

THE WEDNESDAY READER
October 11, 2023

Please note: With the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023 and the Montana ACTE 2023 Fall Institute next week, there will not be a *Wednesday Reader* for Wednesday, October 18.

Free Certiport Certification Testing Available During Montana ACTE Fall Institute

Montana ACTE and the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) are excited to offer FREE Certiport certification testing within the MBEA schedule of event during the Montana ACTE 2023 Fall Institute at Fairmont Hot Springs.

Testing will take place Friday morning, October 20, from 9:10-10:40 am in the Meadowlark Room.

Business and Marketing Education teachers that are planning to attend this session and complete testing will need to [preregister by Monday, October 16](#). This workshop is geared to help teachers help students prepare for certification testing, and it includes instructions and a 45-minute exam of your choice. Upon registering, you will be sent training materials to review.

Please click the link provided below to register.

In this session, Janette Sayer with Certiport will provide an overview of all Certiport products then will proctor one exam of your choice.

Certiport's certification program includes

--Adobe Pro Certification (Options: Photoshop, Animate, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, InDesign, After Effects or Premiere Pro)

--Autodesk Certified User (Options: AutoCAD, Revit, Inventor, 3DS Max, Maya or Fusion 360)

--Cisco (Options: Cybersecurity or Networking)

--Communication Skills For Business

--Entrepreneurship & Small Business

--IC3 Digital Literacy (Options: Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3)

--IT Specialist (Options: Databases, Networking, JavaScript, Python, HTML5 App Development, AI, Computational Thinking, Data Analytics, Software Development, Network Security, Java, HTML and CSS, Device Configuration and Management, Cloud computing or Cybersecurity)

--Intuit (Options: QuickBooks, Design for Delight or Professional Bookkeeping)

--Microsoft Office Specialist (Options: Word, Word Expert, Excel, Excel Expert, PowerPoint, Access or Outlook)

--Project Management Institute

--Unity Certified User

[Click here](#) to register to receive your free learning material and practice tests to prepare for your exam. Seating is limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

MBEA's First-Time Montana ACTE Attendee Scholarship Applications Due Sunday, October 15

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.

Montana Perkins State Plan Review Survey

The Carl D. Perkins Act is federal legislation that provides funding for the specific purpose of developing career and technical education training and employability skills for secondary (high school) and postsecondary (college) students.

The State of Montana is asking you for your help in developing the state's vision and goals for career and technical education and workforce training. This [survey](#) will take five minutes or less to complete.

The deadline for taking this survey is February 1, 2024. Please share this survey widely with friends, family, colleagues, classmates, etc.

Applications Now Being Accepted for the National Center for Women and Information Technology

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Aspirations in Computing (AiC) High School Award honors 9th-12th grade students for their computing-related achievements and interests and encourages them to pursue their passions.

For a number of years, the NCWIT has given national awards to high school girls. The [NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing](#) is for young women with aspirations and achievements in technology and computing.

Applications are now open through November 6, 2023, and application materials can be found [here](#).

There are many qualified high school girls that would apply if they just had a little push from a leader like you. Any interested female high school student would need to fill in the online application, and get a parent and a school official to approve it to be entered into both the national and Montana contests.

Montana has had winners from high schools in Absarokee, Anaconda, Arlee, Beaverhead, Billings Senior, Billings West, Bozeman, Bozeman Petra, Broadwater, Butte, Cascade, Cut Bank, Great Fall High, Hamilton, Helena Capital, Helena High, Hobson, Jefferson High, Libby, Missoula Big Sky, Missoula Hellgate, Missoula Sentinel, Noxon, Park County, Red Lodge, Seeley-Swan, Sidney, Simms, and Whitefish High Schools.

The NCWIT hopes your school will be represented on the winners list this year, but girls have to apply.

NCWIT is looking forward to recognizing Montana's talent, and hope that you would encourage the young women that you know to apply. Sometimes all they need is a little encouragement and you are the person to provide that.

P.S. There also is an educator award given each year. Up to three National Winners receive a cash prize of \$2,500 and public recognition. Each Regional Affiliate Winner and Honorable Mention receives recognition, access to professional development funds, NCWIT resources, and an engraved award. Regional Affiliate Winners also receive a cash prize of \$250.

Do you know a good teacher that you should encourage to apply (maybe you?)? Encourage them to go to [apply](#).

Questions? Visit the [Aspirations in Computing Awards page](#).

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.

The 2023 Payback Challenge Scholarship Nominations Due Monday, October 16

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is excited to announce the [2023 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.](#)

NGPF's Cohort 38 Free Virtual Training Begins Monday, October 16—Register Today

The school year is underway, you are back in your routine, and the holiday hustle has not quite hit yet. Perhaps it's the perfect time of year to take a [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Certification Course.

Deepen your knowledge of a specific finance topic area alongside other educators by signing up for any or all three upcoming courses. [Cohort 38](#) runs from October 16-November 16 with an exam window from November 17-22. [Register](#) today.

Courses being offered in Cohort 38 include

[Career: Mondays, 3-5 pm \(MT\)](#)

--Get the latest info on 21st century careers, including how to prepare for in-person and virtual interviews, curating a successful LinkedIn profile, finding a career path for success, and more.

[Credit: Mondays, 5-7 pm \(MT\)](#)

--Learn aspects of credit, loans, and debt management as well as the complexities of the United States crediting system, common pitfalls, and current trends.

[Behavioral Economics: Wednesdays, 3-5 pm \(MT\)](#)

--Walk away with real-life examples of cognitive biases along with ideas on how to overcome them.

Certification Courses are NGPF's most in-depth professional development format. Each course combines nine hours of live virtual sessions focused on a core personal finance content area with a one-hour assessment exam. **BONUS:** Complete six certification courses and earn [NGPF Distinguished Educator](#) status.

