

*Please note, there will not be a Wednesday Reader next week, March 27, as I will be on vacation beginning March 27 and returning Wednesday, April 3. Go Mariners!*

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### **Apply Today for Student Loan Assistance—Applications Due April 15**

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the [Quality Educator Loan Assistance](#) program as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. Senate Bill 70 expanded eligibility and limited the total amount of funding for the program. The Office of Public Instruction is responsible for administering the program.

Newly hired quality educators who teach or work at an “impacted school” are eligible to receive state paid loan assistance for up to three years, so long as they remain a full-time employee at an impacted school. A fourth year of loan repayment assistance may be available through the local impacted school or district.

The [application](#) is now live. All applications must be received through the application link, with complete documentation as required, by April 15, 2024.

The program provides for up to \$3,000 of state funded loan repayment at the end of the first year of teaching, up to \$4,000 at the end of the second year, and up to \$5,000 at the end of the third year. The legislature appropriated \$500,000 per year for this program. If the total amount of authorized loan assistance repayments exceeds this amount, the payments will be prorated to equal a total of \$500,000.

At the time of application, the quality educator will have to provide the most current loan statement showing the remaining principal balance of the loan. To be eligible, the educational loan must not be in default and the balance must be at least \$1,000. The authorized loan assistance repayment amount will be the lesser of the principal balance or the maximum amount shown above.

Please note that approvals and payments will not be processed until the review process is complete for all applications, between June 15 and June 30, 2024. Letters to applicants will be sent at that time.

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### **Save the Date for the 2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference**

Mark Your calendars and plan to attend the [2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) in San Antonio, Texas, on December 9-10, 2024. This premier event for K12 cybersecurity educators offers tools to promote the discovery of cybersecurity careers and multiple pathways, identify methods to transform learning and much more.

This year's theme is Spurring Collaboration in K12 Cybersecurity Education. This year's event will take place at the beautiful [La Cantera Resort](#) in San Antonio's breathtaking Hill Country.

Included in this year's conference:

- World class keynotes
- Free and ready-to-use resources
- Professional development documentation
- Endless networking opportunities
- Pre-conference workshops and tours
- Bonus events: National Cyber Signing Day, Presidential Cybersecurity Educator of the Year panel, Evening Social, Exhibitor Showcase, and more
- Adjacent to the [Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\) CareerTech VISION Conference](#)

Join hundreds of K12 educators and supporters as we come together to learn, network, create community, promote, and increase K12 cybersecurity education programs nationwide.

Early-bird registration opens August 1, 2024, with an early-bird registration rate of \$350.00. Learn more about the [2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) by visiting the conference site [here](#).

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### **Intent to Apply Open for 2024-2025 State CTE Funding Acceptance and Perkins—Due April 1**

It is the time of year when Montana High School Districts must complete the form to accept State CTE Funding and complete the Perkins Grant Intent to Apply portion of this form. This form will take you less than 10 minutes to complete. Completing this form is necessary to receive a state CTE funding allocation and to have a Perkins allocation and application created. Districts are not required to apply for Perkins and identifying intent does not guarantee eligibility. If the district marks yes it intends to apply and then does not complete the Perkins application, it will not penalize them for future Perkins Grant funds.

Districts must complete and submit the online survey by April 1, 2024, to receive a 2024-2025 State CTE Funding Allocations and/or a Carl D. Perkins allocation and application in E-grants.

### **Montana State CTE Funding**

The 2024-2025 Montana State CTE Funding is an allocation based on the prior school year data submitted through Infinite Campus and AIM and with Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO's) State Directors' membership rosters.

The factors of allocation are career and technical education enrollment, approved career, and technical student organizations (CTSOs), field supervision of students (extended contract day), district expenditures, and student participation in workforce development, including but not limited to attainment of industry recognized credentials and work-based learning.

All high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to apply.

### **Carl D. Perkins Funding**

Carl D. Perkins provides funding to strengthen the Career and Technical Education programs offered to students; helping them to explore careers in high wage, high skill, and in-demand fields. There are 17 Montana Career Pathways that allow students to explore the areas of Agricultural Education, Business and Marketing Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, and Industrial Technology Education. Courses and programs must be taught by instructors endorsed in the respective curricular area.

