

Tomorrow, January 21, is Deadline for 2016 Montana Financial Education Conference Early Registration

The 2016 Montana Financial Education Coalition (www.mtmfec.org) [Annual Conference](#) will be held on Wednesday, February 24 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena.

Registration is now open for the [2016 Montana Financial Education Coalition Annual Conference](#). The early bird rate is \$75 if paid before January 21, 2016 and \$100 for registrations after January 21. Should you need lodging, a block of rooms is available for conference attendees at the [Radisson Colonial Hotel](#) (formerly the Red Lion Colonial) in Helena, at a state rate.

Everyone is invited and welcome. The conference will feature a nationally-recognized financial advocate as the guest speaker, will showcase a variety of financial education programs for all ages and demographics, and will provide numerous workshops with practical instruction for implementation.

The resource fair will host a wide range of financial education resources that will offer attendees the opportunity to discuss and compare curricula and products. A unique aspect of the conference will be the availability of MFEC mini-grants that attendees may apply for at the conclusion of the conference to implement financial education programs in their Montana communities.

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) is a collection of financial institutions, government and non-profit organizations, businesses, and interested individuals who believe that financial literacy is essential to economic advancement. MFEC is an affiliate of the [National Jump\\$tart Coalition](#) but are not limited to only assisting youth. MFEC efforts reach out to Montanans of all age groups and financial situations. MFEC does not intend to replace other education programs throughout the state. Instead, MFEC functions as a platform to forge partnerships and share best practices to become more efficient and effective in their initiatives.

For more information about the Montana Financial Education Coalition and the [2016 Montana Financial Education Coalition Annual Conference](#), please visit www.mtmfec.org.

Great Resources & Information for use in Career Development Instruction

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated their "[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)" for the coming year. The [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) helps find career information on duties, education and training, pay, and outlook for hundreds of occupations. The updated [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) can be viewed at www.bls.gov/ooh/.

The [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) site also includes a [Teacher's Guide](#) for using the Occupational Outlook Handbook with students.

The bureau has also published an article this month examining labor market trends in a number of in-demand industries which can be viewed at www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2016/article/which-industries-need-workers-exploring-differences-in-labor-market-activity.htm.

New Complimentary Adobe Webinars – Sharpen Your Adobe Skills & Gain New Tools

Join Adobe for these complimentary webinars designed to show you how to best utilize your existing Adobe creative, marketing and document solutions to give citizens, and employees, the impeccable service they deserve.

Governments are making the move to digital, and Adobe is here to help. We'll not only discuss how to create responsive, mobile websites, but share tips and tricks on how to do everything from sharpening your Adobe Photoshop CC skills to understanding electronic signature workflows.

Our goal is simple—to empower your agency or department and help you reinvent how you interact with customers—across every digital channel and screen.

Register for a specific session or the full series, including:

January 26

Adobe InDesign CC—Creating Effective and Compelling Layouts

February 4

Adobe Illustrator CC—Creating Interfaces for User Experience (UX)

February 11

Acrobat DC—Digital and Signature Workflows for Agencies

February 18

Adobe Photoshop CC—Creating Interfaces for Web and Mobile

Descriptions about each session can be found at <http://gov.adobeeventsonline.com/Webinars/2016/Q1/>.

To register, please go to <http://gov.adobeeventsonline.com/Webinars/2016/Q1/index.php?source=998>.

Montana's Research and Analysis Refreshes Website

The Research & Analysis Bureau of the Montana Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) is excited to announce significant updates to www.careers.mt.gov and www.lmi.mt.gov.

These website provide current labor market and career information for Montana job seekers, students seeking career guidance information, and policy makers.

Major improvements in functionality include:

- Faster page loading times
- Automatic data updates upon time of release
- Rebuilt search tool that now let's job seekers build custom reports from labor market data
- Previously unavailable job data sets

Other improvements include the ability to share monthly labor market and career information publications

directly to social media platforms from the websites and charts, graphs and maps that are directly driven from the departments Workforce Information Database (WID).

