

Early-Bird Registration Ends Friday, December 4 for WBEA's 2021 Conference

The [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) [2021 Conference](#) will be held virtually, February 12-14, 2021.

Originally planned for Seattle, the [2021 Conference](#) will continue to be hosted by the Washington State Business Education Association.

The NBEA-member registration rate for the [2021 Conference](#) is \$225 if submitted by December 4.

For complete conference details and to submit your registration, please go to wbea2021.com.

If you would like to submit an idea for workshop, the [Call for Presentations](#) is still open and can be completed at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSft1qFRd7EeE9xVtIhrGx1HzURIdob4H6mV4A7i6Gkq_XIgWQ/view/form. The deadline to submit is December 1.

Scholarships Available to Support Participation in WBEA 2021 Conference

To help support professional development opportunities and leadership development of Business Educators within the western region, the [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) is offering two scholarship opportunities for the upcoming [WBEA 2021 Conference](#).

The [WBEA First-Time Attendee Scholarship](#) supports individuals who will be attending the WBEA conference for the first time when the conference is held February 12-14, 2021. Applicants must: 1) Have never previously attended the annual WBEA conference; 2) Have served or be currently serving on the local State/Territory/Province (S/T/P) board; and 3) Attend the Professional Development Leadership Training (PDLT) session during the conference.

To learn more and to apply, download the [WBEA First-Time Attendee Scholarship application](#).

The [WBEA First-Time Attendee to the PDLT Scholarship](#) supports WBEA members who will be participating in the Professional Development Leadership Training for the first time. The Professional Development Leadership Training (PDLT) is an opportunity to network, energize, and develop leadership skills. Sponsored by WBEA, the PDLT encompasses the Presidents-elect workshop, Membership Directors workshop, and leadership training. All Presidents-elect, Membership Directors, and those interested in leadership training are encouraged to participate in this workshop.

Download the [WBEA First-Time Attendee to the PDLT Scholarship application](#) to learn more and to apply.

Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications: 2021 Native American Career & Technical Education Program (NACTEP) Competition

The U. S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) is pleased to announce the posting in the November 30, 2020, Federal Register of a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the [Native American Career and Technical Education Program](#) (NACTEP).

NACTEP provides grants to improve career and technical education (CTE) programs that are consistent with the purposes of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, as amended by the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (the Act or Perkins V) and that benefit Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The link to the Federal Register Notice is available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/30/2020-26112/applications-for-new-awards-native-american-career-and-technical-education-program-nactep>.

The deadline for the transmittal of applications is January 29, 2021, although the attached Federal Register Notice omitted the date in an error and will be correcting it later this week.

OCTAE will be hosting a webinar for prospective applicants tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2020, at 2:00 pm ET. Further information will be posted to the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) at <https://cte.ed.gov/grants/funding-opportunities>.

Please direct any inquiries regarding the 2021 NACTEP grant opportunity to nactep@ed.gov.

Montana Financial Education Coalition Launches Meme Contest

The [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#) (MFEC) is launching a financial education-themed meme contest that is open to middle school and high school students across Montana.

Students should create an image meme about financial education. Suggested topics include spending and saving, budgeting, building credit, credit-debt cycle traps, credit scores/reports, investing, buying goods and services, earning income, identity theft, or insurance.

All entries must be submitted through the online [meme submission form](#). Students must review the [Meme Contest Rules and Instructions](#) prior to making any submissions. Entries will be judged on originality, importance, and wit/humor.

The submission deadline is 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, December 18, 2020. Finalists will be posted to an album on the MFEC Facebook page.

Voting will kick off on January 6, 2021. The top six memes garnering the most "likes" on Facebook will be eligible for a cash award.

WBEA Awards Program Accepting Nominations thru December 18

Now is the time to nominate and recognize a colleague through the [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) [awards](#) program.

Nominations can be submitted for

- Outstanding Educator at the Middle School, High School, Post-secondary, or University level
- Outstanding Career & Technical Student Organization Advisor
- Distinguished Service
- Distinguished Service Award for a Company, or a Representative of a Company, or Legislator
- Communication Recognition
- Western Business Education Association Recognition Certificate

All details and application materials can be found on the WBEA website at wbea.info/awards.

For questions regarding the WBEA awards program, please contact WBEA Awards & Scholarship Director Joshua Fisher at jfisher@astoria.k12.or.us.