All high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to apply. Elementary districts are not eligible.

For assistance, please contact the Career and Technical Education division at 406.444.7915.

Click Here for [Montana State CTE Funding and Perkins Intent to Apply Form](#).

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### **Free Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp for Juniors & Seniors**

Calling all college-bound juniors and seniors—the [Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp](#) is an all-expense paid immersive experience for rising juniors and seniors seeking to become teachers.

The [Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp](#) will be held June 16-21, 2024, on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman. Participants will stay on campus.

The Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp will feature—

- Teaching Orientation: Teaching experience, leadership orientation, and mentorship from award-winning teachers and faculty.
- Campus Orientation: Admissions coaching, financial aid coaching, and residence life intro.
- Community Orientation: Extreme history walk, hiking, swimming, kayaking, bowling, live music, and more.

Future attendance at MSU not required, mileage to and from the camp is reimbursed, and all expenses paid.

Interested?

Step #1: Sign up for the Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp [here](#).

Step #2: Submit your application for the immersive summer camp experience.

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### **Free Cyber Games from Purdue Northwest**

Are you looking for cybersecurity games for your classroom or for activities to introduce your students to cybersecurity? Check out the [cybergames](#) created by Purdue Northwest (PNW). There are four categories of games to choose from and each game calls on specific cybersecurity skills.

Check out the games that address the following topics:

- VR Games: a simulated experience that can be similar to or completely different from the real world. Applications of virtual reality can include entertainment (i.e. gaming) and educational purposes (i.e. medical or military training). Other, distinct types of VR style technology include augmented reality and mixed reality.
- Ethical Hacking: sometimes called as Penetration Testing is an act of intruding/penetrating into system or networks to find out threats, vulnerabilities in those systems which a malicious attacker may find and exploit causing loss of data, financial loss or other major damages.
- Robotic Programming: refers to the process of developing a control scheme for how a machine interacts with its environment and achieves its goals.
- Digital Forensics: a forensic science branch that involves the recovery, analysis, and preservation of any information found on digital devices; this forensics branch often concerns cybercrimes.

Visit the PNW Cyber Games website [here](#).

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### **FREE Resources from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta for Economics and Personal Finance**

Visit the [Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's](#) website for free curriculum resources for teaching economics and/or personal finance. The Atlanta Fed has a large collection of lessons, activities, infographic posters, and more for downloading or ordering.

The [infographic posters](#) are graphic representations of information that allow viewers to grasp information quickly. Use these infographics in the classroom to teach and reinforce economic and personal finance concepts in a colorful and easy-to-understand format. Each infographic poster also comes with an activity/lesson that can be completed to help students better understand the concepts being presented in the infographic. There are 22 infographic posters in the collection. The activities and infographic posters can be downloaded for free; you can also complete the linked [order form](#) to receive printed copies of the infographic posters for free.

### **Student Scholarships Available from Kids' Chance of Montana**

[Kids' Chance](#) provides financial scholarships to children of Montana workers injured or killed on the job. Scholarships may be used at universities, colleges, and technical/vocational schools of the students' choice as well as to pursue other post-high school credentials. Kids' Chance of Montana scholarships are up to \$4,000/year, renewable for up to four years.

The 2024/25 Kids' Chance of Montana Scholarship Applications are available at [kidschanceofmontana.org/scholarships](https://kidschanceofmontana.org/scholarships). Completed applications are due by March 31.

In 2023-24, 13 students shared \$42,000 in Kids' Chance of Montana scholarship funds.

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### **Scholarship Opportunities for K-12 Students from EVERFI**

Did you know nearly 300K in college scholarships were offered last year? Thanks to [EVERFI's](#) community partners, middle and high school students in your district can be eligible for exciting [scholarship opportunities](#).

Spring deadlines are fast approaching. Check out EVERFI's [scholarship page](#) now to see eligibility requirements, then share EVERFI's scholarship guide with your students.

