Registration is Now Open for the 2017 CSTA Conference in Baltimore

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA), csteachers.org, is excited to announce registration is now open for the 2017 CTSA Annual Conference.

The 2017 CTSA Annual Conference, *Identifying Teacher Superpowers*, will be held July 8-11 in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel.

Complete details about the 2017 CTSA Annual Conference can be found at csteachers.org/page/2017Conference, including the conference schedule, registration rates, and lodging information.

CSTA 2017 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. We expanded our conference to span three days, with two days of workshops, more industry-specific sessions, more exhibitors, along with multiple networking opportunities.

For more information about CSTA, or to join for **FREE**, please visit csteachers.org.

Planning to Attend NCCE in March? Check out the Adobe Storytelling Academy

Missoula Sentinel Business Educator Cindy Schultz, along with three other Adobe Education Leaders, will be conducting a two-day Adobe Storytelling Academy, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 21 and 22 as part of the 2017 National Council on for Computer Education (NCCE) Conference.

The 2017 NCCE Conference will be in Portland, Oregon, March 22-24, at the Oregon Convention Center.

The Adobe Storytelling Academy is a hands-on, integrated approach to storytelling that will provide participants the opportunity to take a deeper dive into the Adobe products that will unleash their creativity. This two-day academy will model different ways to engage students in storytelling and enable educators to leverage their knowledge of Adobe products to empower students to tell their stories. Participants will be grouped according to interests. Day one will be spent deciding on a theme and gathering and creating original media. On day two, participants will divide according to the strands listed below to create a digital product using a variety of Adobe products. The end of day two will involve a showcase of all work created during the Storytelling Academy.

Spark (mobile) Strand
The goal of the Spark strand is to enable participants to create using Adobe Mobile tools. This will be facilitated through the introduction of three different Adobe Spark (mobile) tools; Spark Post, Spark Page, and Spark Video. After introductory tutorials on the different tools, participants will use the media gathered in day one to create works to support their group's theme.

Design Strand
The goal of the Design strand is to enable different types of media projects with their students according to interests. Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, or Illustrator will be introduced and participants will then have the opportunity to create a digital artifact that incorporates their group's theme. Sessions will be tailored to the

participants' interests, but might include photo correction, logo creation, infographics, and electronic publications.

Video Strand
The goal of the Video strand is to enable participants to create using Adobe Premiere Pro CC. After introductory tutorials on the video editing process, participants will use the media gathered in day one to create a video project to support their group's theme.

Visit the website for this Academy at: https://spark.adobe.com/page/Sc91mE72U1QRB/.

For more information about the 2017 National Council on for Computer Education (NCCE) Conference, including registration, lodging options, and a complete schedule of the conference, please visit ncce.org/attend2017.

Ready for 2017? Spring It On with AICPA and Start Here. Go Places.®
Did you make a new year's resolution to be awesome? If so, Start Here. Go Places.® can help. The new spring calendar is here and it's just the sort of thing your classroom needs to up the awesomeness factor in 2017.

The new, inspiring 2017 spring calendar will not only look amazing on your classroom's wall, but it will also inspire your students to pursue a career in accounting throughout the semester.

Each month, you and your students can learn about a very real, very cool accounting job. There are also ideas for classroom activities and tips for where you can find more free resources and information at StartHereGoPlaces.com.

Start your new year off right with this new calendar and enjoy an awesome spring semester.

From an Hour of Code to Years of Computer Science--
Did you and your students participate in the Hour of Code last month? If so, thank you from Code.org for putting computer science in your classroom with your Code Studio account. This critical subject is still not taught in most schools, but you've joined a global teacher-led movement to give every student the opportunity to learn. Code.org knows how challenging it can be to try a new activity in a classroom—thank you so much for helping to ignite passions for technology and computing.

Teachers like you are changing the face of education, and Code.org is here to support you. Code.org offers high-quality, no-cost programs to help you put computer science in your classroom year-round.

