

**Spring 2023 Edition of the Prospects & Junior Prospects Student Business Pitch Competition**

Hello and Happy 2023 from all at the Montana Chamber and Chamber Foundation.

The Prospects and Junior Prospects are in full swing. The Chamber Foundation has been engaging with classes to help promote the competition as well as to hear student pitches. The submissions are rolling in and they cannot wait to see what ideas there are this year.

What is The Prospects/The Junior Prospects? If you are unfamiliar with the competition, it is a virtual pitch competition for grades 6-8 (The Junior Prospects) and 9-12 (The Prospects). The requirements are for a student to submit a written pitch and two-minute video, that is it. Business leaders from across the state judge the competition virtually and are able to give their feedback to these budding entrepreneurs.

The students can submit existing businesses that they have already started from a small scale to a full-fledged business. The other category is a new business where students have the opportunity to be creative and think of the next big thing. The new business category is not expected to actually start the business, just share the idea.

The Prize Purse is \$75,000 of unrestricted cash, scholarships, airline tickets, and workforce learning opportunities. New this year for the high school Prospects competition is an in-person pitch competition in Bozeman for the top 10 submissions to compete for an additional \$5,000.

To learn more, please take a look at this [flyer](#).

Important Dates

Junior Prospects

--February 20: Submissions due by midnight

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

The Prospects

--March 10: Final Submission Date; Submissions due by midnight

--March 24: Final Advancements Announced

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

--May 21-23: GRAND CHAMPION PITCH COMPETITION, BOZEMAN hosted by the Jake Jobs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University and EdChoice.

View this [presentation](#) for complete competition details.

For additional questions or to set up a Zoom meeting with our Workforce Strategists, please contact Tiana Yates, [tiana@montanachamber.com](mailto:tiana@montanachamber.com), or James Easton, [james@montanachamber.com](mailto:james@montanachamber.com).

**Registration Open for NGPF's Cohort 31 Certification Courses**

Level up your knowledge in one of five personal finance core content areas with a free [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Certification Course.

Cohort 31 runs from February 13-March 16 with an exam window from March 17-24.

Certification Courses are NGPF's most in-depth professional development format. Each course combines nine (9) hours of live virtual sessions over five weeks focused on a core personal finance content area with a 1-hour assessment exam. These courses are 100% free.

BONUS: Complete six certification courses and earn [NGPF Distinguished Educator](#) status.

Cohort 31 courses include

- Behavioral Economics: Mondays, 5-7 pm (MT)
- Career: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm (MT)
- Investing: Tuesdays, 5-7 pm (MT)
- Cryptocurrency Basics: Wednesdays, 3-5 pm (MT)
- Paying for College: Thursdays, 3-5 pm (MT)

[Register](#) today. If completing courses, be sure to work with your school/district to receive OPI renewal units for hours completed.

### **Updated Curriculum and Upcoming Webinars from Take Charge Today**

Looking for some new ideas and resources for teaching personal finance? Check out the updated curriculum resources from [Take Charge Today](#) and learn more from one of the upcoming webinars.

[Card Games Active Learning Tool](#): This Active Learning Tool has you using decks of cards for many different card games for a variety of lessons and concepts. You will find labels to print out and stick on playing cards to use for these activities.

[New Entrepreneurship Unit](#): Introducing our new Entrepreneurship Unit! We are starting out with four lesson plans, including:

- Types of Business Ownership,
- Principles of Business and Personal Ethics,
- Defining Roles of Social Entrepreneurs & Social Responsibility, and
- Understanding Consumers, Decisions & Markets.

Also coming soon are Leadership and Management Styles and Legal Aspects of Business Ownership.

Updated [Financial Statistics Puzzles](#): This Active Learning Tool has been updated with current statistics and now includes statistics from the new Entrepreneurship Unit.

[Spending Boards](#): The Spending Boards from Major Expenditure Mania, Introduction to Spending Plans (Spending Plan Shakeup) and Financial Decisions have all been updated with new and modern options.

