

MBEA Offering a First-Time Attendee Scholarship for Montana ACTE 2023 Fall Institute

The [Montana Business Education Association](#) (MBEA) is offering a [scholarship](#) to Montana's Business & Marketing Education teachers to help support attendance at the [Montana ACTE 2023 Fall Institute](#) being held October 19-20 at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort.

The deadline to apply for the [scholarship](#) is October 15. Scholarship recipients will receive a check in the mail following attendance at the conference. Being present at the MBEA Business Meeting at 8:00 am on Thursday, October 19, is mandatory.

For questions, please contact MBEA Past President Mandy Wichman at mandy.wichman@hobson.k12.mt.us.

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 Open for Big Sky Biz Sim until September 27 + NGPF Entrepreneurship Training

[Big Sky Biz Sim](#), Montana's premier business simulation, will kick off at the end of September. Good news—you and your students still have a chance to [register](#) and compete in the eight week business simulation.

New this semester, the [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is offering a professional development training opportunity on September 28. To accommodate schedules, two options are offered, one at Noon (MDT) and a second at 4 pm (MDT).

The training will feature Amanda Volz from [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) to share resources on teaching entrepreneurship. Amanda joins the NGPF Team with over 20 years of experience teaching personal finance. During that time, she led her students to hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships, won multiple awards, and most importantly, impacted the financial lives of thousands of high school students. Amanda prides herself on being an educational leader and is constantly looking for innovative ways to make the classroom relevant, rigorous, and fun. She is a passionate advocate for financial education and has been a long-time member of the NGPF community. Fun fact—Amanda was NGPF's first teacher account.

The training will also provide resources for a successful Biz Sim experience with teacher tips and strategies as well as updates on the upcoming Economics/Personal Finance graduation requirement. Registration for participation in the Big Sky Biz Sim is required in order to participate in the NGPF training.

With a partnership with Visa and the Council on Economic Education, a \$50 Visa Gift Card will be offered to participating teachers for the one-hour course. MCEE will also provide OPI professional development 1 hour credit certificate.

For any questions, email Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

MSU Northern Hosting TekNoXpo & ShowCASE Thursday, October 12

Save the date for Northern's annual [TekNoXpo & ShowCASE](#). This event will take place on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at various locations around the Northern campus. On the day of, check-in for the event starts at 8am and sessions start at 9am.

[TekNoXpo & ShowCASE](#) is intended to introduce high school students to all that Northern has to offer in academics, ranging from graphic design projects, to diesel equipment operation, to interacting with livestock, and even working with simulated humans in the Nursing lab, this event is very hands-on.

TekNoXpo also offers various tracks for students to choose from based on their individual interest in programs at Northern, as seen below.

- Track 1: Manufacturing & Engineering
- Track 2: Agriculture & Business
- Track 3: Welding, Plumbing, & Electrical
- Track 4: Diesel & Automotive
- Track 5: Nursing & Health Sciences
- Track 6: Theater & Humanities
- Track 7: Graphic Design & Marketing
- Track 8: Criminal Justice
- Track 9: Chemistry & Biology
- Track 10: Education & 3D Printing

Click [here](#) to register.

Check out the [Northern campus map](#) for more information on where to go. If you have any inquiries about this event, please contact the Northern Admissions Office at 406.265.3704 or by email at admissions@msun.edu.

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 Back-to-School Resource Guide from Scratch—Resources for You & Activities for Class

This month, [Scratch](#) knows many of you are in the midst of back-to-school season. Between lesson planning, classroom prep, and getting to know new students, it's a busy time. In their annual back-to-school resource guide, they are here to support you with their most-loved resources and curricula, along with brand new tutorials and PD resources to make this your most creative year yet.

All New Lesson Plan: Bring Yourself into Scratch

Looking for ways to help young people express themselves with [Scratch](#)? Their creative learning experts have crafted a new, standards-aligned lesson plan just for you: [Bring Yourself Into Scratch: Sharing Identity, Voice & Creativity](#). Walk students through creating sprites that represent aspects of their culture and identity, creating a narrative project, then sharing their projects with their classroom or club. This comprehensive guide includes mini video tutorials exploring using the paint editor in Scratch and remixing. [Check it out](#).

