

THE WEDNESDAY READER
November 1, 2023

Reminder—Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep.

Montana State CTE/VoEd Funding Allocations for 2023-2024 Now Posted

The State CTE/VoEd funding allocations for the 2023-2024 school year are posted; the funds will be released to schools November 1. The State CTE/VoEd funding final allocations are generated based on the data entered in TEAMS (Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule) for the prior 2022-2023 school year.

The State CTE/VoEd funding allocations include funds for student enrollment within CTE program area courses and funds for having an active Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO).

The CTE tab in TEAMS was made available last March and districts were asked to complete a few additional items on the tab and review the details carefully to make sure the data was accurate.

The [2024 Final VoEd Payment Detail by Legal Entity](#) report can be found on the [CTE page](#) of the [OPI website](#) under the Funding menu.

CSEdWeek Event for Montana Teachers from Tynker

[Tynker](#) is offering an amazing free event for Montana K12 teachers and students for Computer Science Education Week, December 4-8. The event is called [My Favorite Word](#), and it is a collaboration between [Tynker](#) and the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Their previous projects with World Cup Soccer and NASA were amazing, and this adds to the excitement of Hour of Code and integrates coding with literacy.

First, [Join the FREE Web Professional Development](#) for Montana Teachers. In this FREE 40-minute webinar, explore Tynker's brand-new collaborative coding experience that lets students apply their creativity and coding skills to the English language. In this webinar, educators will design amazing learning experiences around the Scripps National Spelling Bee My Favorite Word Projects and discover more CSEdWeek activities.

--Register Here: gotyn.kr/HOCTrain23

--Dates: Various, November 9-30

--Time: Various

--Recorded? Yes, for all registrants

Second, Add [CodeLab LIVE](#) for Montana to Your Calendar. Like last year's Coding Cup events, Tynker broadcasts LIVE webcasts called CodeLab: a live learning show for students, hosted by Tynker Teachers, which includes a LIVE walk-through of the Coding Game/Activity during CSEdWeek.

--Register Here: evt.to/asaeegghw

--Date: December 6

--Time: 9:00 am (MST)

--Recorded? Yes, for all registrants

Please join [Tynker](#) for this amazing opportunity.

[Hawaii ACTE Invites You to Join Them for the ACTE Region V 2024 Conference](#)

The Hawaii Association for Career & Technical Education is hosting the [ACTE Region V 2024 Conference](#) in Honolulu, April 9-12, at the [Ala Moana Hotel](#) in downtown Waikiki.

[Registration](#) for the conference is now open and can be completed online. The early-bird registration rate is \$475 which includes tour options for Wednesday, April 10; breakfast each morning Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; lunch on Wednesday; and receptions Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The early-bird registration rate ends February 1, 2024.

If the 2024 conference is your first time attending an ACTE Region V conference, [apply](#) for a [First Timer's stipend](#) of \$450.

Rooms can be booked at the [Ala Moana Hotel](#) at the conference rate of \$169 or \$189 depending on tower selected.

To help with travel planning, a [Schedule At-a-Glance](#) is available along with a [letter](#) to help justify your attendance at the conference.

To be part of the conference program, submit a [Call for Presentation](#) to present a session. Calls for Presentations are due February 1, 2024.

[Register Today for the WBEA 2024 Conference in Eugene, Oregon in February](#)

The [Oregon Business Education Association](#) invites you to this year's [Western Business Education Association's Conference](#) to be held in Eugene, Oregon, February 15-18, 2024. The conference committee has been busy at work and continues to do so to provide educators with high-quality professional development in Personal Finance, Economics, Marketing, Accounting, Computer Science, Entrepreneurship, and more.

Reasons to attend: Dynamic speakers, breakout sessions, viticulture experience, certification workshops, networking, and vendors.

[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 and 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 Prospects 2024 is Now Open—A High School & Middle School Business Plan & Pitch Competition](#)

The [Montana Chamber Foundation](#) is excited to announce the 2024 edition of [The Prospects](#), an entrepreneurship competition. With over \$75,000 in cash, prizes, and scholarships available, this is a great opportunity to get your students' ideas exposed to business leaders in Montana.

[Tiana Yates \(tiana@montanachamber.com\)](mailto:tiana@montanachamber.com), the Montana Chamber Empowered Coordinator, will be your main contact for this year's competition. You do not have to be teaching [Empowered](#) to participate in the contest.

[The Prospects](#) includes both a high school and a middle school division. The Fall competition is open now with submissions being accepted beginning December 1, 2023. Submission will be judged as they are submitted with finalists being announced on February 1, March 1, and April 1. The 2024 Virtual Awards Ceremony will be held April 24, 2024.

Key Dates for The Prospects 2024

- December 1: First Submission Date
- February 1, March 1, & April 1: Advancements Announced
- March 15: Final Submission Date
- April 25: Virtual Awards Show
- May 19-21: In-person competition in Bozeman for the Grand Champion prize

The Prospects categories for the High School level include

[Existing Business Idea](#): Any high school students already running their own small business. Pitch your business and how you intend to grow and sustain it moving forward.

[New Business Idea](#): Do you have the next big thing? We want high school students to reach for stars and come up with the next amazing, new idea.

[Hack My State](#): Take time to help us come up with solutions for one of our state's biggest concerns right now, Childcare. Come up with a solution that could help solve the problem for finding childcare all across Montana.