Deadline for WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship Extended to December 18

The Western Business Education Association encourages Business Educators working on an advanced degree to apply for the [WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship](#).

The [WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship](#) is provided to help offset tuition costs for educators who are pursuing an advanced degree to support teaching in the area of Business Education. The amount of the yearly scholarship is determined each year according to availability of funds.

Eligible candidates must meet the following criteria:

- be a current member of an S/T/P and a member of WBEA/NBEA
- be currently engaged in the business/computer education profession in the Western Region
- register for and pass a credit class with a "C" grade or better
- provide proof of payment and a grade sheet or unofficial transcript upon completion of the class to the Professional Development Director

Complete scholarship details can be found on the WEBE website at wbea.info/professional-development.

The deadline to apply for the [WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship](#) is December 18.

For questions, please contact Joshua Fisher, WBEA Awards & Scholarship Director, at jfisher@astoria.k12.or.us.

The Prospects: 2021 High School Business Plan & Pitch Competition Now Open

Administered by the Montana Chamber Foundation, [THE PROSPECTS](#) is a virtual statewide entrepreneurship competition with scholarships, cash, and technology prizes for high school students with new ideas and existing small businesses. All entrants will have opportunities for mentoring and internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning.

[The Prospects](#) is a collaborative initiative and platform for investing in our students by connecting them with business and community leaders. Students are encouraged to display their entrepreneurial spirit with products and services, innovative problem solving, and community or social improvements for Montana (and beyond!). Statewide leaders will act as third-party judges, providing scores and choosing winners, as well as their recommendations, feedback, and potentially employment opportunities.

The submission portal opened on Monday, November 16, 2020, and will close at midnight (MST) on Friday, February 12, 2021.

For complete details about [The Prospects](#) competition, please visit montanachamber.com/prospects.

[The Prospects](#) competition is offered through partnerships between the [Montana Chamber Foundation](#) and [Youth Entrepreneurs](#) and sponsors First Interstate Bank, Montana State Fund, and Northwestern Energy.

Check Out Scratch for Some Creative Coding Activities for CSEdWeek 2020?

Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is right around the corner. Kicking off on December 7, CSEdWeek is designed to spark young people's interest in computer science, often by introducing students to an "Hour of Code" tutorial.

Below you'll find three tutorials to engage learners with a broad range of Scratch experiences. Each tutorial begins with a brief intro video and step-by-step ideas to get the group started. All three educator guides now include tips on facilitating both in-person and remote classes and workshops.

Imagine a World

Imagine a World is a great introductory coding activity and comes with a set of [illustrated activity cards](#) and the new [Imagine a World educator guide](#) to help jumpstart facilitation. What will you and your students imagine?

Code a Cartoon

This tutorial includes a starter project full of characters from Cartoon Network's Craig of the Creek. Code them to jump, fly, and change size. Students can add their own characters and take them on an adventure! Check out the new [Code a Cartoon educator guide](#) for facilitation ideas.

Make it Fly!

Are your learners ready to take their creative coding to a new level? Have them choose a character and program it to fly. Plan a class or workshop with the [Make it Fly educator guide](#).

Looking for more CSEdWeek inspiration?

The [Scratch Ideas page](#) has starter projects, activity cards, tutorials, educator guides, and more to support your [CSEdWeek](#) efforts. We look forward to seeing what your students imagine, create, and share.

Cybersecurity with PLTW—Connecting Students to Opportunity

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is excited to invite you to learn about your role in closing the cybersecurity skills gap as you join a conversation with industry professionals and educators.

On December 8 at 4 pm EST, PLTW hopes you will [join in learning](#) about how Project Lead the Way is creating excitement for computer science in students and teachers across the nation.

Below is a brief agenda for this virtual event:

- Industry Keynote "Closing the Cybersecurity Skills Gap"
- Panel Discussion: "Cybersecurity Education: Connecting Students to Opportunity"
- Visit with PLTW students and teachers about their learning in the PLTW Cybersecurity

The PLTW cybersecurity course teaches students how to identify cybersecurity threats and protect against them as well as to detect intrusions and respond to attacks. Students also examine their digital footprint and learn how organizations protect themselves in today's world. Students take on the roles of different cyber professionals throughout the course as they work in teams to collaboratively solve real-world problems.

[Register](#) today.

