over 260 Career and Technical Education courses to students in grades 5-8 in Montana schools; the most offered course is in career exploration. Since Montana does not receive enough funding to provide Perkins's funding for middle school programs, this year's Rural Reserve Grant will be to encourage pathway work for the middle grades.

Schools could use the funds to help

- establish innovative delivery methods for career exploration;
- expose students to employability skills earlier;
- establish foundational elements for work-based learning; and
- improve transitions from middle grades into secondary Career and Technical Education pathways.

Grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to secondary Perkins-eligible school districts to support CTE work in the middle grades (5-8). Schools MUST have completed the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and E-Grant application as well for the 2021-2022 Grant cycle.

The [2021-2022 Perkins Rural Reserve Grant Request for Proposal](#) is available on the [CTE page](#) of the OPI website under the [Funding menu](#).

Applications are due April 25, 2022. For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact Shannon Boswell at [shannon.boswell@mt.gov](mailto:shannon.boswell@mt.gov).

### **Register for the Free NGPF National Conference: Financial Wellness Beyond Trends**

Join [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) for the [2022 National Conference: Financial Wellness Beyond Trends](#). The free, virtual conference will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Conclude your Financial Literacy Month by attending NGPF's 14 brand new sessions on current events, new ways to shop, cryptocurrency, and more.

Notes for participation:

- You must register for each session you want to attend
- Please do not register for more than one session in a single time slot
- Please note that there are timed breaks in between each session
- For each session you attend, you will receive NGPF Academy credit (.5 or 1 credit, depending on the length of the session)
- The final session will be a wrap up an raffle session with swag and prizes. You must register for and be at the session to win. In addition, you must have attended at least 1 hour (that is not the raffle) of conference to qualify for incentives

All [sessions](#) are held virtually and begin at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 30. If you participate, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units for sessions completed/NGPF Academy credits earned.

### **Horatio Alger Career & Technical Scholarship Program**

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans is accepting applications for its [Career & Technical Scholarship Program](#), which will award up to \$2,500. Please share with your students.

Applicants must

- have completed high school (or earned high school equivalency) by summer 2022.
- be enrolled in a two-year or less career or technical degree/certificate program in the fall that will lead to employment.
- attend a not-for-profit post-secondary institution.
- demonstrate financial need; applicants must be Pell Grant eligible.
- be under the age of 30.
- be a United States citizen.

The priority deadline is June 15, 2022. [Applications](#) will continue to be accepted until all scholarships have been awarded.

### **Teach Financial Literacy in Your Classroom with Intuit Tools**

Intuit offers [free resources teachers](#) can use today.

[Turbo Tax Simulation](#): Help students overcome the fear of Tax Day forever with our real-world tax simulation.

[Intuit Financial Literacy Foundations course](#): Our new finance curriculum helps students get introduced to the foundations of personal finance.

[Mint](#): Get students up to speed with budgeting, credit scores, savings, and more using Mint.

Celebrate Financial Literacy Month by using one of these resources with your students.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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@opiconnet.org](mailto:opicte@opiconnet.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](mailto: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](mailto:mcee@montana.edu).

### **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](http://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**

*Zanziar* is a fantasy board game for 2-6 players.

In *Zanziar*, mighty heroes roam the lands of Zanziar to regain their throne of power.

The charismatic heroes guide their allied adventurers and armies through battles, adventures and events to the victory: the domination of the lands of the Zanziar.

In *Zanziar* the heroes must gather armies, ally with adventurers, vanquish other heroes and conquer cities in order to fulfill their goals.

Each hero has his own set of victory conditions, out of which two must be completed to gain victory.

The game of *Zanziar* imaginatively combines a strategy board game with a wider range of player choice more traditionally found in the genre of role-playing games.

Players take on the rolls of famed heroes of the land, gathering allies, adventurers, and powerful armies in an attempt to be the ruling force of Zanziar.

*Zanziar* was created by Finnish author Timo Multamäki and was first released in 2008.

To give teams a little extra punch, players are also given Item and Whenever cards.

Item cards are about what is expected from a fantasy game, running the gamut from enchanted weapons to chainmail armor; the majority of them improve skills or give a one-off benefit.

Whenever cards, meanwhile, might as well be called "Whatever cards"—effects include teleport traps, epidemics, random reinforcements, and even unit swaps, all of which can be called on whenever a player chooses.

*Zanziar* has several locations of interest: Cities, Mines, and Adventure Locations.

To move around from location to location, select a hex within moving distance, then draw a card from the Movement deck and resolve its effects.

Sometimes, nothing happens; in this case, players complete the movement as scheduled.

Other times, players throw up random events that make the journey more complicated than expected—rainy weather that reduces the movement or combat ability, bouts of disease, disorienting fog, or wolf attacks.

*Zanziar* should not be confused with Zanzibar, the archipelago of islands located in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Tanzania.

Zanzibar is home to many rare animals, including the red colobus monkey, the Zanzibar servaline genet, and the Zanzibar leopard.

Zanzibar is famous for its spices and the islands are sometimes referred to as the Spice Islands, due to the cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, and black pepper that are grown on the islands.

Freddie Mercury, lead singer of Queen, was born in Zanzibar in 1946.

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](http://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*