

Today is the Deadline for the Personal Finance Challenge 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>.

Competition for the Montana Economics Challenge 2023 Ends Today

[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.

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For questions, please contact Dax Schieffer, Montana Council for Economic Education Executive Director, at mcee@montana.edu.

[Apps Due Next Week, April 14, for the 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.

Get Inspired for Financial Literacy Month with Hot Topics in Financial Education

April is Financial Literacy Month, and the [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Community is already off to a great start.

You are cordially invited to NGPF's next BIG virtual conference: Hot Topics in Financial Education. This virtual event takes place all day Saturday, April 29. It is 100% free. [Register](#) for sessions today.

Why you will love this conference:

- Consider how events like the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, the rise of ChatGPT, cryptocurrency volatility, and Buy Now Pay Later impact your students.
- Collaborate with hundreds of terrific teachers.
- Pick and choose from useful breakout sessions and energizing keynotes.
- Find free classroom-ready resources that you can use the very next school day.
- Win fun raffles and prizes.

The [Hot Topics in Financial Education](#) sessions begin at 8:00 am (MDT) and run throughout the day with the Raffle and Wrap Up session starting at 3:00 pm (MDT).

If you participate in the [Hot Topics in Financial Education](#) sessions, you can work with your school/district to receive OPI Renewal Units for sessions completed.

Registration Open for NGPF's Cohort 33 Certification Courses

As the school year winds down, now is the perfect time to get one more FREE in-depth Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) [Certification Course](#) in and be able to implement your new knowledge in the classroom (and personal life) right away.

This is the last five-week session NGPF is offering before they kick off the three-week summer cadence in June. Cohort 33 runs from April 24-May 25 with an exam window from May 26-June 2.

Courses offered include

- Advanced Investing: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- Behavioral Economics: Mondays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- Career: Tuesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- Cryptocurrency Basics: Wednesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- Insurance: Wednesday , 3-5 pm (MDT)

What is an NGPF Certification Course? Certification Courses are NGPF's most in-depth professional development format. Each course combines nine 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. To earn OPI Renewal Units for courses/hours completed, you will need to work with your school/district.

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

500 Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships are now Available

Students, aged 18-35, can earn up to \$2,500 for a Certification or Technical program with the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#). The funds can assist students with tuition, fees, supplies, uniforms, transportation, etc...

Scholarships are awarded up to \$2,500 to pursue a career certification or technical education at an accredited non-profit post-secondary institution in the United States.

For more details and to find a program, visit the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#) page on the ACTE website.

[FREE National Cybersecurity Teaching Academy \(NCTA\) Summer Professional Development Enroll in the Foundations of Cybersecurity course](#) this summer. This self-paced course is free for all certified U.S. K-12 teachers registered by May 1, 2023.

The Foundations of Cybersecurity is the first of six courses in the NCTA program. The course covers the big ideas of cybersecurity including the CIA triad (confidentiality, integrity, and availability). The course is administered asynchronously online via Canvas LMS. A synchronous option may be available depending on the requirements of your state.

A proctored exam is required to receive graduate credit. Participants must pay any fees associated with the exam. Scholarship funds may be available for the three-credit course transfer to one of the participating universities.

For more information you can read the flyer [here](#). If you have questions, please contact Sandra Leiterman at saleiterman@ualr.edu.

[MFEC Accepting Mini-Grant Applications Through April 15](#)

The [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#) (MFEC) is proud to promote local efforts to expand financial education across Montana. The MFEC provides mini-grants which are intended to help support activities in local communities that are rooted in Financial Literacy Awareness.

[Mini-grant applications](#) are being accepted until April 15. The maximum amount of any mini-grant awarded is \$750.

Mini-grant applications should be emailed to cromano@mt.gov or mailed to MFEC, P.O. Box 200546, Helena, MT 59620.

For additional information please visit the [MFEC's mini-grant webpage](#).

[Free & Virtual Summer Computer Science Course Offering from MSU](#)

[CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom: Computational Thinking for Teachers](#) is a two (2) credit course being offered this summer for FREE to Montana teachers.

This virtual (synchronous) course examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition. Exciting ideas and influential people are introduced. A gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language is provided. The course also introduces participants to robotic platforms.

CSCI 581 will be offered virtually July 17-31, 2023, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm daily. The course will be taught by MSU Bozeman Computer Science Faculty, Hunter Lloyd.

Full tuition stipends are available for teachers in Montana who submit a letter of support from an administrator and a brief letter of intent.

Visit the MSU MSSE program website for registration, application and other information: montana.edu/msse or msse@montana.edu.

NOTE: you can take MSSE classes as a non-degree seeking student—you do not need to be admitted to the MSU Master of Science in Science Education (MSSE) program to take this course.

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.

