

THE WEDNESDAY READER
September 13, 2023

The New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023 Begins Tuesday, Register Today

The Office of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting the [New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023](#) via four (4) sessions—three (3) virtually and one (1) live, in-person—beginning Tuesday, September 19, via Zoom.

The New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023 focuses on early-career professionals—specifically Career & Technical Education professionals within the first five (5) years in a Montana Career & Technical Education classroom. Additionally, Montana CTE professionals who have participated in the past are invited to attend to enhance their classroom skills and knowledge of Career & Technical Education. School administrators and counselors who may be new to or want to learn more about Career & Technical Education in Montana are also invited to attend.

This FREE professional learning opportunity will provide attendees with information on a variety of topics related to Career & Technical Education including:

- Advisory committees,
- Best Practices in CTE through Career & Technical Student Organizations,
- Classroom safety & liability,
- CTE and program-area standards and guidelines,
- Dual Enrollment,
- Instructional strategies for the CTE classroom,
- Montana Career Pathways,
- Perkins funding,
- Professional development organizations,
- Recruitment and Retention of CTSO Members,
- State CTE funding & data reporting,
- Work-Based Learning, and
- Workplace Skills through your CTSOs.

The workshop sessions will be held virtually Tuesday afternoon September 19 and October 10; a live, in-person, on Wednesday, October 18 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort; and a virtual follow-up session Tuesday, November 7.

The workshop is offered free of charge and up to nine (9) OPI Renewal Units will be offered.

Additional details about the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023, including a schedule of events, is available at bit.ly/NewCTE2023Flyer.

Registration for the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023 can be completed and submitted online at bit.ly/NewCTE2023. Registrants will receive a packet of materials onsite at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort on Wednesday, October 18. To be included in the materials count, please submit registration by the end of the day on Monday, September 18, 2023. Please note, materials cannot be guaranteed for registrations received after September 18.

For registration assistance or for more information, please contact Business Education Specialist Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

Framework's CTSO Competitive Event Crosswalks Updated for 2023-2024

The competitive events crosswalks for Business Professionals of America and DECA for the 2023-2024 membership year have been updated in the Framework for Business Education in Montana.

Both an updated CTSO Crosswalks for 2023-2024 (item #4) and a complete [Framework for Business Education in Montana](#) (item #3) with the updated CTSO crosswalks included have been uploaded to the shared Google Drive folder at bit.ly/MTBusEd23-24.

Other files updated for the 2023-2024 school year in the shared Google Drive folder include

- [Montana Business Education Planning Calendar for 2023-2024](#);
- [Montana OPI TEAMS K-12 Course Codes, Business & Marketing Education Reference Manual](#);
- [National Standards for Business Education](#) (Released July 2023);
- [Montana Business Education Statewide Pathways 2023](#); and the
- [Perkins Grant CTE Specialist Liaisons \(Updated Summer 2023\)](#).

If you have any issues accessing the files above, please let me know via email at eswenson@mt.gov.

Montana Chamber Foundation Sponsorship Opportunity to Attend the 2023 Montana ACTE Fall Institute

The Montana Chamber Foundation is supporting CTE educators (classroom teachers, administrators, counselors and future educators) in attending this year's 2023 [Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#) at Fairmont Hot Springs.

- Have you ever not attended Montana ACTE because of cost?
- Are you planning to attend, but have to pay personally out-of-pocket to attend the 2023 Montana ACTE Fall Institute?

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, the Montana ACTE has an answer for you. The Montana Chamber Foundation, in partnership with Montana ACTE, is providing **up to \$500** sponsorships for **up to 50** CTE educators to reduce financial barriers that impact attending the Montana ACTE Fall Institute in Fairmont Hot Springs on October 19-20. The Montana ACTE Fall Institute Registration Packet may be accessed [here](#) with Fall Institute details and a tentative agenda.

Eligible scholarship items include (up to \$500):

- Conference registration at the Early Bird Rate (*must register by October 6*). (\$200 for ACTE Members; \$260 for non-members, and \$30 for current students)
- Up to two nights lodging at Fairmont Hot Springs
- Travel receipts (gas receipts and meal receipts)

Your next steps: By September 18, apply by completing the Montana Chamber Foundation Scholarship [short online application](#). Educators will be notified by Friday, September 22 if awarded a sponsorship. Reserve your hotel room at the discounted conference rates.

