

**Friday, March 10 is Deadline for Spring 2023 Edition of the Prospects & Junior Prospects**

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 Jabs 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 32 Certifications—Courses Begin March 20**

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) announces [registration](#) is now open for their spring professional development offering—[Cohort 32](#). Cohort 32 begins March 20 with certification exams being held the week of April 21.

Cohort 32 will include

- [Banking & Budgeting](#): Tuesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- [Consumer Skills](#): Wednesdays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- [Psychology of Money](#): Wednesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- [Credit](#): Thursdays, 3-5 pm (MDT)

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 one-hour assessment exam.

These courses are 100% free. If you plan to participate, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI renewal units for hours completed.

Complete six certification courses and earn NGPF Distinguished Educator status.

### **Tourney Time - Bank On It Bracket Battle from Start Here, Go Places.**

In March, competition is on the basketball court, so why not bring it into your classroom too? With [Bank On It Bracket Battles](#), your students can put their accounting knowledge to the test and go head to head in a full-on tournament—no dribbling, passing or shooting skills required.

Setting your classroom up for a single-elimination Bank On It Bracket Battle is easy, and it's a great way to engage your class.

The play-by-play

1. Start by making sure all of your students have created Start Here, Go Places accounts and entered your classroom code on their **My Settings** page.
2. Head to [StartHereGoPlaces.com](#), select **For Teachers** and click on the [Bank On It section](#) of the educator homepage. Choose **Go Play** from the list (or simply go to [BankOnItGame.com](#) and sign in using your Start Here, Go Places account info). If you don't already have an educator account, go ahead and set one up now.
3. Now that you are signed in, select the **Tournaments** button toward the top-left of the page. Don't forget to note your classroom code on the right side of the page, so you can give it to your students to track their play.
4. Click the **New Tournament** button at the bottom of the pop-up window and select your preferences to design your tournament. After giving it a name, select **Create Tournament**. It's that simple. TIP: We recommend having students play a practice round against the computer before the competition commences to make sure our system automatically recognizes them when it's go time.
5. Let the battle begin.

[Get into the Game today.](#)

### **TEAMS Open Until March 15 for CTE Data Updates—Spring Enrollment Numbers**

The Office of Public Instruction has opened the [Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule](#) (TEAMS) system to verify and update Career & Technical Education (CTE) enrollment for spring semester/trimester courses. TEAMS is open for enrollment updates thru March 15.

During the spring enrollment update, only the enrollment numbers for spring courses can be updated; additional courses cannot be added, and currently listed courses cannot be changed.

Also during this time, please double check extended contract days, if applicable, and make any updates if needed.

Please use this window to verify and update spring enrollments, if necessary. The CTE enrolment data in TEAMS will be used to generate the CTE Participation Reports for the 2022-2023 school year as well as State CTE/VoEd funding allocations for the 2023-2024 school year.

If you are unable to get access to view the enrollment numbers for your courses, please send me an email and I can send you a screenshot or Excel file of your data.

If you have questions or need assistance with TEAMS, please contact [opiteams@mt.gov](mailto:opiteams@mt.gov).

### **Montana State CTE (Vo-Ed) Funding and Perkins Intent to Apply Due March 17**

**Montana State CTE (Vo-Ed) Funding:** The 2023-2024 Montana State CTE (VoEd) Funding is an allocation based on the 2022-2023 school year data entered in the Terms of Employment Accreditation and Master Schedules (TEAMS) and with Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO's) State Directors' membership rosters.

The factors of allocation are approvable CTE Program(s), correct course codes for CTE courses, properly endorsed teacher, student enrollment numbers and minutes for each course, affiliated CTSSO chapters and membership numbers, as well as any extended contract days for the CTE teacher.

All high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#).

**Carl D. Perkins funding:** 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 fields. There are 16 Montana Career Pathways that allow students to explore the areas of Agricultural 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.

All high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#).

The Intent to Apply [Google Form](#) must be completed by March 17, 2023.

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

### **Applications Now Being Accepted for Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program**

Through HB 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the [quality educator loan assistance program](#) as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The OPI 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 Office of Public Instruction has updated the process for [Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program applications](#). The application process opened February 13, 2023, and runs through April 14, 2023.

Use the [application link](#) to complete an application and upload required documents. Please note that approvals and payments will not be processed until the review process is complete for all applications. Expect payment to be sent out after June 1, 2023. Letters to applicants will be sent at the same time.