You don't need any prior experience. If you're curious about technology and want the skills to teach computer science to your students, you'll get all you need with their high-quality professional learning — at no cost to you or your school.

Learn more about the offerings for every grade band below:

Computer Science Fundamentals (Grades K-5)

--Teach computer science once a week with fun courses that students love.
--Code.org offers 1-day workshops with experts to get you started. Teachers rave about the experience. These are open to all K-5 educators (including librarians, tech ed specialists).
--To learn more and Sign up for a workshop near you (at no cost) visit code.org/educate/curriculum/elementary-school.

Computer Science Discoveries (Middle School)

--Teach a semester or year-long introduction to computer science, for students of any background or experience.
--Discover with students through topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML, and data.
--Summer workshops for 7th-9th grade teachers of all backgrounds.
--To learn more by visiting code.org/educate/csd and apply for no-cost professional learning by March 17 at code.org/educate/professional-learning/cs-discoveries#apply.

Computer Science Principles (High School)

--Teach a year-long course, designed for students of any background or experience.
--Explore programming, data analysis, and the Internet with an approachable course that can also be taught as an AP class.
--Summer workshops for high school teachers of all backgrounds.
--Visit code.org/educate/csp to learn more and apply for no-cost professional learning by March 17 by going to code.org/educate/professional-learning/cs-principles#apply.

Computer science is a foundation for success in any future career. This is a chance to lead your school and to expand opportunity for your students—and Code.org is here to support you. Please check out Code.org programs, and thank you from Code.org for all you've done to help the movement for K-12 computer science.

Check out Jump$tart's Updated Clearinghouse
The Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy (jumpstart.org) recently launched their Clearinghouse, and would love for you to take a moment to explore the new interface and search for resources.

The new Clearinghouse can be accessed at clearinghouse.jumpstart.org.

Teachers, parents, and students are invited to Search, browse, and review hundreds of publications, games, teaching plans, and other resources designed to teach financial responsibility.

Resources can be searched by keyword/topic, grade level and resource type.

Visit the Jump$tart Clearninghouse today—clearinghouse.jumpstart.org— for new ideas and materials for teaching personal financial literacy.

Announcing the 2017 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition for Middle School Girls
ProjectCSGIRLS (projectcsgirls.com) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to close the gender gap in computer science and technology through running a national computer science competition for middle school

girls and workshops around the country. Our competition challenges girls to be makers and use tech to develop projects with social impact.

Registration is now open for the [2017 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition](#) for Middle School Girls. Registration for the 2017 ProjectCSGIRLS competition closes February 15, 2017. The deadline to submit projects is April 15, 2017. Mentors will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis so encourage students to register early.

The ProjectCSGIRLS Competition for Middle School Girls challenges participants in 6th-8th grade to build something using computer science and technology that can help solve an imminent social problem under one of three themes—global health, a safer world, and intelligent technology.

Judges will select semifinalists, finalists, and national winners. All finalists will receive an all-expenses-paid to DC for our national gala, the ultimate celebration of girls in computing, in June 2017 during which they will participate in workshops, listen to guest speakers, tour tech companies, participate in a formal awards ceremony, and showcase their projects to the public.

A link to the online registration form can be found [here](#).

Please help us reach thousands of middle school girls across the country through the 2017 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition for Middle School Girls by encouraging your students to register for the competition and have the unique chance to build a tech project with social impact.

If you would like to get involved as a mentor for competition participants, please sign up [here](#). Any and all questions can be directed to info@projectcsgirls.com.

High School Business Challenge Announces Fall Semester Winners
The Fall 2016 High School Business Challenge concluded with a team from Anaconda High School winning. Their final stock price was $186.95/share.

In second place was a team from Capital High School with a final stock price of $174.55/share and rounding out the top three was a Conrad High School team with $163.04/share.

All teams start with a stock price of $25/share.