Scratch for Educators: Getting Started with Scratch

Whether you are brand new to Scratch or a seasoned creative coding educator, you will find valuable information about teacher accounts, tutorials, community resources, and more [in the all-in-one Getting Started blog](#).

How to Make a Clicker Game in Scratch—Follow Scratch on YouTube

Have you checked out the [Scratch Team YouTube channel](#)? Stop by to find a treasure trove of resources. [Long-form tutorials](#) feature Scratch Team members walking you through creating projects like [Clicker Games](#) and [About Me projects](#) (perfect for a getting-to-know-me icebreaker), while short form [Tips and Tricks videos](#) feature bite-sized explorations of concepts like [Stamp Blocks](#) and the [X and Y grid](#) in a minute or less (a great classroom warmup).

Free Lesson Plans on the Achievery

Looking for beginner and intermediate Scratch lesson plans? Check out new, free Scratch tutorials and lesson plans on [AT&T's The Achievery](#), including an exploration of abstraction with My Blocks. [Create a free account and start exploring today](#).

Explore the Tutorial Library

The [Ideas Page](#) is full of tutorials embedded right in the Scratch project editor! Encourage students to introduce themselves with Animate a Name, or bring themselves into Scratch with Video Sensing. You can also download our free, printable Coding Cards for a physical version of the tutorials. Get started [here](#). *Did you know? You can also find all of Scratch's tutorials in the [Scratch app](#).*

Explore PD Resources

Looking for PD resources to welcome you to a new school year? Infosys Springboard in the USA is a learning and upskilling program led by the Infosys Foundation USA. Check out the [Pathfinders Online Institute](#) course, developed in partnership with Infosys Foundation USA. This free professional development opportunity provides an introduction to the Scratch community, a deep dive into our creative learning philosophies, and tools to improve your classroom practice on collaboration, leadership, and community building. [Register for free here](#).

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.

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.](#)

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.

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

Badlands National Park is located in Southwestern South Dakota in Pennington and Jackson Counties, about 80 miles southeast of Rapid City.

Authorized as Badlands National Monument on March 4, 1929, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a proclamation on January 25, 1939, that established Badlands National Monument.

In the late 60's, Congress passed legislation adding more than 130,000 acres of Oglala Sioux tribal land, used since World War II as a U.S. Air Force bombing and gunnery range, to the Badlands to be managed by the National Park Service.

An agreement between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the National Park Service governing the management of these lands was signed in 1976.

The new Stronghold and Palmer Creek units added lands having significant scenic, scientific, and cultural resources.

Congress again focused its attention on the Badlands in 1978 and on November 10, it was redesignated as Badlands National Park.

The park consists of nearly 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires blended with the largest, protected mixed grass prairie in the United States.

Sixty-four thousand acres are designated official wilderness and is the site of the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret, the most endangered land mammal in North America.

The Stronghold Unit is co-managed with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and includes the sites of 1890's Ghost Dances.

Badlands National Park contains the world's richest Oligocene epoch fossil beds, dating 23 to 35 million years old.

The evolution of mammal species such as the horse, sheep, rhinoceros, and pig can be studied in the Badlands formations.

For centuries humans have viewed South Dakota's celebrated Badlands with a mix of dread and fascination.

The Lakota knew the place as "mako sica" and early French trappers called the area "les mauvaises terres a traverser", both meaning "bad lands."

Conservation writer Freeman Tilden described the region as "peaks and valleys of delicately banded colors—colors that shift in the sunshine—and a thousand tints that color charts do not show. In the early morning and evening, when shadows are cast upon the infinite peaks or on a bright moonlit night when the whole region seems a part of another world, the Badlands will be an experience not easily forgotten."

Paleontologist Thaddeus Culbertson has another reaction, "Fancy yourself on the hottest day in summer in the hottest spot of such a place without water – without an animal and scarce an insect astir – without a single flower to speak pleasant things to you and you will have some idea of the utter loneliness of the Bad Lands."

Badlands prairie contains about 56 species of grass, which are the anchor species for a complex community of plants and animals.

The prairie once sprawled across one-third of North America.

Today, the patchwork remnants of native grasslands represent adaptations to millions of years of changing conditions and sustain a diverse citizenry.

Badlands National Park has also been in the movies with *Armageddon*, *Dances with Wolves*, *National Treasure*, and *Starship Troopers* having shot scenes in the park.

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