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.

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.

Hour of Code Activities Students Will Love from Code.org for CSedWeek

Computer Science Education Week is this week and now is the time to register your classroom or school event with Code.org and participate in Hour of Code events.

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.

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.

First Submissions for The Prospects 2024 Began Friday, December 1

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.

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.

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

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, one of the finest wilderness areas in the world, straddles the Arctic Divide in the Brooks Range, America's northernmost chain of mountains.

Gates of the Arctic covers 13,238 square miles and is entirely north of the Arctic Circle.

Gates of the Arctic is a vast wilderness the size of Switzerland that contains no National Park Service facilities, visitor centers, or campgrounds.

Gates of the Arctic National Park is located in Central Brooks Range, about 200 miles northwest of Fairbanks, Alaska.

There are no roads in the park, although the Dalton Highway comes within about 5 miles of the park's eastern boundary.

With the exception of the Dalton Highway (famous for its depiction on Ice Road Truckers), the park is far from any roads and is home to only one village, Anaktuvuk Pass.

Other than hiking in from the Dalton Highway, access is generally by air.

By establishing Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve in Alaska's Brooks Range, Congress has reserved a vast and essentially untouched area of superlative natural beauty and exceptional scientific value—a maze of glaciated valleys and gaunt, rugged mountains covered with boreal forest and arctic tundra vegetation, cut by wild rivers, and inhabited by far-ranging populations of caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, and bears (barren-ground grizzlies and black bears).

The park's name dates to 1929, when conservationist Robert Marshall (the namesake of Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness) found an unobstructed path northward to the Arctic coast of Alaska while exploring the North Fork of the Koyukuk River.

Upon seeing the two mountains, Mt. Boreal and Frigid Crags flanking the river, Marshall named the portal the "Gates of the Arctic."

First protected as a U.S. National Monument on December 1, 1978, the area was officially designated as a national park and preserve in 1980 with the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Congress recognized that a special value of the Park and Preserve is its wild and undeveloped character, and the opportunities it affords for solitude, wilderness travel, and adventure.

Gates of the Arctic encompasses several congressionally recognized elements, including the national park, national preserve, wilderness, six Wild Rivers and two National Natural Landmarks.

The National Park Service is entrusted to manage this area to protect its physical resources and to maintain the intangible qualities of the wilderness and the opportunity it provides for people to learn and renew its values.

The entire Noatak River drainage, of which the headwaters are in Gates of the Arctic, is internationally recognized as a biosphere reserve in the United Nation's "Man in the Biosphere" program.

Coldfoot is one of the few Alaska communities north of the Arctic Circle accessible by road.

The town serves as a stopping place for those driving the Dalton Highway on their own or as part of a tour.

It is said that Coldfoot got its name in 1900, when gold seekers made it that far, got cold feet, and turned around.

Today it serves as the farthest-north truck stop in the United States.

Coldfoot is located roughly 174 miles into the 414-mile Dalton Highway.

The Dalton Highway is often called the "Haul Road" because it's mostly used by truckers enroute from the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay to Fairbanks and points farther south.

It has been made famous by the TV show "Ice Road Truckers," and more people than ever are discovering its scenic beauty, wildlife, and recreational opportunities.

The Dalton Highway is also one of Alaska's most remote and challenging roads and it is mostly gravel.

Nestled in the southern foothills of the Brooks Range, Coldfoot is the perfect base camp for exploring the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve or the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operate a visitor center in Coldfoot called the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center, offering travel information, backcountry trip planning, and nightly presentations on the natural and cultural history of the Arctic.

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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Learning that works for Montana
CTE

"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