New Hour of Code Tutorials, Live Workshops, and Webinars from CodeHS

CSEdWeek 2020 is coming up on December 7-13. Engage your students with new Hour of Code tutorials and interactive workshops showing students how coding can be used to make a positive change in the world.

Register your class for a live Hour of Code workshop hosted by the CodeHS Team. Whether your class is remote or in-person, these workshops are a great way to get students excited about computer science.

Live Hour of Code Workshops include

- Coding for a Litter-Free Community: [Monday, 12/7 @ 19 am MST](#)
- Coding for Data Visualization: [Tuesday, 12/8 @ 12 pm MST](#)
- Coding in Music: [Wednesday, 12/9 @ 9:30 am MST](#)
- Supporting Artists with Code: [Wednesday, 12/9 @ 11 am MST](#)
- Turtle Graphics with Tracy the Turtle: [Thursday, 12/10 @ 9 am MST](#)
- Creating Virtual Worlds: [Friday, 12/11 @ 11 am MST](#)

For more details, visit the [CodeHS 2020 Hour of Code Resources](#) page.

Interested in running an Hour of Code workshop at your school? Join CodeHS for a free webinar to learn about their new Hour of Code tutorials, how to pick the right tutorial for your students, and tips on hosting a successful workshop.

The webinar will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 10 am MST. For more details, please visit the [registration](#) page.

CodeHS has 20+ Free Hour of Code Tutorials. Access a variety of free hour-long tutorials on CodeHS including creating virtual worlds, coding for data visualization, coding for music, building mobile apps, and more. Visit [codehs.com/hourofcode](#) to learn more and access lesson plans for your Hour of Code event.

Just in Time for CS Education Week, CodeBytes Mini-Lessons for a Virtual Hour of Code

The [Hour of Code](#) is a month away, happening this year from December 7-13, 2020, and [Code.org](#) is excited to announce 115 brand-new tutorials and lesson plans. Many activities were created with remote learning in mind to support the various classroom models taking place during this time.

This year, Code.org introduces [CodeBytes](#), new mini-lessons for virtual classrooms Code.org hopes everyone can join them this year for CodeBytes, a brand new series of easy-to-digest, 20 minute interactive lessons that will stream twice daily during Computer Science Education Week, Monday through Friday, December 7-11. If you're planning for a classroom that's gone fully virtual, [CodeBytes](#) are designed to fit smoothly into a distance learning plan. Episodes are tailored to different grade levels.

Whether students have a computer or a smartphone, they can interact with and tune-in to every episode. Each lesson is hosted by Code.org staff and blends computer science with real-world topics, including artificial intelligence and [#CSforGood](#). Take a look at Code.org's [planned activities](#), and add your favorites to your calendar so you do not miss out.

Explore endless computer science topics with brand-new tutorials. This year's activities dive into tons of different CS topics like AI, data processing, and app & game design, as well as programming concepts like events, loops, and variables

Students can [explore the oceans](#) with SciGirls, learn to [code and meditate](#) with CodeSpeak Labs, [build a climate clock](#) with Vidcode, or try out another of the 30+ new #CSforGood themed activities and lesson plans. See them all at [hourofcode.com/learn](#).

No computer? No problem. Code.org has unplugged resources for students. Every student deserves to learn computer science regardless of what technology they have at home. A number of [engaging new unplugged options](#) from our partners at Google, Kodable, iRobot, and elsewhere are available to learners with low or no connectivity or limited device access.

Code.org has also created a printable [Hour of Code Unplugged Activity Packet](#) for ages 4-18. Please include these resources in your next communication to parents and caretakers so that your students can still join this global event.

To make this year's event even more engaging for students, try [inviting a volunteer](#) to speak to your classroom! Many volunteers are eager to help in-person or virtually and are also CS professionals who can speak about their career path.

Whether your students are learning in-person, at home, or a hybrid of both, [Code.org](#) hopes that these resources can make it simpler than ever to bring an Hour of Code to students of all ages. However you choose to participate, Code.org can't thank you enough for your effort and support.

[\\$10,000 Scholarship Opportunity for Your Students from CSTA](#)

The Computer Science Teachers Association & the Association for Computing Machinery are pleased to announce the application period is now open for the CSTA/ACM Cutler-Bell Prize in High School Computing.

If you are a 9–12 computer science educator who is working with high school seniors looking to continue their studies in computer science or technology, tell them to apply for the [\\$10,000 CSTA/ACM Cutler-Bell Prize](#).