If awarded a sponsorship, the following must be completed by the deadlines to receive reimbursement.

- By October 6: Register [online](#) for the Montana ACTE Conference.
- October 19 & 20: Attend both days of Montana ACTE. Educators will submit their completed Continuing Education (OPI renewal unit) form as proof of attendance.
- By October 31: Submit your receipts (instructions will be provided) to receive reimbursement.

Questions? Contact Mark Branger, Montana ACTE Executive Director, at mbranger@huntley.k12.mt.us.

Please Note: Change to MBEA Friday Sessions During Montana ACTE 2023 Fall Institute

[Montanan Business Education Association](#) (MBEA) announces a change in the schedule Friday's sessions during the [Montana ACTE 2023 Fall Institute](#)—the Financial Literacy Round Table session scheduled for 11:30 am-12:30 pm will now be Certiport Certifications hosted by Jeanette Sayer.

Certiport is offering the opportunity for educators to experience the different exams that they give your students. Certifying yourself will give you tools to prepare your students for industry credentials. All for FREE!

Visit the [Certiport](#) website to learn more about Certiport and to view the certifications available.

Montana ACTE Early-Bird Registration & Fairmont Room Block Ending This Week

The Montana Association for Career & Technical Education (Montana ACTE) Board of Directors is thrilled to invite you to the upcoming [Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#), which will take place at the stunning Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in Fairmont, Montana, on October 19 and 20.

This year, the Board has elected to bring back the Thursday evening Awards Banquet which will be part of your registration costs. With registration you will have meal tickets to Breakfast both Thursday and Friday, the Thursday Luncheon, the Thursday Networking Social, and the Thursday Awards Banquet. Meal tickets for guests may be purchased during registration.

The [Early Bird Registration](#) rate ends September 15 and the rooming block at the [Fairmont Hot Springs Resort](#) ends September 18.

A 2023 Registration Packet with a schedule of events and lodging information is available on the [Professional Development](#) page of the [Montana ACTE](#) website. Rooms can be reserved at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort for as low as \$107 plus tax & fees/night using the group ID 25464. The room block ends September 18.

Registration is Now Open for the WBEA 2024 Conference in Eugene, Oregon

The [Oregon Business Education Association](#) (OBEA) invites all Business and Marketing Educators from the western region to Eugene for the [WBEA 2024 Conference](#), February 15-18, at [The Graduate Hotel](#) in downtown Eugene.

[Registration](#) for the WBEA 2024 Conference is now open and can be online with a NBEA-member early bird rate of \$375.00 if paid by January 1, 2024. After January 1, 2024, the NBEA-member early bird rate increases to \$425.00.

Rooms can be reserved at [The Graduate Hotel](#) online at a conference rate of \$159.00 plus tax/fees.

Interested in presenting a breakout session? The [Call for Presentations](#) can be submitted online and are due December 1, 2023.

For travel planning, a [conference overview schedule](#) is available.

Save the Date for the WBEA 2025 Wild Card Conference, *Path to Collaboration and Discovery*, February 14-16, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Billings, Montana.

The 2023 Payback Challenge—Over \$70,000 in Scholarships for Students Available

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is excited to announce the [2022 Payback Challenge](#) with \$70,000 of scholarship funding for high school students.

The [Payback Challenge](#) is NGPF's annual scholarship contest that gives students a chance to win a \$2500 Grand Prize for their educational pursuits while developing an understanding of what college life will be like. More than \$50,000 in scholarships is available.

The challenge is based on NGPF's Arcade Game, [Payback](#), which allows students to simulate financial decisions to get to and through college. Afterward, they respond to the question: What did you learn from the game that you'll be able to apply to your future experiences?

How to Enter

1. Have your students play Payback in class or at home
2. Students write a 250-word essay OR create a 90-second video
3. Collect your students' responses and nominate ONE student entry for the Payback Challenge Scholarship.

Submissions are open now. Nominations are due October 16, 2023.

Student can win over \$50,000 in scholarships. Scholarship winners will be announced in December 2023.