These updated websites provide needed labor market information for job seekers who are looking for guidance, whether they are new to Montana's workforce or if they are looking to move to another career path, said Labor & Industry Commissioner Pam Bucy.

The Research & Analysis Bureau provides labor market information for Montana's workforce through a partnership with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment & Training Administration, including data for employment, unemployment, wages, injuries and illnesses, and other labor market information.

Contact them at mcrn@mt.gov with your comments.

AFSA Education Foundation – Brightening Your Financial Future

Based in Washington, D.C., the mission of the American Financial Services Association Education Foundation (AFSA Education Foundation, www.afsaef.org) is to help consumers understand responsible money management and the credit process. It is affiliated with the American Financial Services Association (www.afsaonline.org), and the foundation's primary initiative is MoneySKILL® (www.moneyskill.org), the premier, free online personal finance curriculum.

The AFSA Education Foundation (AFSAEF) offers the free personal finance course MoneySKILL, which covers income, expenses, saving and investing, credit and insurance. It aligns with the standards as outlined in *National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Curriculum* published by the Jump\$tart Coalition. Its goal is to educate students on money management fundamentals and provide them with the skills and knowledge necessary to make sound financial decisions. It seeks to help students avoid the pitfalls of over-indebtedness, repossession, home foreclosure and bankruptcy.

The objectives implemented to help attain this goal are to:

- Offer MoneySKILL free to educators and students;
- Conduct teacher training nationwide to provide hands-on use of MoneySKILL;
- Support educators 24/7 with online and toll-free telephone access; and
- Update the technology and course content annually.

Program Description

The high school/college/young adult version of [MoneySKILL](http://www.moneyskill.org) consists of 36 modules, while the middle school/junior high version consists of 12. [MoneySKILL](http://www.moneyskill.org) is designed to be used as all or part of a course in personal finance, economics, business, math or social studies. The online delivery allows teachers to educate themselves on personal finance concepts before the students starting the course. Students can access the modules in the classroom or at home—anywhere they have an Internet connection. Built-in quizzes test the students' grasp of each concept presented and are automatically recorded in the electronic gradebook for the teacher to see.

Many parents, realizing the importance of educating their children about personal finance, utilize [MoneySKILL](http://www.moneyskill.org)

as part of their home schooling or a project for their kids to complete over summer vacation. Parents can learn along with their children and discuss the concepts being taught.

The curriculum and technology are updated each summer. The updates reflect current laws, statistics and the latest technological advances. A recent technology upgrade made the course compatible with all hand-held devices and web browsers.

In addition, AFSAEF has added a “timer” to the student gradebook view. This will allow schools and not-for-profit organizations that need this information, to tell how much time the student has spent on each module.

The AFSA Education Foundation has now joined its many friends and partners on social media. In fact, the organization is now utilizing two social media outlets—Twitter and Facebook. They hope to keep teachers, parents, AFSA members and others, informed about what’s happening with [MoneySKILL®](#). In addition, we plan to keep our readers up to date on the foundation and its activities and trends in the personal finance education arena. Follow the foundation on Twitter [@AFSAEdFnd](#) or like them on [Facebook](#).

The AFSAEF also launched an online newsletter that is emailed to teachers, AFSA members, general consumers and other interested parties. This new communications vehicle will allow the foundation to share updates on MoneySKILL; share information/surveys on the ever-increasing need for financial literacy; point out trends in personal finance education; and, to share other AFSAEF resources and announcements.

Understanding Vehicle Financing

An educational brochure for vehicle shoppers has been updated to reflect relevant vehicle finance laws, terms and statistics. The brochure takes consumers through the vehicle financing process and highlights the importance of budgeting, checking one’s credit report, and shopping around.

Originally produced in 2003, the brochure has provided important information to help millions of potential borrowers understand vehicle financing options and evaluate their own financial situations before financing or leasing a new or used vehicle. It was developed by AFSAEF and the National Automobile Dealers Association, and prepared in cooperation with the Federal Trade Commission.

