



Business & Marketing Education



January 6, 2021

Wednesday Reader

Mark Your Calendar for the Next MCEE Teacher Talk—January 13

As promised when the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) convened their first group of teachers for our online professional development this summer, they wanted to adapt and offer programming that added value and evolved based on feedback.

MCEE has received encouragement to continue the monthly check-in opportunities, but to focus on different topics that could be more relevant to different classroom experiences.

In January, MCEE will bring the focus to teachers working in Economics and the best tools/methods in delivering economic fundamentals either in person or remotely in today's C19 environment and the uncertainties of attendance.

[Economics - Wednesday, January 13 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.](#)

Click the link above to register. If you have topics you want highlighted for February, March or April, please email Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

Exclusive Scholarship Opportunity for Your Accounting Students

Applications for the 2021-22 AICPA Foundation High School Scholarship are open until March 1, 2021.

The AICPA Foundation will provide \$2,000 to 10 students who intend to continue their accounting studies at an accredited college or university, and who have taken an advanced high school accounting course taught by you as a part of the APBP program. Selected recipients will be awarded this scholarship during June-July of 2021 for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 academic year.

Eligible students must be/have:

- Taken an advanced accounting course taught by an APBP-trained educator.
- The nomination of a registered educator or school counselor at StartHereGoPlaces.com or nomination by a current AICPA member.

- Proof of acceptance into a public or private, not-for-profit (501(c)) two or four-year accredited college or university located in the U.S. states or territories for the full 2021-22 academic year. Selected recipients must provide proof before the award is paid in summer 2021.
- Maintained a GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
- Enrolling as a full-time undergraduate (12 semester hours or equivalent) for the full 2021-22 academic year.
- A registered High School student on the [Start Here, Go Places](#).
- A U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder).
- Some financial need (i.e., not receiving a full or partial scholarship(s) and/or grant(s) that cover and/or exceed student's educational expenses)
- Note: AICPA staff and their family members are not eligible to receive this scholarship.

Eligible students can apply online [here](#). Applications will be accepted from until March 1, 2021.

NGPF's Winter Nearpod License Grant Application is Open

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is excited to announce they will be providing more Nearpod license grants. Given the number of applications received in 2020, NGPF thought you, or a fellow personal finance teacher, may be interested in this opportunity.

If you are chosen as a recipient, you will get access to one School/District level Nearpod license with all of the bells and whistles including access to Nearpod's 8,500+ pre-created Nearpod lessons. You will also have easy access to NGPF's 9-Week and Semester course Nearpod lessons.

Both NGPF and Nearpod recognize the time and effort educators have put into making sure lessons are both engaging and rigorous for your students. NGPF hopes having access to a student engagement platform like Nearpod will provide you with more instructional options in your classroom whether in-person or virtual.

Complete the [application](#) by Friday, January 15, 2021.

Factors that will be considered while reviewing applications:

- *Whether you are teaching personal finance or a finance-related course*
- *Nearpod experience*
- *Participation in NGPF Nearpod PDs*
- *Your WHY*

Applicants will be notified by Friday, January 22, 2021.

Reach Higher Montana Launches Annual Scholarship—Students can Earn \$1,000 Scholarship

Do you know a student who could use \$1,000 to help pay for their education? The Reach Higher Montana Scholarship program opened on December 1, 2020, at www.ReachHigherMontana.org.

The deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.

This year, the Montana-based nonprofit organization will award 81 scholarships—30 awards for Class of 2021 graduating high school seniors, and 50 awards for students currently attending a Montana college or university for use in the 2021-2022 academic year.

In addition, one \$1,000 scholarship is earmarked for a current college student who has, or is currently, serving in the military. “The Carl Valvoda Military Scholarship is awarded in memory of Carl Valvoda, the son and husband of two former co-workers, who passed away due to a brain tumor,” said Rhonda Safford, Reach Higher Montana Programs Manager.

To be eligible for the scholarship, all applicants must have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, be attending or have graduated from a Montana high school, and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2021-2022. Scholarships may only be used at Montana postsecondary education institutions, including private and tribal colleges, and two-year, four-year, and university campuses. Scholarship funds are awarded directly to the colleges and can be applied towards any elements of the recipient’s cost of attendance as calculated by the financial aid office.

Students interested in applying for the Reach Higher Montana scholarships are cautioned to watch carefully which application they are completing—high school students need to complete the high school application; current college students need to complete the current college student application.

The [Reach Higher Montana website](http://www.ReachHigherMontana.org) provides access to hundreds of scholarships, and the organization posts new scholarship opportunities on its Facebook and Instagram pages every Thursday.

For more information, please visit Reach Higher Montana’s website, www.ReachHigherMontana.org.