[School Enterprise](#): Does your school, class or club run a business? If so, tell us why it exists and ways to improve or expand to benefit your school.

At the Middle School level, the Junior Prospects competition categories include

[Design Challenge](#) (6th grade only): 6th graders will be tasked to combine three items and let their creativity shine. Create the next big thing and help innovate Montana.

[Hack My School](#) (7th & 8th grade): Let's be solution makers. We want you to take a deep dive into your school and come up with a realistic and attainable solution to make your school better for everyone.

[Vacant Lot](#) (7th & 8th grade): Like Hack My School, but we want you to look at your community to be the next generation of change makers. Look at the vacant lots, existing buildings, and other areas of your community and pitch to us your solution to make your hometown better.

[Existing Business Idea](#) (6th-8th grade): Any middle school students already running their own small business. Pitch your business and how you intend to grow and sustain it moving forward.

Eligibility: Any of Montana's high school and middle school students are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas and solutions or enter their existing businesses.

Submissions: Pitch Video (2 minutes or less), Business Summary (1,000 words max.), a Waiver Form signed by an Educator and/or Parent or Guardian, and a completed W-9 Form.

Complete contest and submission details can be found on [The Prospects page](#) of the Montana Chamber Foundation website.

For questions, please contact Tiana Yates at tiana@montanachamber.com.

National Cybersecurity Teaching Academy (NCTA) Application Re-opened

The [National Cybersecurity Teaching Academy](#) (NCTA) is able to support tuition and fees for qualified applicants pursuing a 12-18 credit hour graduate certificate in cybersecurity education. The NCTA graduate certificate for high school teachers includes coursework on teaching cybersecurity, foundations of cybersecurity, and advanced cybersecurity topics.

Is the NCTA graduate certificate the right fit for you? The NCTA program is for secondary education teachers who:

- are teaching cybersecurity in the high school classroom, or
- have concrete plans to teach cybersecurity in the near future,
- have plans to build a robust cybersecurity program at their school, and
- can dedicate two summers to rigorous, synchronous and asynchronous graduate level coursework in cybersecurity.

[Ready to apply?](#) You will need to upload:

- a copy of your cybersecurity course syllabus (if you are currently teaching cybersecurity),
- a letter of support from your administration (someone who can speak to the school's commitment to continue offering or begin offering cybersecurity at your school).
- a copy of your college transcripts.

The [NCTA application](#) deadline is November 15, 2023. Questions? Contact melissa.dark@darkenterprisesinc.com.

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](#).

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.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Crater Lake National Park is located in southern Oregon on the crest of the Cascade Range, 100 miles from the Pacific coast.

Crater Lake National Park is 120 miles southeast of Eugene, 80 miles northeast of Medford, and 60 miles north of Klamath Falls.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the bill on May 22, 1902, for Crater Lake National Park to become nation's fifth oldest park.

Crater Lake is a volcanic crater lake famous for its deep blue color and water clarity.

The lake partly fills a 2,148-foot-deep caldera that was formed around 7,700 years ago by the collapse of the volcano Mount Mazama.

No rivers flow into or out of the lake; the evaporation is compensated for by rain and snowfall at a rate such that the total amount of water is replaced every 250 years.

The Klamaths revered the lake and the surrounding area, keeping it undiscovered by white explorers until 1853.

That year, on June 12, three gold prospectors, John Wesley Hillman, Henry Klippel, and Isaac Skeeters, came upon a long, sloping mountain.

Upon reaching its highest point, a huge, awe-inspiring lake was visible.

"This is the bluest lake we've ever seen," they reported, and named it Deep Blue Lake.

However, gold was more on the minds of settlers at the time and the discovery was soon forgotten.

Captain Clarence Dutton was the next man to make a discovery at Crater Lake.

Dutton commanded a U.S. Geological Survey party which carried the Cleetwood, a half-ton survey boat, up the steep slopes of the mountain then lowered it to the lake.

From the stern of the Cleetwood, a piece of pipe on the end of a spool of piano wire sounded the depth of the lake at 168 different points.

Dutton's soundings of 1,996 feet were amazingly close to the sonar readings made in 1959 that established the lake's deepest point at 1,932 feet.

William Gladstone Steel accompanied the Dutton party in 1886 and named many of the lake's landmarks including Wizard Island, L'ao Rock, and Skell Head, and participated in lake surveys that provided scientific evidence of the lake's uniqueness.

Shortly after Crater Lake National Park was established, Steel had the idea to build a guest lodge and in 1909, Steel finally convinced a Portland developer, Alfred Parkhurst, to build a lodge on the rim above Crater Lake.

Crater Lake Lodge opened in 1915.

With an average winter snowfall at Crater Lake of 533 inches (nearly 44.5 feet), the lodge's structure was required to carry an extremely heavy snow load for up to eight months every year.

With its maximum depth of 1932 feet, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States, the second deepest lake in the Western Hemisphere, and the seventh deepest lake in the world.

Crater Lake's Wizard Island rises 764 feet above the lake's surface, topping out at an elevation of 6940 feet.

Crater Lake's other island, Phantom Ship, is a natural rock pillar located near the southern shore.

The island projects more than 656 feet out from the wall of the caldera.

Crater Lake is also known for the "Old Man of the Lake", a full-sized tree which is now a log that has been bobbing vertically in the lake for over a century.

The low temperature of the water has slowed the decomposition of the wood, hence its longevity.

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