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### **Registration is Now Open for the Teaching Economics/Personal Finance Professional Development Seminar**

Registration is now open for the [Montana Council on Economic Education's](#) (MCEE) 2024 [Teacher Professional Development Seminar](#), June 27-28 in Bozeman on the MSU campus.

With the support of sponsors, Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, Robinhood Markets, Reach Higher, and First Security Bank in Bozeman, MCEE covers all associated costs for the program.

Educators will qualify for 14 hours of OPI renewal unit professional development credit.

Professors from Montana State University's Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics support instruction and curriculum development. MCEE and its board of directors will host a Teacher Appreciation Dinner Thursday evening.

The program is focused on current economic research, teaching economics fundamentals, personal finance classroom resources, and student engagement ideas/programs.

Enjoy two days in Bozeman, Montana, on the campus of Montana State University. Classes will be offered in Linfield Hall. Teacher's housing will be provided on campus.

MCEE and their generous sponsors will cover your expenses for

- Lodging
- Mileage
- Meals
- Parking
- Class Materials

Click [here](#) to review previous agendas. [Register today](#) to reserve your spot. For questions, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at [mcee@montana.edu](mailto:mcee@montana.edu).

## **Celebrate Tax Season with Accounting Careers & Scholarships from EVERFI**

Studies show that 82% of Americans wish they had learned more about taxes and money in high school. In the midst of tax and audit season in the real world, you can bring these life-long skills to your classroom.

[Accounting Careers](#) is a free digital resource that shows learners how an accounting background can help them achieve their career goals and benefit their daily life. In the two online lessons, students will also learn about entrepreneurship, investing, and personal finance. So, what are you waiting for? [Access the lessons here.](#)

### Overview of Accounting Careers

- Length: Two 10-minute lessons
- Grades: 9-12
- Possible Placement: Finances, Business, CTE, Entrepreneurship

These fast-paced lessons expose students to the wide range of careers available in accounting and finance. They're great for advisory periods, fast finishers, bell ringers, extra credit, or brain breaks.

### **How To Get Started**

Step 1: During your prep, click [Add to Class](#) on the Accounting Careers page to give access to your students (if you haven't already).

Step 2: In class, your students will access their EVERFI accounts one of three ways:

- Students can log into their [existing EVERFI accounts](#).
  - You can set up their accounts for them ahead of time from the Students tab, then give them their username & password to log in.
- Students can [self register](#) for a new EVERFI account.
- If they use the EVERFI app on Clever or Classlink, students will log in there with their district credentials.

Step 3: Students will click Start on the Accounting Careers course tile and work independently through the self-paced lessons.

### **Accounting Careers Scholarship Contest**

When students take the Accounting Careers: Limitless Opportunities course, they may become eligible to compete for one of eleven \$5,000 scholarships.

#### Student Instructions:

- Step 1: Complete at least one Accounting Careers: Limitless Opportunities module.
- Step 2: Write a 300-500 word essay.
- Step 3: [Submit their entry](#) form by April 30, 2024.

Read more about the [Accounting Careers Scholarship Contest](#).

Want help getting your students started on *EVERFI*, the flagship high school financial literacy course, before you start *Accounting Careers*? [Join EVERFI live](#) in one of their upcoming FinEd Friday sessions.

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## **Montana STEM Summer Institute—Call for Presenters & Registration Now Open**

School Services of Montana and the MSU Science Math Resource Center are hosting the [6th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) at the MSU campus in Bozeman, August 5-7, 2024.

They encourage [Presenter Proposals](#) from K-12 teachers, informal and home school educators, school leaders, teacher educators, and other STEM enthusiasts! This year's conference theme of "STEM Across the Curriculum" is built around 3 strands:

- Planning STEM Learning Environments
- Implementing Ready-to-Use STEM-based Projects
- Reimagining STEM Learning.

Presenters and attendees interested in STEM learning at any grade level and in any discipline are welcome.

Please visit the [Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) website for more information regarding submitted presenter proposals, event registration, and schedule of events. Early-bird registration ends March 31, 2024.