The brochure contains several useful tools, including a:

- Worksheet to determine a monthly payment amount that the borrower can afford;
- Glossary of common vehicle financing terms;
- Worksheet to allow borrowers to compare terms from up to three creditors;
- Checklist of recommended actions to take before, during and after visiting the dealership; and
- Revised list of federal laws regulating financing and leasing.

[ACTE Region V Early-Bird Registration Ends January 31](#)

The [2016 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#) (www.acteregionvconference.com) will take place this spring in San Diego, April 20-23.

The 2016 event, Leaders in Workforce Education, will be held at the [Bahia Resort Hotel](#) and San Diego’s

famous Mission Bay. The early-bird registration rate is \$395 if paid before January 31, 2016; afterwards, registration increases to \$450.

Complete conference details, lodging information, and online registration can be found at www.acteregionvconference.com.

Are you interested in sharing some great ideas and presenting a session at the [2016 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#)? Call for Presentations are currently being accepted and can be submitted online at www.acteregionvconference.com/become-a-presenter.html. The deadline to submit is January 30.

Stipends Available for First Time Region V Leadership Conference Attendees

If the 2016 conference in San Diego will be the first time you've attended a Region V Conference, be sure to apply for one of the stipends that are available.

Up to ten \$500 stipends will be awarded for the 2016 Conference in San Diego and the 2017 Conference in South Dakota.

The stipend will be paid over two years with \$250 paid upon attending each conference. Awards will be made at the conference.

Applications can be found on the Region V website and can be downloaded directly at https://www.acteonline.org/uploadedFiles/Who_We_Are/Regions/1st%20TimerStipend%20for%20Region%20V%202016112315.pdf.

The deadline for submission is March 15 and notifications will be sent out by April 1 if you are receiving the stipend.

2015 Congressional App Challenge Submission Deadline Extended

Due to popular demand, high school students who would like to participate in the 2015 Congressional App Challenge now have until **Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 3PM EST** to do so.

The Congressional App Challenge (CAC) is proud to be partnering with CSTA on this congressional effort aimed at engaging students, and their Members of Congress, in coding and computer science. Students in participating districts can submit apps that they've created (for this program or any another), as long as the apps were created within the last year. Already, there are more than 950 students from 175 Congressional districts in 42 states, signed up to compete.

Students of all coding levels are encouraged to participate, and those who submit their apps to the CAC will only be competing against peers in their own districts. Students can participate as individuals, or in teams of up to four. Panels of local judges will judge the apps from January 22 through February 12, and Members of Congress will announce their district winners on February 22. Winners will be honored by their Member of Congress and have their apps featured on a display in the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Capital One is generously serving as the principal sponsor of the 2015 Congressional App Challenge as part of

its \$150 million Future Edge effort to help more Americans get the skills they need to succeed in the future. For more information, please visit www.CongressionalAppChallenge.us.

Registration is Now Open for the CSTA 2016 Annual Conference

It is time for *Making Waves with CSTA!* During the [2016 Computer Science Teachers Association \(CSTA\) Annual Conference](#), July 10-12 at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in San Diego, California.

Registration is now open for the CSTA annual conference. CSTA 2016 is a professional development opportunity for computer science and information technology educators working in, or within the K-12 arena who need practical, classroom-focused information to help them prepare their students for the future. Conference content is peer reviewed and peer or industry led, making it relevant to today's classroom needs. This year CSTA is staying true to "making waves with CSTA" so they have expanded the conference to span three days, with two days' worth of workshops, more industry-specific sessions, more exhibitors, along with multiple networking opportunities.

Highlights of the conference include:

- Explore issues and trends relating directly to your classroom
- Learn, network, and interact
- Choose from various workshops and breakout sessions
- Amazing value (complimentary conference Wi-Fi, networking events, hands-on activities, lunch, etc.)

Some of this year's session topics include:

- Advanced Placement Computer Science
- Computational Thinking
- K-8 topics
- Programming
- Robotics
- STEM

Pre-registration is required and will be accepted for the first 500 teachers. The registration deadline is June 16, 2016. Also, please note that you must complete the payment portion of the online form in order to be fully registered for the conference.