[Weekly Shopping Ad Food Cards](#): Weekly Shopping Ad Food Cards were added to the Major Expenditures lesson for the Eating on a Budget activity. Statistics were also updated in this lesson to reflect current average household spending.

Save the date for 3 upcoming Take Charge Today webinars:

- January 25: Introduction to Take Charge Today
- February 8: Taxes Don't Have to Be Scary
- March 29: Teaching Entrepreneurship

Introduction to Take Charge Today Webinar topics:

- Navigating through the Take Charge Today website
- Examining the anatomy of a lesson plan
- Discussing suggested materials to use and collect for your "FinLit" classroom

These topics are helpful to teachers new to teaching Take Charge Today, no matter where you teach it.

Join the Zoom at <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/82850659773> on January 25 at 4:30 pm (MST).

Taxes Don't Have to Be Scary. Paying taxes is part of our civic responsibility, and many of today's students are often paying taxes before they are old enough to vote! If teaching about taxes is something that scares you, join us in a joint workshop with The Arizona Council on Economic Education for hands-on activities that help students see the benefits derived from paying taxes and build their confidence in understanding income taxes.

Join Take Charge Today on February 8 at 4:30pm (MST) for a one-hour webinar on the Take Charge Today Basics of Taxes and Paying Your Income Taxes lesson plans. We will go over the activities within these lessons and how easy it is to fill out your own tax form. Participants can register to receive one hour of professional development if they choose.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/85865979442>.

The Teaching Entrepreneurship webinar will be March 29 at 4:30 pm (MDT). The one-hour webinar on our new Entrepreneurship Unit featuring four lesson plans:

- Types of Business Ownership,
- Principles of Business and Personal Ethics,
- Defining Roles of Social Entrepreneurs & Social Responsibility, and
- Understanding Consumers, Decisions & Markets.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87161897831>.

### **Join Certiport for CERTIFIED Academy: Business**

From now until March, Certiport will be hosting [CERTIFIED Academy: Business](#), offering you training sessions with business education experts and industry professionals. Discover new ways of teaching, dive into available resources for your classroom, and if you opt for paid access, certify your own skills.

Checkout out the complete webinar [lineup](#) and [register](#).

Learn more about CERTIFIED Academy on [Certiport's blog](#). The blog covers all the details, including the structure, cost, and schedule. Get all your questions answered.

Discover CERTIFIED. Whether you are looking for inspiration, networking opportunities, or live training sessions, Certiport has you covered.

### **CSTA Montana Announces Meeting Schedule**

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) Montana Chapter Officers met last week to plan out events, meetings, and opportunities for members, and are excited to share they have a truly exciting year planned.

This year, CSTA Montana meetings will be held every second Wednesday of the month from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm with an optional "app-y hour" from 5:30 pm-6:00 pm where you can share, network, and talk with other members across the state.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates for this year's meetings:

--February 8  
--March 8  
--April 12  
--May 10  
--June 14  
--July 12  
--August 9  
--September 13  
--October 11  
--November 8  
--December 13

A raffle for fun prizes will be held at all meetings, and will also have teachers sharing lessons, partners sharing their activities and opportunities, reminders about upcoming professional development workshops and community events, updates on CSTA Montana, and of course time for meeting like-minded professionals across the state.

For the next meeting on February 8 from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm, CSTA Montana is looking for one or two teachers to share a "Nifty Lesson." If you have a fun, engaging, exciting lesson that you would like to share with others, please email CSTA Montana at [montana@csteachers.org](mailto:montana@csteachers.org).

[Membership](#) in the Computer Science Teachers Association at the CSTA Basic level is free. For more membership information, visit the [CTSA website](#).

### **AICPA Faculty Hour for Aspiring CPAs**

In concert with CPA Evolution, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) recently updated and rebranded its formerly titled Pre-certification Core Competency Framework into the [ACIPA Foundational Competencies for Aspiring CPAs](#). Many university administrators and faculty rely on this Framework to design degree programs and guide course development. Internal and external evaluators have used the framework to conduct accreditation assessments. Learn the process used to redevelop the competency framework and how its integration may assist you in equipping students with these competencies. Also, hear from a member in practice regarding the relevancy of this Framework for academics, students, and practitioners.

