



Business & Marketing Education



February 17, 2021

Wednesday Reader

Two Montana Business Educators Elected to WBEA Offices

The [Western Business Education Association](#) 2021 Conference was held virtually this year, February 12-14. Hosted by the Washington State Business Education Association, the 2021 virtual conference featured three days of workshops, the annual WBEA Awards Session, and the 2021 meeting of the WBEA Executive Board.

During the WBEA Executive Board meeting, the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) was represented by President Mandy Wichman (Hobson) and President-elect Stephanie Hess (Ennis). Additionally, Business Education Specialist Eric Swenson participated in the WBEA Executive Board meeting as the WBEA Secretary. One item of business was the election of WBEA officers for 2021-2022 with two Montana Business Educators elected to office as Eric Swenson was elected WBEA President-elect and Mandy Wichman was elected the new WBEA Secretary.

Mark your calendars for the WBEA 2022 Conference, February 18-20, in Seattle at the Seattle Marriott Waterfront.

Apply Now for the Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the quality educator loan assistance program as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The Office of Public Instruction is responsible for administering the program. Applications for the [Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program](#) will be accepted from February 15-March 31, 2021.

Newly hired quality educators who teach or work in a subject that has been identified as a “critical quality educator shortage area” at an “impacted school” are eligible to receive state paid loan assistance for up to four years, so long as they remain a full-time employee at an impacted school.

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. In addition, the school district has the option to offer up to \$5,000 at the end of the fourth year, but this is entirely a local decision.

[See the Quality Educator Loan Assistance FAQ's](#) for information on the criteria, applying, the list of impacted schools, and quality educator shortage areas.

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.

OPI Conducting a Professional Learning Needs Survey

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is requesting your feedback on the numerous professional learning opportunities offered by the OPI. Please visit the [2021-2022 OPI Professional Learning Needs landing page](#) to learn more about this feedback opportunity.

This data will help OPI meet the needs of Montana's educators.

Please complete the survey by the end of the day Friday, February 26.

Please share this request and survey link with your co-workers.

Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam® Grant—Receive up to \$10,000

The [Lemelson-MIT Program](#) is searching for high school STEM or Career and Technical Educators who could receive a \$10K InvenTeam® grant. Many teachers who pursued this opportunity report the InvenTeam experience enriched their teaching and was life changing for students, often inspiring them to pursue STEM pathways in college, despite having little or no prior STEM exposure.

InvenTeams are teams of high school students, educators, and mentors that receive grants up to \$10,000 to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. Each InvenTeam chooses its own problem to solve.

The deadline to apply is April 5, 2021.

Registration for CSTA 2021 is Open to All Members

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) is excited to announce registration for [CSTA 2021](#) is now open for all members.

This year's conference spans two and a half days full of amazing CSTA sessions. With over 150 presentations, there is tons of new content to help you inspire your students.

Register early to ensure you receive this year's swag box (U.S. and Canada residents only) and do not miss out on the fun.

The [CSTA 2021 Virtual Conference](#) will be July 14-16.

If you are not a CSTA member, you can become a [CSTA Basic Member](#) for free.

Apply Today for a CSTA 2021 Conference Scholarship

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) prides itself in promoting equitable access to the [CSTA Annual Conference](#) by offering [scholarships](#) that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers whose limited financial resources may prevent them from attending. The goal is to support as many teachers as possible.

To be eligible for [scholarships](#) to the 2021 CSTA Conference, you must:

1. be a [CSTA Basic \(free\) or CSTA+ member](#),
2. directly teach computer science to K-12 students, and
3. not have access to funding from your school or organization to cover conference registration fees.

Applications close on April 30, 2021.

Montana Teacher of the Year 2022 Nominations and Applications Open

The mission of the [Montana Teacher of the Year program](#) is to elevate student success by empowering classroom innovation and enhancing pathways to teacher leadership.

- The Teacher of the Year program elevates student success by celebrating teachers who honor individual student strengths and each child's unique abilities.
- The Teacher of the Year program empowers classroom innovation by recognizing teachers who are responsive to the complex realities that define Montana's diverse and unique classrooms across the state.
- The Teacher of the Year program enhances pathways to teacher leadership by creating teacher ambassadors at the local, state, and national level to connect classrooms to the community.