The following prizes will be awarded:

- National Grand Prize: 2 winners at \$2,500 each. All entries are eligible.
- Honorable Mention: 30 winners at \$1,000 each. Remaining entries are eligible.
- NGPF Grant Districts: 10 winners at \$1,000 each (1 per district).

Note: NGPF must receive at least 10 submissions from one of the grant districts listed before students from that district are eligible for this prize.

[View the Payback Challenge rules and regulations.](#)

NCTA - Scholarships for Teachers Who Want to Learn and Teach Cybersecurity

The National Cybersecurity Teaching Academy (NCTA) is a grant-funded project offering a 12-18 credit hour graduate certificate in cybersecurity education for high school teachers. The grant funding is able to support tuition and fees for qualified applicants.

To learn more about the NCTA project, click [here](#). [Apply](#) today; applications are due September 15, 2023.

If you have questions about the program, please email Dr. Melissa Dark at melissa.dark@darkenterprisesinc.com.

CYBER.org Offering 4 Virtual Workshops in September

[CYBER.org](#), the academic initiative of the Cyber Innovation Center, is offering [four \(4\) virtual workshops](#) this month for teachers interested in learning more about cyber education and CYBER.org's free curriculum.

- September 13: [Cyber Society Course Overview for High School Teachers](#), 5:30-6:30 pm (MDT)
- September 14: [How to Implement the CYBER.org Range for Grades 6-12](#), 5:30-6:30 pm (MDT)
- September 19: [AICS Cyber Scenario for Middle & High school Teachers](#), 5-6:30 pm (MDT)
- September 20: [Implementing Cybersecurity Course in Your Classroom for High School Teachers](#), 5:30-6:30 pm (MDT)

Please visit the [CYBER.org Workshops & Events](#) page to view complete workshop details, descriptions, and to register to participate for free.

Apply to Present at the CSTA 2024 Annual Conference

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) is now accepting [submissions to present](#) at the CSTA 2024 Annual Conference, set for July 16-19, 2024, in Las Vegas.

CSTA is accepting submissions for breakout sessions, workshops, mini-sessions, and posters. Whether you have presented at a CSTA event before, or are looking to present for the first time, [submissions are due by October 30](#).

Have an idea but are not sure how to start? The CSTA Conference Committee and veteran presenters will be holding office hours to provide you with individualized support. Join one of the upcoming sessions:

- [September 26, from 4-6 pm MT](#)
- [October 7, from 10 am-12 pm MT](#)
- [October 24, from 4-6 pm MT](#)

EVERFI Hosting their 4th Annual LearnOn Conference on Monday, October 9

Educators like you are always innovating ways to push the bar higher for students and school communities. Sometimes it can feel like pulling a rabbit out of a hat, but with so many tricks up your sleeve, what you do every day in your profession is simply magical.

On Monday, October 9, from 9 am-1 pm (Mountain time), [EVERFI](#) is bringing together educators and school leaders from around the globe for their 4th annual [LearnOn Conference](#).

Dust off your top hat and join us to celebrate, collaborate, connect, and own your magic.

[Save your spot](#) today.

Conference highlights include

- Hear from 60+ educators & experts, including professor besties, Dr. Richard White and Dr. Kevin Sanders
- 35+ sessions on the most pressing topics facing teachers and students
- 4 hours of engaging, free professional development

[Want a sneak peek](#) of what you can expect from this year's LearnOn Conference? [Check out the schedule](#).

Participate in Adobe MAX 2023 for Free

[Adobe MAX: The Creative Conference](#) will be held October 10-12 in Los Angeles; however, Adobe is again offering a virtual option . . . for FREE.

For the in-person option in LA, educators can register for \$1295 and students for \$299. The LA conference will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center with several [hotel options](#).

The [virtual option](#) is being offered for FREE and includes 100+ online sessions, mainstage presentations, luminary sessions, and shop and sponsor giveaways.

Visit the [Adobe MAX](#) site for complete details and to register. If you participate in Adobe MAX, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI renewal units.

MBEA Accepting Nominations for Awards Program—Recognize Your Colleagues

Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) Past-President Mandy Wichman is seeking nominations for Business Teacher Awards. Nominating a colleague, or yourself, is an excellent way to highlight the amazing work you are all doing in your classrooms and schools.