[The Faculty Hour: AICPA Foundational Competencies for Aspiring CPAs](#) will be held Friday, January 27, 2023; 12:00pm-1:30pm (MST). To participate, register [here](#).

### **Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank Spring Session Registration Now Open**

The Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) announces [registration](#) is now open for the Spring 2023 edition of the Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank.

The Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate is an eight-week business simulation that puts your students in the driver's seat to make decisions with their manufacturing plant to maximize profits and manage expenses.

This program is made possible by the generous support from the team at First Interstate Bank.

The sponsors at First Interstate Bank also will be supporting cash prizes for the winning teams, \$500, \$250, \$100 for first, second and third. In addition, all team fees are waived to encourage more

participation and remove any barriers for schools to introduce these business concepts into the classroom.

Check out the site [here](#) for more instructions, details and introductory video.

Teams will be assigned into industries later this month. MCEE asks that all teams be registered by January 30 so student logins can be provided by February 1. The first inputs will be due February 8 at 4 pm.

MCEE wishes to thank partners at the Montana Commissioner of Securities & Insurance, Montana Department of Commerce, and Office of Public Instruction who support financial literacy for ALL Montana students.

### **MCEE-Sponsored Stock Market Game Registration Open for Spring 2023 Investors**

[Registration](#) is now open for Spring 2023 [Stock Market Game](#) competition sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE). With the support of Glacier Bank, prizes for a high school and junior high division will be presented

MCEE had over 1100 students and teams competing in the Fall Stock Market Game across 40 schools. MCEE encourages you utilize the program to help students learn financial and investment education while competing for cash prizes. Glacier Bancorp and its family of Montana Banks will sponsor all team fees.

The Stock Market Game is a nine-week simulation in which students are given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Students must have at least five separate stocks and/or mutual funds at the end of the simulation, so research and diversification are crucial for success. Top state winners are given cash awards thanks to the generous sponsorship of Glacier Bancorp and its Montana family of banks.

To register for the Stock Market Game, go to the SMG web page, [stockmarketgame.org](http://stockmarketgame.org), and click on the link in the upper right hand corner of the page labeled 'Registration'. Follow the instructions to complete your registration.

For further information, contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at [mcee@montana.edu](mailto:mcee@montana.edu).

### **Early-Bird Registration for the ACTE Region V Leadership Conference is Now Open**

The [2023 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#) is April 12-15 in Fargo, North Dakota. Early-bird registration is now available through March 1 at a rate of \$475 with hotel rates of \$119-\$139 at the [Delta Hotels Fargo by Marriott](#).

Interested in presenting? The [Call for Presentations](#) is open with proposals due January 27.

Visit the [2023 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#) website for additional details.

### **NBEA to Pay Contributors Up To \$200/Lesson Plan for New Lesson Vault**

The new [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) strategic plan passed by the Board of Directors last November calls for developing a unique lesson plan archive that allows teachers to access relevant, standards-based lesson plans for flexible implementation in the classroom or online environment. NBEA has completed the specifications for proposed lesson plans and is now calling on teachers interested in providing lesson plans to find out more.

NBEA will pay authors up to \$200 per lesson plan submitted. The lesson plans in this new "[Lesson Plan Vault](#)" are designed with a teacher's edition, including teaching tips, objectives, assessments, answer keys, and to be taught in 50 minutes, an easy printable lesson for the learner.

Lesson plans are subject to approval via a blind review by a task force that will evaluate each lesson against the criteria for each lesson plan. NBEA seeks to have over one hundred lesson plans in the vault by the start of the 2023 school year. NBEA Executive Director Joe McClary said, "this is a great opportunity for us to pay our members what they are worth and build something that could serve the whole community. Our members have asked for this for years, and I'm happy our Board has provided the leadership to make it a priority." Those interested should register their interest with [jmclary@nbea.org](mailto:jmclary@nbea.org) before February 1, 2023.

Get more details about the Lesson Plan Vault on the [NBEA website](#).