For information about Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program, email [OPILoanAssistance@mt.gov](mailto:OPILoanAssistance@mt.gov).

### **"W2 – Do Your Taxes" Night with Students**

The Montana Society of CPA's announces the opportunity to host a "W2- Do Your Taxes" night to help high school students learn about tax filing.

This is a great opportunity to get involved with promoting the accounting industry to high school students and for local professionals to give back to the community. During the event, possibly two-three local tax professionals would be present to answer student questions.

If interested in hosting a "W2- Do Your Taxes" night with students, or to learn more, please contact Erinn Donnell, the Montana Society of CPAs' Communications Manager at [erinn@montana.cpa](mailto:erinn@montana.cpa) or by phone at 406.442.7301.

### **YE/Empowered + MT Chamber Foundation PD Collaboration Summer 2023 = \$500 Scholarship\$**

Are you interested in attending the Empowered [RiseUp Conference](#) in Salt Lake City, Utah July 18-21? The Empowered RiseUp event is free once you arrive, and The Montana Chamber Foundation will be reimbursing your travel up to \$500.

*"The FREE activities, curriculum, and resources available through Empowered and the Montana Chamber Foundation are changing the lives of both students and teachers. Through the partnership between Empowered and the Montana Chamber Foundations, Montana CTE teachers have opportunities not available anywhere else in the country." ~Eric Swenson, Montana Business Education Specialist.*

The Montana Chamber Foundation loves how the Empowered curriculum can be layered into your classroom and want to support you in going and learning more about it. Educators are Montana's rock stars, and the Montana Chamber Foundation wants to ensure this is an awesome and completely paid for learning event.

How??

1. [Register](#) on the Empowered Hub for the Salt Lake City, Utah, RiseUp, July 18-20
2. Empowered will pay for the hotel rooms; when registering, please select "yes" to all of the hotel "scholarship" questions.
3. Please register for the RiseUp event before March 31
4. Reimbursement will be refunded upon attendance to the conference. Please keep all of your travel receipts, reimbursement will be up to \$500 of travel.
5. Montana Chamber Foundation and Empowered will be sending you information to make hotel reservations on your own. Upon check in to the hotel, the reservation will be moved from your card to Empowered.
6. Make sure to wait to make your hotel reservation until you hear from the Chamber Foundation, hotel reservations will look different than anyone else coming from around the country.

Who: Any Montana Educator currently using Empowered or wanting to learn about Empowered and how they can apply it to their classroom. If you have already registered for SLC, you are good to go.

What: Montana Educators attend this Empowered professional development training absolutely FREE. After registering for the RiseUp event, Empowered pays for all of the programming and hotels once

you arrive. The Montana Chamber Foundation will pay for your travel up to \$500. The Chamber is adding one additional paid night for Montana educators and the Chamber Foundation requests you stay for in order to claim the \$500 travel. During this time, the Chamber Foundation will build mentorships and relationships within the Montana network of teachers.

Why: If you are new to Empowered, there will be sessions for you to learn how to utilize the curriculum. If you are a veteran, there will be sessions for you to learn how to expand Empowered in your classroom. During the additional Montana time, time will be spent to network and share how the Chamber can support you and take time to celebrate and appreciate Montana Educators.

When: July 18-21`, Empowered RiseUp ends at 1pm, July 20, and the Chamber will pay for the additional night with the Montana educators and you can fly/drive home July 21.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Montana Chamber Foundation Workforce Strategists Tiana Yates, [tiana@montanachamber.com](mailto:tiana@montanachamber.com), or James Easton, [james@montanachamber.com](mailto:james@montanachamber.com), with any questions. See you in Salt Lake.

### **Registration is Now Open for Empowered's FREE RiseUp Professional Development**

[RiseUp](#) events are the flagship of [Empowered's](#) in-person training and professional development program. These three-day, regional programs are designed to assemble 300+ educators (each) to share a truly unique professional development experience. Speakers, panels, sessions, and leave-to-learns are specifically designed to be hands-on and foster participation and exploration.

The western region [RiseUp](#) will be July 18-20, 2023, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tracks will be available for current teachers and teachers new to Empowered's curriculum, as well as joint sessions.

Thanks to the generous support of Empowered's donors and financial partners, registration for RiseUp events is free. Meals and snacks are included as part of the program and hotel scholarships are available for those traveling to participate. Professional Development Certificates will be issued to all participants. Teachers attending RiseUp are responsible for their transportation costs and incidentals.