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### **[Apply Today for a Scholarship to Attend CSTA 2024 in Las Vegas](#)**

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) announces the opening of [scholarship applications](#) to attend the [CSTA Annual Conference](#), July 16-19 in Las Vegas at Caesar's Forum and Harrah's Las Vegas.

CSTA prides itself in promoting equitable access to the CSTA Annual Conference, their premier professional learning program for K-12 CS teachers, by offering scholarships that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers who could not otherwise attend the CSTA Annual Conference due to funding limitations. [Scholarship applications](#) are due April 1.

CSTA will award as many scholarships as possible to help deserving teachers join this excellent learning opportunity and will give priority consideration to:

- First-time conference attendees,
- Teachers of color,
- Teachers who teach underrepresented students in CS,
- Active CSTA members and volunteers, and
- Conference presenters (and those who submitted proposals).

Visit the [CSTA Annual Conference](#) website for complete event details and registration.

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### **[Scholarship Opportunities for Your Students & CTSO Members](#)**

[Horatio Alger Association scholarships](#) range from certification to Doctorate and are worth \$2,500 to over \$52,000. General eligibility is AGI below \$65,000, GPA 2+, and extra-curricular and community service. Apply as a junior and/or senior in high school through application online. Can be used for both in and out of state schools.

[STAR a P.E.O.](#) - International high school scholarship for \$2,500. Family income is not part of the evaluation process. Process starts with being nominated by one of 81 chapters in Montana. Students should be a junior in High School, have a GPA of 3+, be a citizen of the US or Canada, plan to attend college (2 or 4 year) and exhibits excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, and community service. Can be used for both in and out of state schools.

[Program for Continuing Education a P.E.O.](#) - International nontraditional student scholarship up to \$3,000. Process starts by being nominated by one of 81 chapters in Montana. Applicant should be a citizen of the US or Canada, enrolled in a certification or degree seeking program, has had at least 24 consecutive

months as a non-student, and within 18 months of graduating. Can be used for both in and out of state schools.

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### **Applications are Now Open for Code.org’s Professional Learning Program—Scholarships Available for Montana Teachers**

Applications are now open for Code.org’s [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators! Explore the CS curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and hone your teaching strategies for the 2024-2025 academic year.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, our professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you. Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and high school teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries, Computer Science Principles, or AP Computer Science A in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

[Computer Science Discoveries](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington
- August 17-October 2: Virtual

[Computer Science Principles](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington

[AP Computer Science A](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington

The cost of CSA, CSD or CSP is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (9 total days of training). Any travel, lodging, or food costs for in-person trainings are separate. Scholarship opportunities are available to cover the costs of Code.org training tuition for qualified applicants.

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### **Register Today for the Montana Personal Finance Challenge**

The [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education, hosts the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#). The challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance by connecting with other students from across the state in an online competition.

How does the Personal Finance Challenge work?

Timing: Registration is open now and students can test anytime following independent course preparation. Testing must be completed by April 12, 2024, to compete for cash prizes, trip.

Who: MCEE encourages any classroom teaching personal finance to form teams and complement their instruction with a chance to win cash prizes. It is a low commitment with a great pay-off.

Teams of three-four students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering the principles of personal finance including money management, credit, investing, and insurance.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

State champions are invited to compete in the national challenge. The 2024 National Personal Finance Challenge finals will be hosted in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 19-20, 2024. MCEE and its sponsors will cover airline costs while food, lodging, and all events are hosted by CEE.

[Register today](#); the Personal Finance Challenge ends April 12.

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### **The Montana Economics Challenge Competition is Now Open—Students Can Win Cash Prizes**

The [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education, hosts the [Economics Challenge Program](#). The Challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of Economic Literacy by competing with other students across the state in online examinations. Student participants receive cash prizes, awards, and accolades.

There are two divisions in the Economics Challenge:

- Adam Smith: For returning competitors, AP, IB, and honors students.
- David Ricardo: For first-time competitors with no more than one course in economics.

How does the Economics Challenge work?

Timing: Registration is open now and students can test anytime following independent course preparation. Testing must be completed by April 12, 2024, to compete for cash prizes.

