

AP Business Principles Course Under Consideration by the College Board

Earlier this month, [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) Executive Director Joseph McClary shared some preliminary information about a potential [AP Business Principles](#) course being considered by the College Board.

Through an engaging, full-year course that parallels the content and rigor of introductory, college-level business coursework, AP Business Principles is designed to prepare a diverse group of students for business careers, while also giving them the college credit and placement benefits of AP. AP Business Principles is designed to prepare a diverse group of students for careers in business and to improve readiness for subsequent courses in Marketing, Finance, Accounting, and Entrepreneurship. In the course, students explore how businesses operate and the role of business in society, and they apply their learning through case studies and a through-course business canvas project of their choosing.

A presentation with additional details about the AP Business Principles course can be viewed [here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about the course and/or interested in being involved through the course development process, please complete the [AP Business Principles Interest Form](#).

Friday, December 1, is the Date for the First Submissions for The Prospects 2024

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), 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.

Each participant will receive an extensive digital resource handbook specifically designed for this seminar. The handbook includes:

--Sample prompts and strategies for using AI tools to create engaging and personalized business lessons that cater to individual student learning needs

--Ideas and resources on how to make the best use of AI tools in your classroom

--Descriptions and overviews of the AI tools covered in the seminar as well as additional tools to consider for specific business ed content areas

--Ways to use AI to automate routine administrative tasks, allowing more time for teaching and student learning

--Practical strategies and tutorials to more effectively introduce AI tools to business ed students

Using AI Tools To Enhance Student Learning In Business Education

Presented by Diane Marsh (former Business Educator at Columbia Falls High School) for the Institute for Educational Development, [Using AI Tools To Enhance Student Learning In Business Education](#) is an exciting opportunity for Grades 6-12 business teachers to explore the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and their specific applications in the world of business education.

Participants will learn how to create a learning experience that strengthens students' critical thinking, creativity, and engagement. This seminar is designed to provide teachers with practical, actionable strategies and skills you can implement immediately to enhance your existing business curriculum, making it more interactive and impactful for your students. Join Diane for a highly practical day filled with ways to make best use of AI tools to strengthen your students' business learning, streamline grading and assessments, enhance your instruction, and improve your own productivity.

Each participant will receive an extensive digital resource handbook specifically designed for this seminar. The handbook includes:

- Sample prompts and strategies for using AI tools to create engaging and personalized business lessons that cater to individual student learning needs
- Ideas and resources on how to make the best use of AI tools in your classroom
- Descriptions and overviews of the AI tools covered in the seminar as well as additional tools to consider for specific business ed content areas
- Ways to use AI to automate routine administrative tasks, allowing more time for teaching and student learning
- Practical strategies and tutorials to more effectively introduce AI tools to business ed students

The [Using AI Tools To Enhance Student Learning In Business Education](#) virtual seminar will be held January 29, 2024, from 7 am-1:30 pm (MST), with additional options to participate on February 2, 2024, or March 1, 2024.

For complete details and to register to participate in one of the three offerings, please visit the [seminar page](#) on the Institute for Educational Development website.

NCCE 2024 Conference Offering Half-Day Tracks—Including a CTE

the [Northwest Council for Computer Education](#) (NCCE) 2024 [Conference](#) will be held in Seattle, February 14-16, at the Seattle Convention Center.

New this year, the NCCE 2024 Conference will be offering four (4) half day summits on Wednesday, February 14.

- [Future Ready Librarians Summit](#), 8-11:50 am
- [Building the Pipeline with CTE Opportunities Summit](#), 12:30-4 pm
- [IT Cybersecurity Summit](#), 12:30-4 pm
- [Leading with Intention for Innovative, Sustainable Change \(Leadership\) Summit](#), 8-11:50 am

Visit the [NCCE 2024 Conference](#) for details regarding [registration](#) and [housing](#) at the Hyatt Regency Seattle.

[Scholarships](#) are also available for first-year and preservice teachers attending the NCCE 2024 Conference for the first time.

Celebrate CSEdWeek 2023 with CodeHS - Hour of Code Resources Available!

[CodeHS](#) offers a variety of free Hour of Code resources to support classrooms across the country during CSEdWeek, December 4-10, 2023.

This year, CodeHS is providing over [25 Free Hour of Code Tutorials](#). Access a variety of free Hour of Code tutorials on CodeHS. Tutorial topics include creating virtual worlds, generating beats with code, coding in sports, graphics with Tracy the turtle, training AI using data, and many more.

Interested in learning how to run an Hour of Code in your classroom with CodeHS? Join a [free 30-minute webinar](#) to prepare and choose the right hour-long tutorial for your students.

--How To Run an Hour of Code (MS/HS): Thursday, November 30 at 4:30 pm (MST) - [Save Your Spot](#)

--How To Run an Hour of Code (Elementary): Wednesday, November 29 at 2:30 pm (MST) - [Save Your Spot](#)

[Explore the tutorials](#) for CodeHS today.

Looking for additional classroom resources for CSEdWeek? Check out the [CodeHS Career Center](#) and the [Coding in the Wild](#) blog.

Register Today for Next Week's 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, 2023

--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, 2023

--Time: 9:00 am (MST)

--Recorded? Yes, for all registrants

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

[Get Ready for CSEdWeek with New Hour of Code Activities Students Will Love from Code.org](#)

Are you ready? Computer Science Education Week is in less than a month — and it's the perfect time to plan your [Hour of Code](#) event. [Code.org](#) hopes you're excited and have [registered your classroom or school event](#) with Code.org.