These funds will be provided to the university of their choice and they will be honored at CSTA's 2021 Virtual Conference. Up to four (4) scholarships will be awarded. The application period closes on January 12, 2021.

For complete scholarship details, please visit csteachers.org/page/csta-acm-cutler-bell-prize.

[Perkins 2020 Secondary Rural Reserve Grant RFP](#)

The Career & Technical Education unit of the Office of Public Instruction has been awarded some additional funds to help support Montana's smaller schools with additional Perkins dollars.

Purpose: To create career awareness, recruit, and retain students within a CTE Secondary Program of Study that leads to a high skill, high wage, or in-demand occupations.

Awards: Grants of up to \$2,000 each will be available to Secondary Perkins eligible school districts who receive less than \$5,000 in Perkins funding and are considered remote rural schools as defined by NCES.

Schools will have had to complete the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and Perkins E-Grant application as well.

More details are provided in the [Perkins Secondary Rural Reserve Grant application](#).

For more information please email Shannon.boswell@mt.gov.

Fall CTE Data Collections and TEAMS Now Open

The **AIM Fall Career & Technical Education (CTE) Collection** is now open and ends December 31, 2020.

Please review all the AIM user guides for the Fall Enrollment and Program Participation collections on the [AIM User Guides Page](#).

The Fall Career & Technical Education (CTE) Data Collection is a follow-up to the Spring CTE Collection. Students identified as CTE Concentrators in the Spring who graduated in the Class of 2020 must be contacted to identify their status six months *after* high school graduation. For more information, please see the [AIM Fall CTE Collection User Guide](#) and the [recorded webinar](#) on this collection.

Applications Now Open in Montana for Code.org Professional Learning Program

Applications are now open for the [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators! If you're interested in teaching computer science for the 2021-2022 academic year, this is the time to explore CS curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies.

CS Discoveries Workshops

--June 21-25, 2021 in Helena (specific location TBD)

--August 9-13, 2021 for Montana, Oregon, & Washington teachers (all-virtual)

CS Principles Workshops

--June 21- 25, 2021 in Helena (specific location TBD)

--August 9-13, 2021 for Montana, Oregon, & Washington teachers (all-virtual)

Scholarships are available to support Montana teacher participation.

What is the [Professional Learning Program](#)? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, Code.org 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. You do not need previous experience teaching CS and most workshops have scholarship funding available.

Whether teaching in-person or remotely, educators across the country have been able to bring creativity, fun, and problem-solving to their students through computer science. All workshops will take place in accordance with local state guidelines regarding social distancing, so [apply today](#).

[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 5-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries and Principles in the summer, with quarterly meetings thereafter.

Thank you for your hard work to prepare students for the future. If you have any questions, please contact [Code.org](#).

Fun Facts and Trivia

Leaf fish are a South American species known for its close resemblance in both appearance and swimming behavior to a dead, drifting leaf.

Leaf fish are also called leaf scorpionfish.

Leaf fish have an unusual shape, it is flattened from side to side.

Leaf fish rock from side-to-side or back and forth to mimic a piece of plant material resting on the sea floor.

It is an ambush predator, waiting until suitable prey, a small fish or shrimp, approaches.

Leaf fish are about three-four inches long.

The overall coloration of leaf fish can be black, maroon, red, brown, tan, bright yellow or white, with dark or light mottling.

Their color can change slightly as a result of shedding of the cuticle, which occurs quite frequently, or if they are moved from a light to darker background or vice-versa.

Leaf fish molt about every 10 to 14 days.

Leaf fish have a serrated dorsal and rear fins resembling the saw edges of leaves and a chin barbel that looks like a broken leaf stem.

Leaf fish have appendages around the mouth, and sometimes real algae and hydroids grow on its skin.

Leaf fish live in quiet waters, drifting about, often head down, and propelling itself with a transparent tail and pectoral fins.

When feeding, leaf fish await an unsuspecting small fish or moves toward it slowly, taking it with a sudden gape of the huge mouth.

Leaf fish eat small crustaceans, fishes, and larvae.

Leaf fish are members of the Nandidae family.

Leaf fish will often sit at the mouth of caves or crevices so if threatened, it can then duck into the nearby refuge.

Leaf fish regularly occur in pairs.

In most pairs, one individual is larger than the other, suggesting size is related to being male or female.

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