Please consider writing up a paragraph about why someone you know is a fabulous teacher and the contributions they have made to their schools, CTSOs, Montana, and business education. The award categories are Outstanding New Teacher of the Year (0-5 years of service), Outstanding Business Teacher of the Year (5+ years of service), Distinguished Service Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Use [this Google form](#) to make a nomination. Reach out to Mandy via email at mandy.wichman@hobson.k12.mt.us if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your nomination and remember to register for this year's [Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#) at Fairmont Hot Springs on October 19 and 20.

Registration is Now Open for the Fall 2023 Edition of Big Sky Biz Sim—All Fees Sponsored

The [Montana Council on Economics Education](#) (MCEE) is excited to announce [registration](#) is open for the [Big Sky Biz Sim](#) until September 27. Team fees and prizes are sponsored by First Interstate Bank.

What: A, free, in-class business simulation where students make all of the operating decisions for their business to produce, sell and distribute widgets.

When: Fall Competition Dates are October 4 to December 6, 2023

Who: Teams with 2-5 students, open to all ages

Why: \$1,000+ in cash prizes. Join the 25,000 Montana students who have competed in Montana's leading business program since 2000.

How: The Big Sky Biz Sim provides an experiential simulation where students operate a manufacturing plant and make financial and ethical considerations that generate weekly results on profitability and stock price.

A one-hour online teacher training is being offered and participants qualify for professional development credit and a \$50 teacher stipend.

Where: Register at econedmontana.org/sign-up.

To learn more about [Big Sky Biz Sim](#), please visit the [MCEE website](#). For questions about Big Sky Biz Sim or simulation registration, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

The Fall 2023 Edition of the Stock Market Game Begins October 16; Register Today for Free

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is pleased to announce registration is now open for [The Stock Market Game](#) with team fees sponsored by Glacier Banks.

What: The Stock Market Game is an online simulation of the global capital markets that engages students grades 4-12 in the world of economics, investing and personal finance and that has prepared nearly 20 million students for financially independent futures.

When: Fall 2023 competition runs for nine (9) weeks, October 16 to December 8, 2023.

Who: Teams are made up of 2-5 students and competition is open to all students grades 4-12.

Why: Montana's top performing teams win prizes from \$500 cash awards to \$50 gift cards. The Stock Market Game connects students to the global economy with virtual investing and real-world learning while competing for cash prizes.

How: The Stock Market Game™ provides all of your lesson plans, activities, and ongoing support to make getting started easy, fun, and effective. Stock Market Game students are provided access to their own online portfolio with \$100,000 starting balance. They research and apply their investment ideas in a real-world market environment.

A one-hour, online teacher training is being offered with participants earning professional development credit and a \$50 teacher stipend.

Where: Visit stockmarketgame.org for more information and to registers.

For questions regarding the Stock Market Game and/or the teacher training, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

Second Annual World of Works (WOW) Expo at Great Falls College—Tuesday, September 26

In partnership with the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Cascade County, and many prominent community partners, we are thrilled to announce [Worlds of Work \(WOW\)](#), a world-class career exploration event, designed to connect youth to their future.

On September 26, 2023, the second annual [WOW](#) launches at Great Falls College–MSU and the University of Providence from 9:00 am–6:00 pm. WOW is open to a small, rural schools in the target counties of Blaine, Cascade, Choteau, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Teton, and Toole.

[WOW](#) is a career expo – **NOT** a typical job fair, and this event opens new avenues of opportunity for middle school students—eighth graders, specifically—they never knew were possible. While students are at the event, it is the expectation they will have a hands-on learning activity at each exhibit. Participating businesses will staff their exhibits for the entire day and lead the hands-on activities. The event does not allow for individual marketing materials or handouts. It is about immersing the

students in engaging tasks which might spark an interest in a career that will keep them in our city, region, or state after their graduation.

Students will be divided up into groups and will have a navigator who will guide them to and through each of the zones, where they will explore for approximately 30 minutes before traveling to the next zone. [WOW 2.0](#), a program specifically for high school students and their parents, will take place later in the afternoon.

As all can agree, Central Montana needs students to come back home after their graduation from trade schools and other institutions of higher education for us all to bolster our regional economic vitality. The simple reality is most students do not know the career pathways wide open in their own backyards, and this model helps our community by exposing our future workforce to those avenues.