Need more information? Try the [FAQ](#) page or [contact Empowered](#). If attending, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units for Professional Development (RUPDs) events.

[Empowered](#), a non-profit organization, partners with and supports K-12 educators. The Empowered Community—with thousands of teachers nationwide—believes that every student deserves an education that helps them discover and develop their own, unique skills and truly prepares them for life ahead.

[Empowered](#) offers 140+ engaging learning activities, training and professional development (including [RiseUp](#) events), support, from our staff and teacher community, and a collection of tools and resources to help bring learning to life.

### **Registration Open for Personal Finance Challenge; April 5 is Deadline for Team Competition**

**What is the Personal Finance Challenge?** Every year, the [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education hosts the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#). The challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance by connecting with other students from across the state in an online competition.

**How does the challenge work?** Teams of 3-4 students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering the principles of personal finance including money management, credit,

investing, and insurance. Testing must be completed by April 5, 2023. Sample tests are available in the program.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

--1st Place: \$500 per team

--2nd Place: \$250 per team

--3rd Place: \$100 per team

**Next Steps:** 1) If you are new to the Montana Personal Finance Challenge, welcome. You will need to select "[Teacher Registration](#)" from the menu and create your teacher profile. Once your profile is created, you will be able to log in and begin creating your teams. 2) If you are a returning teacher, welcome back. Your profile information is saved from your previous participation, and you can log in to begin creating your teams for this year's challenge. 3) Teachers sign up their team(s). You may sign up multiple teams on your teacher admin page, after you log-in—no need to register more than once.

**Teacher Drawing:** For each registered team that completes the challenge, teachers will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize.

Teachers can create as many student teams as they would like, and the Montana Council for Economic Education has generously provided all registration and participation fees.

*\*In the event of a tie score, the team with the cumulative least amount of time testing will win.*

For questions or for more information, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at <mailto:mcee@montana.edu>.

### **Registration is Now Open for the 2023 edition of the Montana Economics Challenge**

[Registration is now open](#) for the Montana Economics Challenge. Teams have until April 5, 2023, to compete.

**What is the Montana Economics Challenge?** Every year, the [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education, hosts the [Economics Challenge Program](#). The Challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of Economic Literacy by competing with other students across the state in online examinations. Student participants receive cash prizes, awards, and accolades.

There are two divisions in the Economics Challenge:

--Adam Smith: For returning competitors, AP, IB, and honors students.

--David Ricardo: For first-time competitors with no more than one course in economics.

How does the challenge work? Teams of 3-4 students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering a broad variety of economic principles. Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in each division:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

**State Finals Awards:** Winners from the state championships will represent Montana in the national competition.

**Next Steps:** If you are new to the Montana Economics Challenge, welcome. You will need to select "[Teacher Registration](#)" from the menu and create your teacher profile. Once your profile is created, you will be able to log in and begin creating your teams.

If you are a returning teacher, welcome back. Your profile information is saved from your previous participation, and you can log in to begin creating your teams for this year's challenge.

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For questions, please contact Dax Schieffer, Montana Council for Economic Education Executive Director, at [mcee@montana.edu](mailto:mcee@montana.edu).

### **CYBER.ORG Offering Travel Grants for EdCon 2023 in Arizona**

Do not let financial constraints keep you from [CYBER.ORG's EdCon 23](#) at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona, June 20-22, 2023.

CYBER.ORG has a limited number of \$500 travel grants available for eligible teachers. Recipients of travel grants will be able to use the funds to seek reimbursement for up to \$500 of registration, airfare, and/or hotel costs.

All applicants will receive a response to their application within 14 days with an award decision. Please note: (A) in order to *accept* the travel grant, you must (1) register for EdCon 23; (B) in order to *receive funds*, you must (1) attend EdCon 23 and (2) submit receipts for the total for which you are seeking reimbursement. Complete instructions will be given to awardees in the email notifying them of the award decision.

[Apply today.](#)

### **CYBER.ORG Hosting CYBER.ORG EdCon 23 in June in Mesa**

[CYBER.ORG](#) announces registration is now open for [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#). [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) (formerly CEDF) is a national conference designed to inspire and empower novice and expert K-12 cybersecurity educators alike.



Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn ready-to-implement lessons from CYBER.ORG curriculum developers.
- Explore at-no-cost resources from industry experts.
- Gain firsthand knowledge from K-12 educators teaching foundational and technical cybersecurity.

[CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) will be held June 20-23, 2023, at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona.

[Early bird registration](#) is \$50 for K-12 Educators & Government, \$100 for Higher Ed & Non-Profit, and \$150 for Industry member and ends April 30, 2023.

[Book Your Stay](#) at the Delta Hotels Phoenix Mesa for \$103 plus taxes per night. The rooming block ends May 19, 2023.

### **Scholarships Available for CTSA's 2023 Virtual Conference Registration**

The [Computer Science Teachers](#) Association (CTSA) 2023 Virtual Conference will be July 11-13, 2023. CSTA is offering [scholarships](#) that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers whose limited financial resources may prevent them from attending.

CSTA will award as many scholarships as possible to help deserving teachers join this excellent learning opportunity and will give priority consideration to:

- First-time conference attendees
- Teachers of color
- Teachers who teach underrepresented students in Computer Science
- Active CSTA members and volunteers
- Conference presenters (and those who submitted proposals)

Chapter leaders who attend the Chapter Leadership Summit already receive complimentary conference registration and need not apply. Contact [conference@csteachers.org](mailto:conference@csteachers.org) with any questions.

To be eligible for scholarships to the 2023 CSTA Conference, you must:

- be a CSTA Basic\* or CSTA+ member,
- directly teach computer science to K-12 students, and
- not have access to funding from your school or organization to cover conference registration fees.

If not a CSTA member, you can join as a member for free at [csteachers.org/join](https://csteachers.org/join). [Applications](#) close on April 28, 2023.

### **Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative: 2023 Montana Teacher Externships**

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. The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative is offering 40 teachers a three-day externship.

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.



You must complete [registration](#) to be considered for the externship. Upon completion of the externship, you will be eligible to receive a stipend paid by the Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative and up to 20 renewal units. [Register here](#).

### **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**

*Pete's Dragon* is a film about a magical and sometimes mischievous dragon, Elliott, who inadvertently causes chaos and confusion in Passamaquoddy, a Maine fishing village.

To help a young orphan, Pete, break away from his evil foster parents, the Gogans, and find a happy home with Nora and her father Lampie in their lighthouse, Elliott must avoid the clutches of the greedy Dr. Terminus, who wants to exploit him.

*Pete's Dragon* premiered on November 3, 1977.

*Pete's Dragon* stars Helen Reddy (Nora), Mickey Rooney (Lampie), Jim Dale (Dr. Terminus), Red Buttons (Hoagy), Shelley Winters (Lena Gogan), Sean Marshall (Pete), Jane Kean (Miss Taylor), Jim Backus (Mayor), Charles Tyner (Merle), Gary Morgan (Grover), Jeff Conaway (Willie), Cal Bartlett (Paul), and featuring the voice of Charlie Callas as Elliott the dragon.

This was internationally known vocalist Helen Reddy's first starring role, and the film debut of Sean Marshall, as Pete.

The story originated from writers Seton I. Miller and S. S. Field, who brought the property to Disney, where it was purchased years earlier, but it was not until 1975 that producer Jerome Courtland asked screenwriter Malcolm Marmorstein to adapt a screenplay.

*Pete's Dragon* was the first Disney film to be recorded in the then new Dolby Stereo system.

The Passamaquoddy town square and wharf area was constructed on the Disney Burbank Studio lot partly from the old Western set.

The lighthouse for the film was built on a point above Morro Bay, California, substituting for Maine.

It was equipped with a large Fresnell-type lighthouse lens, with a wickstand inside that caused a beacon of from 18 to 24 miles.

In fact, it worked so well that Disney had to get special permission from the Coast Guard to operate it, since its operation would have confused passing ships.

Originally, Elliott the dragon was not to be seen at all in the film and remain invisible throughout.

However, members of the studio animation department gradually lobbied studio heads to increase the amount of visible screen time.

At first it was decided he would be only seen at the end of the film, but ultimately the character's screen time was increased to 22 minutes.

The domestic gross on the film's initial release was \$18 million, a disappointment to the Disney Studio, which had hoped for another *Mary Poppins* success.

The film's box office performance suffered as it was on release at the same time as *Star Wars*.

The movie was nominated for Best Original Song ("Candle on the Water") and Best Original Song Score, by Al Kasha, Joel Hirschhorn, and Irwin Kostal.

Because of the disappointing box office, the film was cut from its original 135 minutes to 129 minutes during its initial run.

A reissue appeared in 1984 that was edited further to 106 minutes.

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*