Who: MCEE would encourage any classroom teaching Intro or AP Economics to form teams and complement their instruction with a chance to win cash prizes. It is a low commitment with a great pay-off.

Teams of three-four students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering a broad variety of economic principles.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.



There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

State champions are invited to participate in the regional competition where top teams travel to New York City for the National Economics Challenge.

[Register](#) your teams today.

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### **Fun Facts & Trivia**

Mount Rainier National Park is located in west central Washington, about 48 miles southeast of Tacoma, Washington.

Mount Rainier National Park was established on March 2, 1899.

Mount Rainier National Park is the fifth oldest national park in the United States.

The park has the greatest single-peak glacial system in the United States.

Glaciers radiate from the summit and slopes of the 14,411-foot volcano.

With 25 major glaciers on Mount Rainier, it is the most heavily glaciated peak in the contiguous US.

The park encompasses 378 square miles, or 235,612.5 acres.

Annual visitation exceeds 2 million visitors, with the majority of visitors coming to the park during the months of May through October.

Mount Rainier National Park contains vast expanses of pristine old-growth forests, subalpine flower meadows, spectacular alpine scenery, and great opportunity for stimulating outdoor activities.

Each year more than 4,500 people successfully climb to the 14,411-foot summit of Mount Rainier.

The first ascent of Mount Rainier was completed on August 17, 1870, by Philemon Beecher Van Trump and Hazard Stevens.

Many of the park's features have been named for them.

On April 12, 1951, US Air Force lieutenant John W. Hodgkin was the first person to land a plane, equipped with skis, on Mount Rainier's summit.

At the time, this was a world record for a high-altitude landing.

Hodgkin tried to take off from the peak, but his plane would not start, and he spent the night on the mountain's top.

Eventually rescued, park rangers and staff were able to push Hodgkin's plane down the mountain and he was later charged in federal court with landing a private aircraft in a national park without permission and fined \$350.

Mount Rainier is the tallest of the Cascade Mountains, the fifth-tallest mountain in the contiguous United States, and has the 3rd greatest prominence of any mountain in the United States.

Mount Rainier is considered one of the world's most dangerous volcanoes.

Mount Rainier is referred to as a stratovolcano, this means that it is a volcano composed of alternating layers of lava and ash.

Volcanologists from the US Geological Survey estimate that about 80,000 people live within Mount Rainier's hazard zones.

Scientists say that it's even possible that the volcano could erupt suddenly with little to no warning.

The last time Mount Rainier erupted was in 1894.

Mount Rainier's longest serving and native name is Tahoma.

With the recent slate of peaks being renamed to their native names (like Denali), it seems like this is another great candidate for renaming.

Archaeological evidence suggesting Mount Rainier has been used for the past 9,000 years. Multiple Native American tribes explored the river valleys, meadows, and forests to hunt, gather berries and look for medicinal plants long before Mount Rainier became a national park.

The Nisqually, Puyallup, Squaxin Island, Muckleshoot, Yakama and Cowlitz tribes continue to frequent the park.

In recognition of their unique heritage and special relationship with Mount Rainier, park authorities have reserved special areas for Native American rituals and worship, allowing current generations to feel a special connection with their ancestors. Today, they continue to learn about the history of this place through its spiritual and cultural resources.

For the current generation, linking today's tribal members to their ancestors, who lived in the shadow of the mountain for millennia, is a part of teaching them who they are and why their history matters.

According to the historical records, Spanish explorers would have been the first Europeans to see Mount Rainier, having entered the Puget Sound in 1790 and they likely saw the magnificent mountain from a distance.

Following the Spanish by two years, in 1792, Captain George Vancouver of the British Royal Navy entered the Puget Sound; and, unlike his predecessors, he remained to explore and map the area.

Vancouver named not only the waterways and their immediate shores, but several of the mountains as well.

Mount Rainier was named after his friend Admiral Peter Rainier.

Washington's Mount Baker and Oregon's Mount Hood were also named after British admirals.

Captain Vancouver's expedition lasted from 1791-95 as he explored and charted North America's northwestern Pacific Coast regions.

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Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at [www.mbea.info](http://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*