The 2016 CSTA Annual Conference is made possible by the generous support of Google, Microsoft, and Oracle Academy. Your registration fee will include networking opportunities, activities, lunch, and resource materials.

2016 CSTA Annual Conference Costs:

- Early bird registration: \$125 for 1.5 days (December 14-April 1)
- Conference registration: \$175 for 1.5 days (April 2-June 16)
- Workshops: \$100 for the first one, \$50 for each additional (three max, and must be scheduled for in advance as there is NO ONSITE registration for workshops)

- Onsite registration: \$225 for Tuesday only

--Onsite registration: \$250 for 1.5 days

Workshops are a separate price, and this year CSTA has expanded offerings to include options on Sunday, as well as Monday. The price is \$100 for the first workshop, and \$50 for each additional workshop (maximum number of three).

Please note all workshops are BYOD (bring your own device) and workshop registration is limited to 30-40 participants; so be sure to register early to get your first workshop choice. As an additional reminder, due to the amount of advance preparation involved with each workshop, CSTA is UNABLE to accept workshop registrations onsite or switch options.

Complete conference details and online registration can be found at www.cstaconference.org.

For more information, contact Tiffany Nash, CSTA Events and Communications Manager at t.nash@csta-hq.org.

Register Now for the NBEA 2016 Annual Convention in Las Vegas

Register today for the NBEA 2016 Annual Convention & Trade Show in Las Vegas from March 22-26, 2016. Early registration ends March 2, 2016.

The NBEA 2016 Convention will provide over 70 exciting and cutting-edge educational sessions, more than 20 technology workshops that will expand specific skills and introduce new technologies, and general session speakers that will educate and inspire. In addition, over 30 sessions will be offered at the Business Education Research Conference, held in conjunction with the NBEA 2016 Convention.

Do not miss this amazing opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills as a business educator, take part in networking opportunities, and be challenged to return to your classroom ready to educate, empower, and energize the next generation.

Please [click here](#) to access the convention details, including general convention information, session descriptions, professional development seminars, and much more. Both the online and printed convention registration forms can be accessed by [clicking here](#). You can't afford to miss this dynamic convention solely dedicated to the advancement of business education.

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas will serve as the official headquarters hotel for the NBEA 2016 Annual Convention. Visit <https://aws.passkey.com/g/50649057> to make your online reservations.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The Fisher-Price toy company was established in 1930 by Herman Fisher, Irving Price, Price's illustrator-artist wife Margaret Evans Price, and Helen Schelle.

Fisher-Price's fundamental toy-making principles centered on intrinsic play value, ingenuity, strong construction, good value for the money, and action. Early toys were made of heavy steel parts and ponderosa pine, which resisted splintering and held up well to heavy use. The first Fisher-Price toy ever sold was "Dr. Doodle" in 1931.

In 1943, Fisher-Price joined the many companies throughout the U.S. in contributing to the war effort. There was virtually no production of toys during World War II; instead, Fisher-Price provided the military with items such as medical chests, ammunition crates and repair parts for fighter planes.

In the early 1950s, Fisher-Price identified plastic as a material that could help the company incorporate longer-lasting decorations and brighter colors into its toys and the "Buzzy Bee" was the first Fisher-Price toy to make use of plastic.

During the 1960s, the Play Family—later known as Little People—product line was introduced and soon overtook the popularity of earlier toys.

In 1969 and the Quaker Oats Company bought Fisher-Price. In 1991, Fisher-Price regained its independence from The Quaker Oats Company and became a publicly traded company and then in November 1993, Fisher-Price became a wholly owned subsidiary of Mattel.

In addition to Little People, some of the toys and toy brands that have remained popular for many years include Power Wheels, View-Master, Rescue Heroes, the Chatter Telephone, and the Rock-a-Stack. Other brands marketed under the Fisher-Price name include Disney, Sesame Street, Barney, Dora the Explorer, and See 'n Say.

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