Want more details on what you'll learn in each course? View the NGPF Course Catalog.

If you plan to participate in any of the Cohort 38 courses, be sure to work with your district/school to earn OPI renewal units for hours completed.

Early-Bird Registration for NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference Ends October 23

The [NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) will be held December 4-5, 2023, at the [Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak](#) in Phoenix, Arizona. [Early-bird registration](#) is now open and can be completed at a rate of \$295.00 thru October 23, 2023.

The all-inclusive registration fee includes all sessions, breakfast, keynote luncheons, and snacks on Monday & Tuesday, December 4-5, 2023. Pre-Conference Workshops will occur on Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3, 2023, at the Grand Canyon University Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

This year's conference will provide education and learning tools that educators and schools can use immediately. Don't miss out on this jam-packed event with keynote speakers, presentations, panels, and breakout sessions covering five tracks:

- Track 1: Increasing Cybersecurity Career Awareness
- Track 2: Engaging Students Where Disciplines Converge
- Track 3: Stimulating Innovative Cybersecurity Educational Approaches
- Track 4: Promoting Cybersecurity Career Pathways
- Track 5: Promoting Cyber Awareness

The conference agenda will include over 30 live programming sessions in Phoenix plus additional on-demand videos that will be available to registered attendees for three months post-event. There will be abundant networking opportunities including discussion boards, social groups, one-on-one meetups, and gamification built into the agenda.

In its ninth year, the [NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) has gathered the most dynamic and innovative cybersecurity education leaders and professionals from across the US for an intensive, highly collaborative exploration to promote the discovery of cybersecurity careers and multiple pathways, identify methods to transform learning, and much more.

NICE K12 is known to cybersecurity-related educators and educational stakeholders as the best place to engage with the thought leaders and pioneers leading the charge in classrooms, schools, districts, and regional and statewide cybersecurity education programs. NICE K12 is THE national hub for providing resources in innovative teaching and learning for K12 educators to inspire their students to be the future cybersecurity workforce.

Free Robotics & Career Pathways Presentation

Allow Montana State University's robotics and gaming professor, Hunter Lloyd, to share his circuitous path to robotics with your students (for free!).

"How to Train Your Robot" is a hilarious presentation (on the side he's a stand-up comedian—no joke!) with his two robots, Looney and Ocean, that is well suited to the whole school, and is adaptable to all grade levels. It isn't strictly a STEM presentation, although it does check that box and could certainly be combined with a STEM day or career day event.

His presentations can be customized to your schedule, but are roughly 50 minutes.

If you're interested in hosting Hunter and his robots for a fun, free, engaging school assembly, please reach out to Keri Hallau, keri.hallau@montana.edu.

Accounting Opportunities Experience—Request a CPA for Your Classroom

November is “Certified Public Accountants Month” in Montana—proclaimed in 2022 by the Governor (and in the works for 2023)—and this is the perfect opportunity to have one of their members come speak with your students or club.

[Accounting Opportunities Experience](#) is a collaboration between state CPA societies and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) to raise awareness of accounting career opportunities among high school students.

As the accounting profession is rapidly evolving, do not miss the chance to hear from an accounting professional who will share their real-world experience with your students. Once requested, the Montana Society of CPAs will match your classroom up with one of our CPA members.

Presentation options include

- In-Person
- Virtual Live
- On-Demand

To request a CPA for your classroom or student organization, complete the [Request a CPA](#) form or call Erinn Donnell, Director of Marketing and Communication, at 406.442.7301 for more information.

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.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is the only national park in New Mexico and is in the southeastern corner of New Mexico in Eddy County.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park was first designated a National Monument on October 25, 1929.

It was redesignated a National Park on May 14, 1930.

Carlsbad Caverns was also designated a World Heritage Site on December 6, 1995.

This park was established to preserve Carlsbad Cavern and numerous other caves within a Permian-age fossil reef.

At present there are 117 known caves in the park, and more will be discovered; the cave known as Carlsbad Cavern is only one of these.

The park contains the nation's second deepest and fourth-longest limestone cave— Lechuguilla Cave.

Lechuguilla Cave stretches more than 140 miles with a depth of 1600 feet.

Lechuguilla Cave, made famous on the *Planet Earth* series, is located in Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Lechuguilla Cave cannot be accessed by the public and entry is allowed only for special research purposes.

Carlsbad Cavern, with one of the world's largest underground chambers and countless formations, is also highly accessible, with a variety of tours offered year-round.

The Big Room in Carlsbad Caverns, at 8.2 acres, is the largest accessible cave chamber in North America.

One of the main attractions of Carlsbad Caverns National Park is its network of underground caves and caverns, which are home to a variety of geological formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, and helictites.

The park is also home to a number of hiking trails, offering the opportunity to explore the park's unique and varied terrain.

In addition to its natural beauty, Carlsbad Caverns National Park is also home to a number of cultural and historical sites, including the historic Rattlesnake Springs and the visitor center, which offers exhibits and programs about the park's natural and cultural history.

The caves in Carlsbad Caverns are 56°F throughout the year, with high humidity.

Although Carlsbad Caverns is rightly known for its famous caves, there are also more than 50 miles of aboveground trails that explore the desert landscape.

The land that forms Carlsbad Caverns was once part of an ancient underwater reef called Capitan Reef.

The caverns were forged by sulfuric acid, not water erosion, as is the case with most limestone caves.

From details gathered from pictographs in the area, Native Americans lived in the area starting from 12-14,000 years ago.

In 1959, Carlsbad Caverns served as a location for the movie *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, with filming taking place in the King's Palace and the Boneyard.

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