The top eight teams from the fall semester of the Challenge will go on to compete against the top eight teams from the spring semester on April 29, 2017 in the 'Business Challenge Bowl.' Scholarships will be awarded to all participants of the Bowl with first place receiving $1,000 per student; second place receiving $750 per student; and third place receiving $500 per student. Participants not placing in the top three will each receive a $100 scholarship.

Other scholarships will be awarded to a team from Dillon Middle School who had the highest increase in their stock price between quarter four and quarter eight, increasing their stock price by $130.98/share in the last four quarters.

And finally, scholarships will be awarded to a home-school team from Livingston, randomly selected from teams who finished in the top quartile. These students will each receive a $100 scholarship.

During the eight-week simulation, where each week represents one business quarter, teams dealt with an unstable stock market, human resource issues, and environmental issues. Teams are tasked with managing a plant that produces digital music players. Each week, they analyze cash flow and determine the number of employees needed, production and advertising costs, and conduct market research. Teams are ranked at the end of the competition by the final stock price of the simulated business they manage in a competitive market place against other schools in the semester-long program.

The Montana Chamber Foundation, with support from individuals, businesses and foundations, offers the business education competition to any school in Montana interested in bringing their students a real-life simulation that teaches business operations and management. Since the start of the Challenge in 2002, over 20,000 students have participated.

The Challenge is administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education and scholarships are coordinated by Reach Higher Montana.

Stock Market Game Winners Announced for Fall 2016
Congratulations to Troy Waters, business education teacher at Missoula Loyola Sacred Heart Catholic School, whose students finished in first and second place in the Stock Market Game for the first semester of this year.

The team made up of Muning Sun and Stanley Jack Lincoln finished first with a final portfolio value of $124,659.04 and will receive a $200 team prize.

Claiming second place was Jacob Hollenbeck and Pedro Duenas Moriera who will split up a $150 prize with a portfolio value of $122,830.01.

Third place went to Caed Barker and Trew Rittle from Red Lodge High School taught by Theresa Reimer. They finished with a portfolio value of $116,065.55 and will receive a $100 cash prize.

Congratulations to our winners and all participants of the Fall Stock Market Game. The Montana Council on Economic Education and donors are proud to sponsor the competition and provide the prize money as an incentive for all the students competing.

WBEA 2017 Conference Hotel GranTree Inn Sold Out for Friday & Saturday Night—Feb 17 & 18
The Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman, host site for the 2017 Western Business Education Association Conference, has provided notice the GranTree Inn is sold out for the nights of Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18.

If you are planning to attend the WBEA have not yet made your lodging reservations, the GranTree Inn suggests either adding your name to a waiting list in case there are cancelations or book your lodging at one of the other nearby hotels—Days Inn and Suites, Bozeman Inn, Comfort Inn Bozeman, or Homewood Suites by Hilton.

Reservations at the GranTree can be completed by calling the hotel directly at 406.587.5261 and use the Group Code 806427. The GranTree room rate is $92/night plus tax and includes a breakfast buffet each morning and free WiFi.

Save the Date—Montana Economics Challenge 2017

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis will host the 22nd Annual Montana Economics Challenge on Monday, March 6, 2017 in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel.

The Economics Challenge is a one-day contest in which secondary students compete as team members and as individuals for prizes based on their knowledge of economics. The National Competition held in New York City will feature winning teams from four regional economic challenges. One of the four regional competitions, The Heartland Region, is held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Winning teams from eight other states will meet to determine which teams advance to the national event.

During the first three rounds of competition, students are tested in four areas: macroeconomics, microeconomics, current events/economic applications and international economics. The final round is a timed quiz-bowl play-off between the top two teams in each of two divisions. The first team to answer a majority of the questions wins.

For more information, please contact Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org or Rhonda Krieger at 406.447.3864.

Earn the Cyber Teacher Professional Development Certificate

Corporate-funded scholarships are now available for teachers to earn the **Cyber Teacher Professional Development Certificate**.

The Cyber Teacher Certificate is a highly relevant, comprehensive, online professional development program that will enable teachers to learn the **Fundamentals of Cybersecurity** and receive **eight (8) hours of CEU's** while connecting their students to the most in-demand STEM career in the world, cybersecurity.