The Montana Teacher of the Year Program is part of the National Teacher of the Year Program conducted by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), of which Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction is a member. Diverse statewide selection committees review and interview applicants to determine the finalists and ultimately the Montana Teacher of the Year who then competes at the national level to become CCSSO's National Teacher of the Year. Please [visit the National Teacher of the Year website](#) for more information.

All active Montana K-12 teachers who are making a positive difference for students in their community are encouraged to apply.

Teachers can self-nominate by filling out [an application](#) or any member of the public can fill out an [online nomination form](#) for a Montana teacher they feel is qualified. The OPI will then reach out to the nominated teacher and ask that they complete an application.

- [Nomination forms](#) are due to the OPI by May 14, 2021.
 - [Applications](#) are due by June 18, 2021.
 - Complete applications must be emailed to MTTOY@mt.gov.
-

UM President's Lecture Series with Dr. Beverly Tatum: A Virtual Conversation about Race and Racism

The University of Montana invites all Montana educators to join in the upcoming President's Lecture service, [A Virtual Conversation about Race and Racism](#) with Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum.

The virtual lecture will be held Wednesday, March 3, from 12-1:15 pm (MST). The session will be moderated by Moderated by Dr. Karla Bird, President, Blackfeet Community College.

Dr. Tatum, president emerita of Spelman College, is a clinical psychologist widely known for her expertise on race relations and as a thought leader in higher education. She is the author of several books, including the best-selling modern classic "*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*" and *Other Conversations About Race* (now in a 2017 20th anniversary edition), and "*Can We Talk About Race?*" and *Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation* (2007). Dr. Tatum is a sought-after speaker on the topics of racial identity development, race and education, and strategies for creating inclusive educational environments for learners of all ages.

Participants will need to [RSVP in advance](#).

UM is offering OPI Renewal Unit for teachers. Please contact [Randi Edwards](#) in advance if you plan to take advantage of this opportunity.

UM has created a [resource page](#) to support building inclusive communities and to further the conversation around Dr. Tatum's work.

ACTE's 2021 CareerTech VISION is Going to New Orleans & Going Hybrid

Mark your calendars for the [Association for Career & Technical Education's](#) 2021 [CareerTech VISION](#) conference, December 1-4, 2021. This year's VISION will be held in New Orleans; however, if you are not able to make the trip to the Big Easy, ACTE is also offering a virtual option to participate.

Now a hybrid conference with online and live on-site programming in New Orleans, Louisiana, ACTE's [CareerTech VISION](#) is the must-attend event for career and technical educators, industry representatives and business leaders. The most comprehensive professional development and networking event of its kind in the nation, you will connect, collaborate, and build lasting friendships with thousands of career and technical education (CTE) professionals transforming students' lives every single day.

This year's event will feature:

- Renowned keynote speakers exploring new directions in CTE.
- Hundreds of sessions covering high-quality secondary and postsecondary CTE.
- Inclusion, access, equity and diversity in CTE, and culturally responsive CTE environments and classrooms.
- Strategies for thriving in virtual, hybrid and in-person settings in a post-COVID-19 world.
- New innovations in online and distance learning for CTE.
- Live product demonstrations, exhibitor workshops and the most comprehensive collection of CTE products and services in the CareerTech Expo.
- Workshops offering insights into focused topics and CTE programming.
- The ACTE Awards Gala, a heartwarming and inspirational gathering of dedicated and passionate CTE professionals and supporters.

ACTE's unveiling of the VISION agenda is coming soon. Find more information on the [CareerTech VISION site](#).

Business Teacher Looking for Extra Accounting Simulations

Florence-Carlton High School Business teacher Keri Briney is in need of some additional Accounting simulation packets.

Keri is looking for eight (8) additional copies of Electro Inc, a simulation for the multicolumn journal edition of Century 21 Accounting.

If you have copies you could send to Keri, please contact her at brineyk@florence.k12.mt.us.