### **[Applications Now Open in Montana for the Code.org Professional Learning Program](#)**

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators. If you are interested in teaching computer science for the 2023-2024 academic year, this is your time to explore the computer science curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, our professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you. Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and High School teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries (CSD), Computer Science Principles (CSP), and/or Computer Science A (CSA) in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

--Option 1: Virtual, July 24-28, 2023

--Option 2: University of Idaho–Coeur d'Alene Harbor Center, July 31-August 4, 2023

--Option 3: Raisbeck Aviation High School, Tukwila, Washington, August 7-11, 2023

The cost of CSD, CSP, or CSA is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (nine total days of training). Any travel, lodging, or food costs for in-person trainings are separate. Scholarship opportunities are available to cover the costs of Code.org training tuition for qualified applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact [Code.org](#).

### **[Fun Facts & Trivia](#)**

*The Love Bug*, a film about down-and-out racetrack driver Jim Douglas, was released on March 13, 1969.

Based on the story *Car-Boy-Girl* by Gordon Buford, Jim acquires a little Volkswagen, but doesn't realize that the "bug" is almost human.

The car helps Jim to win many races, but runs away, when it feels it is not appreciated, and into the clutches of villainous rival Peter Thorndyke.

With the help of his friends Tennessee and Carole, Jim changes his attitude, finds the "bug, " and apologizes.

They win another race—and the Jim falls in love with Carole.

The car, Herbie, was a 1963 Sunroof model 1200 Volkswagen.

The 53 number on the car was also the number of Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Don Drysdale.

*The Love Bug* stars include Dean Jones (Jim Douglas), Michele Lee (Carole), David Tomlinson (Thorndyke), and Buddy Hackett (Tennessee).

On-location shooting was done in California in San Francisco, as well as Willow Springs, the Riverside Raceway, and the Monterey Peninsula.

The highest grossing film in the U.S. during 1969; the film was so successful that it led to the sequels, *Herbie Rides Again*, *Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo*, *Herbie Goes Bananas*, *Herbie: Fully Loaded*, a limited television series, *Herbie, the Love Bug*, and a 1997 television-movie sequel.

*Herbie Rides Again* was released first in England on February 15, 1974, and in the U.S. on June 6, 1974.

In *Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo*, Dean Jones returns as driver Jim Douglas and enters in a road race from Paris to Monte Carlo with Herbie and mechanic Wheely Applegate.

One of the competing cars is a beautiful powder blue Lancia named Giselle and it is love at first sight for Herbie.

However, a fabulous diamond is stolen from a museum by two thieves and hidden in Herbie's gas tank, and throughout the race the thieves try to recover the gem.

With Herbie's help, the thieves are caught, Herbie wins the race, and he and Jim both get their girls.

*Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo* was released in theaters on June 24, 1977.

Released on June 25, 1980, *Herbie Goes Bananas* tells the tale of friends Pete Stanchek and Davie Johns transporting Herbie via an ocean liner from Puerto Vallarta to Brazil for an auto race when their lives are complicated by a stowaway in Herbie's trunk who's made the mistake of stealing a map of golden Incan ruins from a criminal now hot in pursuit.

In *Herbie: Fully Loaded*, the famous VW enters the world of NASCAR racing with his new owner, Maggie Peyton, a third-generation member of a legendary NASCAR family.

Maggie's overprotective father offers to buy her a car for her college graduation but takes her to a junkyard where a 1960s era Volkswagen beetle catches her eye.

She leaves in the rusty, banged-up car, soon discovering it is no ordinary auto, but a charmed car that will literally help change the course of her life.

With a little help, Herbie becomes stronger and faster than ever, and he and Maggie get the chance to realize their dreams on the NASCAR track.

Released on June 22, 2005, the film's stars include Lindsay Lohan (Maggie Peyton), Michael Keaton (Ray Peyton, Sr.), Matt Dillon (Trip Murphy), Justin Long (Kevin), Breckin Meyer (Ray Peyton, Jr.), and Cheryl Hines (Sally).

Herbie's NASCAR appearance took place at the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series' Pop Secret 500, held on September 4, 2004, at the California Speedway, in Fontana.

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.

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](mailto: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*