"Cybersecurity job growth is creating career opportunities for students at an unprecedented rate. Educators are actively trying to bring cyber into their classrooms so their students understand their opportunities. Computer Science teachers now have a simple and powerful way to bring this capability into their classroom," remarked Rick Geritz, CEO of LifeJourney, the technology partner of CSTA for the launch of the Cyber Teacher program.

How Teachers Can Register for the Cyber Teacher Certificate Program
Teachers can register for the Cyber Teacher Certificate program here where they can review the program and learn more about it. There are a limited number of corporate-funded sponsorships that are available so be sure to sign-up today.

To register, please visit http://bit.ly/cyberteacher.

Google CS4HS Grants for Teacher Professional Development

As a company, Google believes in making information universally useful and accessible for all our users. This translates to the world of education by providing educators with the preparation, resources and support necessary to boost their confidence and skills as computer science educators. Google is committed to supporting computer science teachers through CS4HS (Computer Science for High School). Funding applications for the 2017-2018 school year are now open.

CS4HS awards support to PD practitioners (research institutions, universities, community colleges, school districts and educational non-profits such as CSTA chapters) dedicated to creating and delivering professional

development (training) in CS to local communities of teachers. Teachers apply what they've learned during their CS4HS workshops to inspire and empower students to not just be consumers but creators of technology.

To learn more about CS4HS awards and how teachers are working with local PD practitioners, please visit the CS4HS website (cs4hs.com) or email the CS4HS team at cs4hs@google.com.

EverFi Announces Six $1,000 Scholarships for Financial Literacy

Did your students complete Vault *or* FutureSmart*? Have them share what they learned in the Student Blog Contest for a chance to win a $1,000 529 College Savings Scholarship.*

Students completing the FutureSmart (everfi.com/k12/future-smart) middle school financial literacy course are eligible for 5 $1,000 scholarships through the National Blog Contest. Additionally, another $1,000 scholarship will be awarded for students who have completed the course by March 31, 2017.

FutureSmart empowers students to effectively manage their finances, make sound decisions, and become stewards of their financial future. Through the story-based narrative, students play the mayor of a town as they help local citizens make real-life, personal finance decisions. Interactive exercises challenge students to make choices in real-life scenarios to achieve important goals around saving, education and career planning, and budgeting.

Built around the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies and the National Jump$tart Standards for Financial Literacy, this online course provides students with engaging and educational 21st century skills.

To learn more, contact Mick Karls of EverFi at 406.204.1148 or mick@everfi.com.

WBEA 2017 Conference Computer Workshops & Breakout Sessions

Planning to attend, or thinking about attending, the Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference in Bozeman in February? Check out the complete listing of hands-on computer workshops and breakout sessions on the WBEA 2017 Conference website or directly at https://goo.gl/LepsrU.

All hands-on computer workshops will be held on either Friday, February 17 or Saturday, February 18 with breakout sessions taking place on Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19.

One new offering this year to WBEA conference attendees will be the option to complete the w!se Teacher Certification for Personal Finance. W!se will be conducting an informational session on Saturday morning with certification taking place Saturday afternoon. For more information about the w!se Teacher Certification for Personal Finance, please visit the WBEA 2017 Conference website or download the information, including registration requirements, at https://goo.gl/XcmRR4.

Graduate Credit Available for WBEA 2017 Conference—Only $99

The 2017 Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference will be held in Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20, 2017, and the WBEA 2017 Conference Committee is excited to provide attendees with an added benefit. Attendees of the WBEA 2017 Conference will be able to earn graduate-level college credit from Montana State University Billings. The cost for the credit is $99.00.

The Montana Business Education Association has partnered with Montana State University Billings to provided WBEA 2017 Conference participants with the option to earn one (1) graduate-level credit from MSU Billings' Extended Campus. Registration and payment for the credit can be completed at https://goo.gl/IEkuA1.