The 2021 National Policy Seminar is Going Virtual—Register Today

The [2021 National Policy Seminar](#) will be held February 22-26. The National Policy Seminar, which traditionally brings Career & Technical Education (CTE) professionals and CTE advocates to Washington, DC, will be conducted in a virtual format this year.

Join CTE professionals from across the nation to engage virtually on key policy topics:

- Hot topics in the 117th Congress
- Biden administration official welcome with a preview of education policy priorities
- Outlook and news from members of Congress working on CTE issues for key committees
- Best practices in influencing federal policy related to CTE advocacy and messaging
- Virtual Hill and school visits

Association for Career & Technical Education members may register for the [2021 National Policy Seminar](#) at a member-rate of \$125.

Please visit the [2021 National Policy Seminar](#) page of the [ACTE website](#) to view the draft agenda and to [register](#).

Mark Your Calendars for the ACTE Work-Based Learning Hybrid Conference—April 29 & 30

The Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) will be hosting the [2021 Work-Based Learning Conference](#) in both an in-person and virtual model, April 29 and 30.

This special event, co-hosted by the Iowa Work-Based Learning Organization and ACTE, is a national work-based learning conference focused on supporting the delivery of quality experiences that foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field.

The [Work-Based Learning Conference](#) will feature over 40 work-based learning topics and will include the ACTE Work-Based Learning Policy meeting, committee meetings, and regional work-based learning receptions.

If you can attend in-person, the conference will be held on the Ankeny Campus of the Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa. The ACTE-member registration rate for the in-person option is \$250. If traveling to Iowa is not an option, you can register as a virtual participant. The ACTE-member registration rate if participating virtually is \$150.

To learn more about the conference, please visit the [ACTE Work-Based Learning Conference page](#).

ISTELive 21—Registration is Now Open for ISTE's 2021 Virtual Conference

Registration for [ISTELive 21](#), happening virtually June 26-30, is now open. This fully immersive online event is where you will get the strategies you need to move from surviving disruption to reimagining learning. [ISTELive 21](#) is where you will join a global corps of educators to discover fresh approaches and share cutting-edge ideas, all focused on ensuring your students are prepared to meet the challenges of the moment.

Whether you are looking for guidance on a student filmmaking project, want to learn how to incorporate computational thinking into literature, or are eager to hear from a district leader who has pulled off a complicated tech initiative, there is something for you regardless of your role, grade level or subject area.

This summer, gather with educators worldwide on our custom-built platform where you will learn from experts, communicate with each other in real time and access a rich archive of over 1,000 learning experiences that you can return to again and again for six months.

More than 13,000 participants attended ISTE20 Live, ISTE's first-ever virtual event, and the response was overwhelmingly positive:

[Register](#) by March 1 to get the lowest price of the year. Plus, get more value by choosing the Educator Virtual Journey, which allows you to bundle the conference with the Summer Learning Academy and Creative Constructor Lab.

Visit the [ISTELive 21](#) conference website for more details and registration pricing.

ACTE Region V 2021 Conference Going Virtual

Hosted by Nevada ACTE, the [2021 ACTE Region V Conference](#) will be held virtually, April 15-17.

Early registration is now open and can be completed [online](#). The early registration rate for ACTE members is \$199 and ends April 1. After April 1, the registration rate increases to \$299.

Preliminary details can be found on the [2021 ACTE Region V Conference](#) website.

For questions regarding the 2021 conference, please contact Jennifer Fisk at fiskje@nv.ccsd.net.

Access to the 2021 Revised Montana Content Standards

The newly adopted standards for Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, Library Media, Social Studies, and Technology Integration are now posted in spreadsheet form on the [K-12 Content Standards & Revision Webpage](#).

See individual content area pages to access the standards and other helpful information.

Each standard spreadsheet includes K-12 as well as grade-level sheets.

Model curriculum guides, professional development, and resources will be added throughout 2021.

Districts should consider their five-year curriculum review cycle in order to plan for a staggered approach to aligning to new standards. The implementation date for the new standards begins July 1, 2021.

March 1 is the Deadline for AICPA Foundation Scholarship Applications

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 United 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 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 until March 1, 2021.

