

THE WEDNESDAY READER

September 8, 2021

Registration is Now Open for the Montana ACTE Fall Institute 2021

The leadership team of the [Montana Association for Career & Technical Education](#) (Montana ACTE) invites you to join them in Bozeman for the [Montana ACTE Fall Institute 2021](#).

The Montana ACTE Fall Institute is the yearly state-level Career & Technical Education (CTE) event for all Montana CTE professionals. This year's [Fall Institute](#) will be held at Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman, October 21-22.

The early-bird registration rate for ACTE members is \$145 and is valid through September 15. First-time attendees can register at a discounted rate of \$85 (if registered by September 15). Lodging can be booked at the GranTree Inn at \$95/per night plus taxes using the group code MACTE21. The conference room block ends September 30.

A complete [2021 Registration Packet](#) can be downloaded from the [Professional Development](#) page of the Montana ACTE website.

NGPF Announces Registration for Cohort #16 Certification Courses

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is now accepting [registrations](#) for the next round of certification courses.

[NGPF Certification Courses](#) are a perfect way to become well-versed in personal finance topics and:

- Increase your confidence in your personal finance content knowledge
- Have ready-to-implement resources to bring to your students
- Empower yourself as an expert at your school site
- Earn a Certification Badge to share on your email signature, resume, and LinkedIn
- Continue earning your credits for [NGPF Academy](#) this Fall.

Complete courses over five weeks, totaling nine hours, to become certified in specific personal finance topics. Certification courses offered to educators for free.

Five courses are available during this cohort:

- Psychology of Money
- Behavioral Finance
- Insurance
- Career
- Taxes

[NGPF Certification Courses](#) beginning September 13.

Sketchup Available for Schools for Free

[SketchUp](#) is professional and full-featured 3D modeling and design software that is used by various industries and makers to visualize and design everything from buildings to 3D printed parts. Trimble, the company that offers Sketchup, offers two no-cost options for public K-12 schools to use this product.

Option 1: Obtain FREE [Sketchup Pro](#) Licenses by visiting the OPI's School Discount Programs web page and click on the Request FREE Sketchup Pro Licenses [request form](#) and follow the instructions to obtain

FREE licenses for your district. Keep in mind Sketchup Pro is a full-featured desktop-based application that requires a relatively robust Windows- or Apple-based PC to run. Click [here](#) for more information on requirements.

Option 2: Obtain FREE [Sketchup for Schools](#) access if your district uses either Google G Suite for Education or Microsoft Education accounts. Click [here](#) to get started and see if you are eligible. Sketchup for Schools is a web-based application that runs on a web-browser, no computer needed.

Visit the OPI's School Discount Programs [page](#) for more information and other discounts available to districts.

Questions? Contact Michael Sweeney, OPI Chief Data Officer, at 406.444.4411 or msweeney@mt.gov.

Applications Now Being Accepted for the National Center for Women and Information Technology

This is the 10th year.

For a number of years, the NCWIT (National Center for Women and Information Technology) has given national awards to high school girls. The [NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing](#) is for young women with aspirations and achievements in technology and computing.

This year will be the tenth year that there also will be a Montana contest for Montana girls. The time to submit applications is September 1-November 5 and application materials can be found [here](#).

There are many qualified high school girls that would apply if they just had a little push from a leader like you. Any interested female high school student would need to fill in the online application, and get a parent and a school official to approve it to be entered into both the national and Montana contests.

Montana has had winners from high schools in Absarokee, Anaconda, Arlee, Beaverhead, Billings Senior, Billings West, Bozeman, Bozeman Petra, Broadwater, Butte, Cascade, Cut Bank, Great Fall High, Hamilton, Helena Capital, Helena High, Hobson, Jefferson High, Libby, Missoula Big Sky, Missoula Hellgate, Missoula Sentinel, Noxon, Park County, Red Lodge, Seeley-Swan, Sidney, Simms, and Whitefish High Schools.

The NCWIT hopes your school will be represented on the winners list this year, but girls have to apply.

We are looking forward to recognizing Montana's talent, and hope that you would encourage the young women that you know to apply. Sometimes all they need is a little encouragement and you are the person to provide that.

P.S. There also is a Montana educator award (with \$250 for professional development) given each year. Do you know a good teacher that you should encourage to apply (maybe you?)? Encourage them to go to [apply](#).

Questions? Visit the Aspirations in Computing [FAQ](#) page.

Presidential Scholars Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open for the [2022 Presidential Scholars program](#). You may nominate up to 10 males and 10 females for a total of 20 students for the general component of the program, and an additional five students for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) portion.

In the general category, nominations are encouraged for students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship, but might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT, Arts, or CTE recognition processes. All high school seniors graduating between January and August 2022, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, independent schools, or home schools are eligible. The 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

In the CTE category, all high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and August 2022, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial, independent, or home schools are eligible. Candidates will be reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals experienced in CTE; 60 applicants to be named as semifinalists. The 60 CTE semifinalist applications will then be reviewed by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. All 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Nominations are due November 24, 2021. Contact the U.S. Presidential Scholar program staff in October for follow-up submissions instructions. All nominees will be announced and invited to apply in January 2022 by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Office; therefore, you do not need to contact your candidate(s). Completed applications will be due in February 2022; Scholars will be announced by mid-May 2022.