The credit, EDCI 589-450, is not applicable to a Master's degree offered by MSU Billings; however, the credit may be used to fulfil K-12 licensure requirements, "lane changes," or other continuing education requirements for professionals.

WBEA 2017 Conference attendees who wish to earn the graduate credit will be required to provide proof of registration and attendance (such as a copy of registration receipt and nametag), a provide a written agenda/synopsis listing all the conference sessions and all the conference-related activities attended (including workshops, tours, networking sessions, etc.), and create a lesson plan in which materials and/or resources gained from the WBEA 2017 Conference are implemented. All materials will need to be submitted by March 1, 2017.

For complete details about the credit offering, including a template for the lesson plan, directions for utilizing the lesson plan template, and a copy of the rubric which will be used to evaluate the lesson plan and lesson materials can be found on the WBEA 2017 Conference website at https://goo.gl/a0bd6d along with other details regarding the 2017 event in Bozeman.

Questions regarding the graduate credit offering can be sent to Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov. See you in Bozeman.

W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Available at WBEA 2017
W!se developed a Financial Literacy Teacher Certification Program in 2008. Teachers prepare for the assessment through self-guided study using the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual. After preparation teachers take the W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test. Testers have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the comprehensive 75 multiple-choice question assessment. The test evaluates instructor's knowledge on topics that are aligned to state & national standards.

Teachers who pass the test earn a Certification in Personal Finance (CPF). The CPF demonstrates proficiency in personal finance. Certified teachers are subsequently encouraged to enroll their schools in the W!se Financial Literacy Certification Program for students.

The W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test will be offered during the 2017 WBEA Conference in Bozeman Montana. Certification will be available on Saturday, February 18, beginning at 1:45 pm. Details regarding certification testing and the WBEA 2017 testing schedule, please visit https://goo.gl/XcmRR4.

Testers MUST bring a personal WIFI enabled device (laptop, iPad, Chromebook…) to test upon. The cost of testing is $50. To participate teachers must register prior to the conference. To register please visit SurveyMonkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZLJ8TZ and complete the registration survey.

Payment for the test can be submitted through PayPal, via the link included in the survey, or by contacting David Anderson of w!se (danderson@wise-ny.org, 212-421-2700). Once registration is complete and payment has been submitted testers will receive the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual via email.

Working in Support of Education (w!se) was founded in 1998 with a mission to improve the lives of young people through programs that develop financial literacy and readiness for college and the workforce.

Fun Facts and Trivia
The official name of Peru is the Republic of Peru.

Modern day Peru has been home to many ancient civilizations, the largest and wealthiest of these was the Incas whose empire ruled for over 100 years until the Spanish arrived in the 16th century.

The Peruvian War of Independence was composed of a series of military conflicts beginning in 1811 that culminated in 1824 with the defeat of the Spanish Empire in the battles of Junin and Ayacucho

Peru celebrates its Independence from the Spanish Empire on the 28th and 29th of July. It is known as 'Fiestas Patrias' which means 'Patriotic Holidays' or 'National Holidays' in Spanish.

Peru shares borders with Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Chile and Bolivia.

Peru contains the second largest segment of the Amazon rainforest after Brazil.

Spanish is the main language in Peru although many also speak the Inca language Quechua. The third official language is Aymara.

The potato is originally from Peru, and there are over 3,000 different varieties. Proud Peruvians use the phrase "Soy mas Peruano que la papa" (I am more Peruvian than the potato).

Peru grows more than 55 varieties of corn, and you can just about find it in any color including yellow, purple, white and black.

Peru is the 6th largest producer of gold.

Cuy or Guinea Pig is a traditional dish eaten in Peru.

The National University of San Marcos is the oldest in the Americas and was founded on the 12th of May of 1551.

The inventor of the first modern rocket propulsion system was a Peruvian named Pedro Paulet.

In Peru, it is tradition to give friends and family yellow underpants on New Year's Eve.

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