Free Summer Virtual Professional Development from CYBER.org

[CYBER.org](#) is offering three (3) professional development events during the summer for teachers wanting to learn more about teaching cyber education and cybersecurity. The weeklong, five days, events will be offered virtually with both asynchronous and synchronous learning methods.

[Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be offered June 26-30 and, again, July 24-28. This event is a full five-day professional development (8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT) that includes a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning. Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear from the range developers some tips for best practices. Participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student's perspective.

Attendees will work through challenging and technical labs with the CYBER.ORG staff while running through less challenging labs on their own. Attendees will also review selected Case Studies on their own and then discuss as a whole group. New to 2023, there will be a beginner track for those still getting used to using a cyber range and an advanced track for participants who are comfortable using a cyber range.

[Intro to Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be held July 17-21, from 8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT. This is a new course for 2023 and is at both middle schools and high schools who are trying to implement a cybersecurity course that is not as technical as CYBER.ORG's technical Cybersecurity course.

This course was created by New Jersey's Garden State Cyber, piloted by New Jersey teachers in the 2022-2023 school year, and obtained by CYBER.ORG to be used in all classrooms across the country. Using a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning, participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student's perspective. Attendees will work through labs with the CYBER.ORG staff as well as work through labs and activities on their own.

Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear some tips from the range developers for best practices.

[CYBER.org](#) also hosts a series of hour-long professional development sessions throughout the year on various topics related to their free curriculum and resources. Please visit the [CYBER.org Events](#) page for details regarding all their free, virtual events and professional development opportunities.

[Foundation for Economics Education Conference in Las Vegas—Free Hotel & Registration](#)

The [Foundation for Economics Education](#) (FEE) invites all teachers teaching, or interested in teaching, economics to Las Vegas, June 27-28. This two-day professional development event will equip you with the pedagogical tools and instructional resources to start you on the way to becoming a master Economics educator. This professional development includes a complimentary hotel stay the nights of June 27 and June 28 at [Red Rocks Resort & Spa](#).

A \$49 deposit is required when [registering](#) to hold your place and will be refunded in full upon your attendance at this professional development. If you must cancel your registration, please do so 7 days in advance of the event to receive a full refund.

Please visit the [FEE website](#) for more information and/or to create a free account to access [conference details](#) and FEE materials.

[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 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. [Applications](#) close on April 28, 2023.

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

Beauty and the Beast tells the tale of Belle as she cares for her father, the eccentric Maurice.

When Maurice stumbles upon a foreboding castle while lost in the woods, the servants, enchanted into household objects, try to make him welcome, but he is thrown into the dungeon by the Beast.

Belle comes to rescue her father and agrees to remain in the castle as his substitute.

In order to break the spell, Beast must learn to love another and to be loved in return.

When Gaston realized Beast is a rival for Belle’s affection, he leads the townsfolk to storm the castle.

Belle rushes back in time to profess her love for Beast, and the spell is broken.

Beauty and the Beast was initially released in New York on November 13, 1991; with the general release on November 22, 1991.

Voices include Paige O’Hara (Belle), Robby Benson (Beast), Richard White (Gaston), Jerry Orbach (Lumiere), David Ogden Stiers (Cogsworth), Angela Lansbury (Mrs. Potts), and Jo Ann Worley (Wardrobe).

Beauty and the Beast was an Academy Award nominee in seven categories, including Best Picture which was the first time for an animated feature.

It won for Best Song (“Beauty and the Beast” by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken) and Best Original Score.

Angela Lansbury sang the title song in the story, and Celine Dion and Peabo Bryson sang another rendition over the film's end credits.

Production of the film took three and a half years and required the talents of nearly 600 animators, artists, and technicians.

Portions of the film were animated at Disney's satellite facility at Disney-MGM Studios in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Art directors working on the film travelled to the Loire valley in France for inspiration and studied the great French romantic painters such as Fragonard and Boucher.

Glen Keane, the supervising animator on Beast, created his own hybrid beast by combining the mane of a lion, the beard and head structure of a buffalo, the tusks and nose bridge of a wild boar, the heavily muscled brow of a gorilla, the legs and tail of a wolf, and the big and bulky body of a bear.

Computer-generated imagery was used in several parts of the film, most notably in the "Be Our Guest" sequence and in the creation of a striking three-dimensional ballroom background, allowing dramatic camera moves on the animated characters as they danced.

It became the most successful animated feature in motion picture history up to that time, with domestic box office revenues in excess of \$140 million.

Be Our Guest Restaurant is a table service restaurant in Fantasyland at Magic Kingdom in the Walt Disney World Resort.

The name of the restaurant is a reference to "Be Our Guest", one of the classic songs from that film.

The restaurant was added as part of a large expansion and renovation in 2012 to Fantasyland's phased opening.

The restaurant has the theme and appearance of the Beast's Castle.

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