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, its criteria, and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, click [here](#).

Questions? Contact Executive Director Simone Olson at 202.205.8719 or Simone.Olson@ed.gov.

Updated Business Ed & CTE Resources Available for Download & for Your Binder

Over the summer, the [Framework for Business Education in Montana](#) (item #2 in the shared folder) was updated for the *new National Standards for Business Education* released September 2020. The Framework includes both a vertical alignment to the new national standards as well as a crosswalk.

The crosswalks within the Framework for the Business Professionals of America and DECA competitive events will be updated within the next couple of weeks as soon as competitive event materials are released.

Also this summer, the new [Montana K-12 Content Standards for Career and Technical Education](#) (item #8 in the shared folder) became official as of July 1. To assist in utilizing the new CTE standards, I have developed a guide with some information and background details regarding the rewriting of the standards and it includes a listing of the standards by each standard to see the progression from grades K-12 and a listing of the grade-level specific standards. Thank you to our Montana Business & Marketing Education professionals who were part of the writing team for the new CTE standards, Tara Berg (Harlowton) and Dana Grunehoff (Noxon).

As the new Montana CTE Standards are based upon the 12 Career Ready Practices of the [Common Career Technical Core](#), I am updating Montana Business Education Curriculum Resources binders to include the Montana CTE Standards as the fourth section, replacing the Common Career Technical Core. Feel free to keep the Common Career Technical Core in your binders as reference and to aid in pathway development.

You can download this resources, as well as the Montana Business Education Planner Calendar for 2021-2022 and the Montana OPI TEAMS K-12 Course Codes, Business & Marketing Education Reference Manual at bit.ly/MTBusEd21-22.

NICE K-12 Cybersecurity Virtual Conference—Early-Bird Registration Opens Today, Sept. 1

The 2021 National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) [K12 Virtual Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) takes place December 6-7, 2021. Pre-Conference Workshops will take place on December 4-5.

This year's event will provide you with education and learning tools you can use immediately in your classroom. You can access it all from the convenience of your home or office.

THE [2021 NICE K12 Conference](#) will be jam-packed with keynote speakers, presentations, panels, and break-out sessions covering five tracks:

- Track 1: Increasing Cybersecurity Career Awareness
- Track 2: Engaging Students Where Disciplines Converge
- Track 3: Stimulating Innovative Cybersecurity Educational Approaches
- Track 4: Promoting Cybersecurity Career Pathways
- Track 5: Promoting Cyber Awareness

The conference agenda will include both live virtual sessions and on-demand video content. All of the content will be available to attendees for up to a year post-event. Plus, abundant networking opportunities including discussion boards, social groups, one-on-one meetups, gamification, and more.

Join your fellow educators, administrators, school counselors, students, and representatives from government and industry at what is sure to be an awesome event. The [\\$125 Early Bird Registration](#) pricing lasts only until October 31, 2021. Full price tickets are \$150.

Register Today for the FREE New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2021

The Office of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting a New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop via three (3) sessions—two (2) virtually and one (1) live, in-person—beginning Tuesday, September 21, via Zoom.

The New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2021 focuses on early-career professionals—specifically Career & Technical Education professionals within the first five (5) years in a Montana Career & Technical Education classroom. Additionally, Montana CTE professionals who have participated in the past are invited to attend to enhance their classroom skills and knowledge of Career & Technical Education. School administrators and counselors who maybe new to or want to learn more about Career & Technical Education in Montana are also invited to attend.

This FREE professional learning opportunity will provide attendees with information on a variety of topics related to Career & Technical Education including

- Advisory committees,
- Classroom safety & liability,
- CTE and program-area standards and guidelines,
- Dual Enrollment,
- Instructional strategies for the CTE classroom,
- Managing and marketing local Career and Technical Student Organizations,
- Montana Career Pathways,
- Perkins funding,
- Professional development organizations,
- State CTE funding & data reporting,
- Work-Based Learning, and
- Workplace Skills through your CTSOs.

The hybrid workshop will be held virtually Tuesday afternoon September 21 and October 12, and live, in-person, on Wednesday, October 20 in Bozeman at the GranTree Inn.

The workshop is offered free of charge and up to seven (7) OPI Renewal Units will be offered.

Additional details about the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2021, including a schedule of events, is available on the [Secondary CTE](#) page of the OPI website (scroll down the page to find and download the flyer).

Registration for the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2021 can be completed and submitted online at bit.ly/NewCTE2021. Registrants will receive a packet of materials onsite in Bozeman on Wednesday, October 20. To be included in the materials count, please submit registration by the end of the day on Monday, September 20, 2021. Please note, materials cannot be guaranteed for registrations received after September 20.

For registration assistance or for more information, please contact Business Education: Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

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.

Eric Swenson
Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov



"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