This year, Code.org is taking Hour of Code to new heights with "[Hour of Code: Creativity with AI](#)." As usual, their fantastic teacher review board has meticulously tested and evaluated over [100 new Hour of Code activities](#) submitted this year—many teaching AI concepts. Check out a few of their favorites and start planning your Computer Science Education Week.

Do not forget, you can do an Hour of Code anywhere: at home, in class, or with your whole school. U.S. schools can [register a whole-school Hour of Code event](#) and receive an awesome new swag kit. Let's get ready for the coolest Hour of Code ever.

[AWS K-12 Cyber Grant Program](#)

Recognizing the need for the K12 community to enhance cybersecurity protection against intrusion, ransomware attacks, and data breaches, AWS created a non-competitive [K12 Cyber Grant Program](#) and is investing \$20 million in AWS promotional credits for new and existing customers.

The grant is open to K12 public school districts, regional education service agencies (ESAs), and state departments of education (DOEs) to implement cloud-based cybersecurity solutions to increase their security posture. Grant awards take into consideration the type of entity, student enrollment for districts, and students supported (ESAs and DOEs).

In addition to the grant funding, AWS has committed to upskilling staff through no-cost training, and providing no-cost cyber incident response assistance to AWS K12 customers in the event of a cyberattack.

Click [here](#) for complete details and to apply. The application deadline is December 31, 2023.

[International Coding Competition 2023 \(FREE & Online\) Starts Friday, December 1](#)

Join the world's largest coding competition for students from [Codementum](#), December 1-15, 2023.

Hour of Code kicks off during Computer Science Education Week each year when teachers around the globe choose fun activities for students to learn about computer science and programming. [Codementum](#) has decided to run a fun and exciting competition during this week.

Codementum wants to raise awareness for coding education by organizing coding competitions for all grade levels across the World. Take your place in this fun and award-winning adventure with your school.

Get your classroom ready in just a few steps. Allow your students to easily participate in the competition.

Rules and Details:

--The competition will be held online throughout the World (Primary/Upper Elementary & Secondary/Middle School & High School), December 1-15.

--Classes will compete in the competition. Classes will have a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 60 students.

--The competition will be held through the Codementum Studio project, where they provide gamified coding training.

--Challenges will consist of Basic coding knowledge, Repeat loops, Variables, and Arrays.

--Awards will be given separately for each category (Primary/Upper Elementary & Secondary/Middle School & High School), with awards for top three classes in each category.

--The class that collects the most stars by completing 20 Challenges in the shortest amount of time will be the winner.

Join now at codementum.com/hour-of-code.

Encourage High School Seniors to Apply for the Cutler-Bell Prize

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) has opened applications for the [2023-2024 Cutler-Bell Application](#), which looks to recognize up to four high school senior students residing in the US for their projects in computer science.

Winners will receive a \$10,000 prize to go to their college/university of choice.

Applications are due by January 19, 2023.

[Share the application](#) with your students. Have questions about the award? [Join the CSTA Awards committee](#) for one of their three Q&A sessions about the award. These sessions are open to students as well.

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.

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.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Everglades National Park is located in the southern tip of Florida, just west of the city of Miami.

Everglades National Park is the third largest national park in the lower 48 United States, behind Death Valley and Yellowstone.

Situated between temperate North America and the tropical Caribbean, the Everglades is the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in North America.

The Everglades contains nine distinct types of ecosystems: cypress, freshwater marl prairie, freshwater slough, coastal lowlands, mangrove, pinelands, hardwood hammock, marine, and estuarine.

The Everglades National Park contains the largest intact stand of protected mangrove forest in the hemisphere.

The Everglades contains one of the highest concentrations of species vulnerable to extinction in the United States, including the elusive Florida panther, the last subspecies of Puma still found in the eastern United States.

The park is only place in the world where American alligators and American crocodiles coexist in the wild with crocodiles mostly found in small numbers in coastal areas of the Everglades, while alligators prefer to stay inland, near freshwater.

On May 30, 1934, an Act was passed authorizing a park to be acquired through public donations.

Everglades National Park was to be "...wilderness, (where) no development ... or plan for the entertainment of visitors shall be undertaken which will interfere with the preservation intact of the unique flora and fauna of historic values the essential primitive natural conditions now prevailing in this area."

This mandate to preserve wilderness and its biota is one of the strongest in the legislative history of the National Park System.

Thirteen years later, through a combination of federal, state, and private lands, a vast wetland teeming with life was dedicated as a national park.

Everglades was the first national park preserved primarily for its abundance and variety of life, rather than for scenic or historic values.

Boundary changes since 1947 have substantially increased the size of the park from the original 460,000 acres.

In 1950, the Secretary of the Interior increased the size of the park to 1,228,500 acres, including the former wildlife refuge.

Two additional boundary changes increased the park to 1,400,533 acres by 1958.

In 1989, Congress passed legislation that expanded the eastern boundary of the national park by 109,000 acres, primarily for the purposes of ecosystem restoration and protection.

At the end of the nineteenth century the south Florida coast was still largely wilderness, one of the last coastal regions east of the Mississippi to be settled, with only three small communities—Chokoloskee, Cape Sable and Flamingo—existed along the coast of what is now Everglades National Park.

The Everglades are one of only three locations in the world to be listed as an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance.

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