The Prospects: 2021 High School Business Plan & Pitch Competition 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.

Resources & Events for the New Year from EVERFI

[Sustainability Foundations](#) and [Plants, Animals, and Our World](#) (grades 5-8) introduces students to the basics of sustainability (human health, global resource constraints, animal welfare), focusing on the choices learners can make every day. All courses that are part of the sustainability curriculum will introduce learners to concepts that relate to environmental, material, and life sciences.

[Vaping: Know the truth](#) (grades 8-12) With one-third of high school students vaping, educating our youth about the dangers and harms is critical. Vaping: Know the truth is a prevention-forward digital learning experience that gives today's students core knowledge around the dangers associated with e-cigarettes. In this course, students will learn how the marketing of e-cigarettes targets young consumers, as well as how use of the products can impact their health. Students will learn refusal skills as well as ways to seek out and utilize support services that are available for those young people who already vape and are looking to quit.

[Virtual Science Fair](#): From now until January 15, 2021, the NHL & NHLPA are launching the Future Goals™ Virtual Science Fair to provide an opportunity for students to creatively apply their learned knowledge from the Future Goals - Hockey Scholar program. Students will have the chance to showcase their STEM skills to take home an NHL® STEM-At-Home Prize Pack and impact the future of hockey.

[EVERFI's new LearnOn Channel](#): The education space is evolving, and teachers around the world are making magical moments in response. If you are energized by celebrating lifelong learning through shared wins, professional development and educational technology, EVERFI hopes you check out the community #LearnOn. Tune in each Friday as educators and experts #LearnOn together.

Computer Science PD Workshops Offered by AVID in Partnership with CODE.org

Are you looking to grow your computer science teaching skills? Join the Montana-based workshops with other educators from your region. 98% of teachers recommend our

engaging professional learning programs to teach computer science. Spaces are limited, so apply today.

[K–5 Educators: Computer Science Fundamentals](#) Designed to be fun and engaging, Code.org’s progression of Computer Science Fundamentals courses blend online and “unplugged” non-computer activities to teach students computational thinking, problem solving, programming concepts and digital citizenship

- Dates: February 9 & 16, 2021
- Time: 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- Location: Virtual/Online

Learn More at [Code.org](#).

[6–10 Grade Educators: Computer Science Discoveries](#) Mapped to CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

- Dates: June 21-25, 2021
- Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Location: Helena, MT (location TBD)
- Dates: August 9-13, 2021
- Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Location: Virtual/Online

Learn More at [Code.org](#).

[9–12 Grade Educators: Computer Science Principles](#) This course introduces educators to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. It is rigorous, engaging, and approachable, all while exploring many of the foundational ideas of computing to explain how these concepts are transforming the world in which we live.

- Dates: June 21-25, 2021
- Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Location: Helena, MT (location TBD)
- Dates: August 9-13, 2021
- Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Location: Virtual/Online
- Learn More at [Code.org](#).

Renewal units will be offered. For questions, please contact Ty Stevenson, AVID/Code.org Product Manager, at tstevenson@avid.org or 206.390.2829.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Oscar Fish is a member of the Cichlid family, which is one of the largest vertebrate families and it contains diverse fish.

The scientific name of Oscar Fish is *Astronotus Ocellatus*.

Oscar Fish are native to the Amazon Basin of Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, and French Guiana.

In its natural habitat, Oscar Fish usually stay in slow-moving water where there is a lot of plant matter.

Due to the ornamental fish trade Oscar Fish have also been introduced to other areas, including India, China, Australia, and the United States.

It is considered a popular aquarium fish in Europe and the U.S.

Oscar Fish have teeth, but they are not very sharp.

Oscar Fish actually have two sets of teeth—one in the back of their mouth, and the second set is located in their throat.

Oscar Fish are suction feeders which basically means that their teeth are not meant to tear down their prey instead they are there just for grasping their prey.

Oscar Fish tear down their prey with the set of teeth that are located in their throat.

Oscar Fish grow fast at a rate of 1 inch per month, growing up to 18 inches in the wild and 12-13 inches in captivity.

Oscar Fish feed on seafood like tuna and salmon and they also enjoy eating mussels and cockles.

Oscar Fish also eat fruits and vegetable.

Oscar Fish are monomorphic fish, meaning the male and female fish look exactly the same.

A small Oscar Fish can lay up to 500 eggs with a large Oscar Fish laying up to 3000 eggs within few days.

The female mouths the eggs and coat them with antibacterial mucus; the female will also eat the infertile eggs.

The male Oscar protects the eggs from other species of fish.

For questions, please contact:

[Eric Swenson](#), Business Education Specialist - 406.444.7991

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Relay Service: 711.