NBEA 2021 Convention—Attend in New Orleans or Virtually

This year, the [National Business Education Association](#) is offering the option to participate in the [2021 Annual Convention](#) either in-person or virtually.

The NBEA 2021 Annual Convention will take place March 30-April 2 in New Orleans, Louisiana, at The Marriott New Orleans. If you cannot or are not yet ready to travel, NBEA is also allowing participation from your home, home office, or classroom through Zoom.

Early-bird registration for the NBEA 2021 Annual Convention runs through March 1. If you are planning to attend on-site in New Orleans, the rooming block at The Marriott New Orleans closes on March 5.

For complete details, including a tentative schedule of events and registration and hotel rates, please visit the [2021 Annual Convention site](#).

Computer Science PD for Montana High School Teachers—Register by March 1 to get Priority Consideration for Funding

Four Computer Sciences courses will be offered during Summer 2021. Generous stipends and travel support will be available.

Register for the Summer 2021 courses [here](#). Registrations completed by March 1, 2021, will receive priority consideration for funding.

Mobile CSP

Mobile CSP is based on the College Board's emerging Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles curriculum framework for introductory computer science. Students learn programming and computer science principles by building socially useful mobile apps using MIT's App Inventor.

Details at mobile-csp.org.

- Questions? Contact Stacy Dolderer at stacy_dolderer@gfps.k12.mt.us
- Location: TBD
- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC)

This course provides an overview of the world of computing, as well as a gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language. It examines the computing field, how it impacts the human condition, and introduces exciting ideas and influential people. The course can be taught for dual enrollment.

- Questions? Contact Jeff Braun at jbrown@mtech.edu
- Location: TBD
- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Python Modules for Math and Science

Learn how to integrate modules that emphasize Python programming and computational thinking into high school science and math classes. Modules are fully developed and ready to go. They vary in length and difficulty. Opportunities to develop custom modules for your own classes will be provided and supported.

- Questions? Contact Yolanda Reimer at yolanda.reimer@mso.umt.edu
- Location: TBD
- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Game Programming

This course focuses on game programming using [Unity](#).

- Questions? Contact Hunter Lloyd at hunter.lloyd@montana.edu
- Location: TBD
- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Additional details available on the [Montana Teachers—Summer 2021 PD site](#).

Faculty Affiliates: University of Montana, Salish-Kootenai College, Montana Tech, and Montana State University. Project funded by the Gianforte Family Foundation.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Unicorn fish are traditionally found along coral reefs of the Indo-Pacific region.

There are 17 different species of unicorn fish.

Unicorn fish are mainly active in the daytime and travel in groups feeding on algae.

Unicorn fish also feed on zooplankton, such as crab larvae, and other small invertebrates.

The unicorn fish is easily identified by the bony horn on its forehead, in front of the eyes; however, not all species exhibit this horn.

There are two plates on either side of the tail with razor-sharp spines (scalpels) that are used both offensively and defensively, against one another in struggles for dominance or against predators.

Unicorn fish come in slender, tubular shapes, as well as the more typical flattened form.

The horn-like appendage between the eyes begins growing when a young fish reaches about five inches in length and tends to be a little bigger on males.

The unicorn fish does not use its horn for defense, but rather its sharp tail spines.

Unicorn fish have the amazing ability to change its color almost instantly depending on its environment and its mood.

The mouth of the unicorn fish is designed to carefully remove algae from coral while leaving the coral intact.

The fine row of sharp, small teeth of the unicorn fish makes short work of removing algae from coral.

Two species of unicorn fish are common in Hawai'i: the bluespine unicorn fish, or kala in Hawaiian, and sleek unicorn fish, or opelu kala in Hawaiian.

Kala is grey to bluish green and is characterized by a long horn projecting from between the eyes and extending out to the front of the mouth.

The opelu kala is grey to greenish brown and does not have a horn.

For questions, please contact:

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

The OPI is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation, require an alternate format, or have questions concerning accessibility, contact the OPI ADA Coordinator, 406-444-3161, opiada@mt.gov, Relay Service: 711.