The basic construct of [WOW](#) includes four zones, with each containing four worlds. Each world represents one of the 16 nationally recognized career clusters. This year, each world will contain a minimum of four and maximum of six businesses participating in each world. If each world has a minimum of four businesses present, students would be exposed to at least 64 businesses by the end of the experience. If each one contains six business, their total exposure is 96 businesses.

What does exposure mean? It means students would have an experiential introduction to a specific business or industry cluster. For example, there could be a hammer and nail contest hosted by a construction company; or students could perform simulated healthcare-related procedures under the supervision of doctors or nurses; or designing a logo for a business; along with many other exciting, informative, hands-on opportunities.

After reading this, hopefully you will agree this event is going to be a fantastic resource for the local workforce development needs, and an opportunity to connect our youth to their future. Below are links to videos created at the inaugural event last year, allowing you to see the energy and the organization that returning with this fall.

Here are those informational resources:

--[Worlds of Work](#)

--[WOW Video from Great Falls College MSU](#)

--[WOW Thank you video](#)

Schools and parents are cordially invited to take part in this event with your 8th graders and 10th graders. Please reach out to Director of Workforce Development, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director, Central Montana Works! Scott Wolff at swolff@greatfallschamber.org with questions, comments, or concerns.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Arches National Park is located in Southeastern Utah in Grand County, just north of Moab across the Colorado River.

In 1929, President Herbert C. Hoover set aside Arches as a National Monument.

Arches remained a National Monument until September 1969, when President Richard M. Nixon signed a bill making it a National Park.

In the early 1920's Alexander Ringhoffer, a prospector in southeastern Utah, traveled through the Klondike Bluffs on the Western edge of Salt Valley and thought such wonders should be seen by man; he suggested representatives of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad visit the area.

The railroad men, particularly Frank Wadleigh, the D&RGW's passenger traffic manager, were so impressed that they contacted Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service.

Mather was intrigued and pushed for the creation of a national monument.

Finally in 1929, President Herbert C. Hoover set aside Arches as a National Monument. Through the years the monument's size was modified by succeeding presidents: enlarged by Franklin Roosevelt, diminished a bit by Dwight Eisenhower, then doubled by Lyndon Johnson.

At last, President Richard Nixon signed into law in 1971, an act establishing Arches as a national park.

Arches contains one of the largest concentrations of natural sandstone arches in the world.

The arches and numerous other extraordinary geologic features, such as spires, pinnacles, pedestals, and balanced rocks, are highlighted in striking foreground and background views created by contrasting colors, landforms, and textures.

With the addition of the Lost Spring Canyon area, the park is 76,519 acres in size.

Native Americans utilized the area for thousands of years.

Archaic people, and later ancestral Puebloan, Fremont, and Utes searched the arid desert for game animals, wild plant foods and stone for tools and weapons.

They also left evidence of their passing on a few pictograph and petroglyph panels.

The first white explorers came looking for wealth in the form of minerals.

Ranchers found wealth in the grasses for their cattle and sheep.

John Wesley Wolfe, a disabled Civil War veteran, and his son, Fred, settled here in the late 1800s.

A weathered log cabin, root cellar, and a corral remain as evidence of the primitive ranch they operated for more than 20 years; a visit to Wolfe Ranch is a walk into the past.

Paleo-Indians lived in the lush canyons leading to the Green and Colorado rivers from about 10,000 to 7,800 BCE and might have been the earliest people to see Arches.

Although there is no evidence of Paleo-Indian use in the park, their spear points and camps have been found nearby.

By 9,000 years ago, the climate became too warm and dry for many large mammals.

They and some of their Paleo-Indian hunters moved to higher habitats.

Those who stayed in the canyon country depended more on gathering and traveling.

This lifestyle, called Archaic, meant that the people had to live in small groups and travel extensively.

Archaeologists have found a few spear points, occasional campsites, and quarries for stone needed to make tools.

Barrier Canyon style rock art panels, once attributed to the more recent Fremont culture, are the best evidence of the Archaic hunter-gathers in Arches.

Technical rock climbing is allowed but is only for experienced climbers.

Climbing is not permitted on any arches named on the USGS topographic map, on Balanced Rock and a few other locations.

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