

Back for 2022—Montana Business Education Summer Update Regional Workshops

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Montana Business Education Summer Update will be held during Summer 2022. The Summer Update will be held at three (3) different locations across the state.

--Billings: Wednesday, July 27 @ Skyview High School
--Kalispell: Tuesday, August 2 @ Glacier High School
--Helena: Thursday, August 4 @ Capital High School

Each session will be held at no cost; however, participants are responsible for their own travel. For planning purposes, plan to arrive at your site no later than 9 am and the day will conclude by 4 pm. There will be an hour break for lunch, on your own. OPI renewal units will be available.

A complete list of topics, schedule of events, and a registration link will be available later this month. While the Summer Update is free, registration is required for materials planning to ensure everyone attending goes home with all the resources.

Save the Date for Scratch Week 2022

[Scratch](#) turns 15 this year and they are excited to invite you to Scratch Week and a special birthday event to celebrate this exciting milestone with them.

Join Scratch on May 19 for Scratch's 15th Celebration. The virtual event is open to their global community of developers, educators, students, families, and supporters.

Scratch Week runs from May 15-21 and is a celebration of Scratch packed with virtual events and activities for Scratchers around the world.

Find updates on daily activities, event registration, and more on the [Scratch Week site](#).

Summer 2022 Computer Science Professional Development for Montana's K12 Teachers

The Montana State University, Montana Tech, Salish Kootenai College, and the University of Montana have teamed up again to provide a series of [computer science professional development](#) opportunities for Montana K-12 teachers during Summer 2022.

The plan is to offer four unique professional development opportunities in the Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC), Mobile CSP, Python Modules, Game Programming and/or the Joy and Beauty of Data (JBD) during the summer of 2022. All classes are geared towards Montana high school and middle school teachers who would like to offer these courses in their local schools.

Python Modules: June 13-17, 2022; in-person only

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.

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC): June 13-17, 2022; in-person only

JBC (Joy and Beauty of Computing) offers students 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 and how it impacts the human condition and introduces exciting ideas and influential people.

Game Programming: Self-paced, Online
Game programming using Unity

Mobile CSP: Summer 2022, Online

Mobile CSP is based on the College Board's emerging Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles curriculum framework for introductory computer science. Students will learn computer science by building socially useful mobile apps. In addition to programming and computer science principles, the course is project-based and emphasizes writing, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Details about the course curriculum can be found at mobilecsp.org.

Visit the UM's [Montana Teachers Summer 2022 PD](#) page for more details and to register to participate. Montana K-12 teachers will be eligible to receive OPI Renewal Units for each course completed.

TEAMS Opens for CTE Data Updates—Spring Enrollment Number Updates Due March 15

The Office of Public Instruction has opened the [Terms of Employment, Accreditation, and Master Schedule](#) (TEAMS) system to verify and update Career & Technical Education (CTE) enrollment for spring semester/trimester courses. TEAMS is open for enrollment updates thru March 15.

During the spring enrollment update, only the enrollment numbers for spring courses can be updated; additional courses cannot be added, and currently listed courses cannot be changed.

Please use this window to verify and updated spring enrollments, if necessary. The CTE enrolment data in TEAMS will be used to generate the CTE Participation Reports for the 2021-2022 school year as well as State CTE/VoEd funding allocations for the 2022-2023 school year.

If you are unable to get access to view the enrollment numbers for your courses, please send me an email and I can send you a screenshot or Excel file of your data.

If you have questions or need assistance with TEAMS, please contact opiteams@mt.gov.

Montana State CTE (VoEd) Funding & Perkins Intent to Apply for FY2023 Due March 15

The 2022-2023 Montana State CTE (VoEd) Funding is an allocation based on the 2021-2022 school year data entered in the Terms of Employment Accreditation and Master Schedules (TEAMS) and with Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO's) State Directors' membership rosters.

The factors of allocation are approvable CTE Program(s), correct course codes for CTE courses, properly endorsed teacher, student enrollment numbers and minutes for each course, affiliated CTSSO chapters and membership numbers, as well as any extended contract days for the CTE teacher.

All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#). Elementary districts are not eligible.

Carl D. Perkins provides funding to strengthen the Career and Technical Education programs offered to students; helping them to explore careers in high wage, high skill, and in demand fields. There are 16 Montana Career Pathways that allow students to explore the areas of Agricultural Education, Business and Marketing Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, and Industrial Technology Education. Courses and programs must be taught by instructors endorsed in the respective curricular area.

All public high schools and K-12 districts with qualifying CTE Programs are eligible to [apply](#). Elementary districts are not eligible.

For assistance, please contact the Career and Technical Education division at 406.444.9019.

Please complete the [Intent to Apply](#) by Tuesday, March 15.

All schools planning on applying for Carl D. Perkins Grant for FY2023 will be required to complete an updated Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). The CTE team at OPI will be sharing out and updating CLNA resources.

Please visit the [OPI Perkins site](#) for videos, planning guides and templates as they are updated at <https://opi.mt.gov/Perkins-V>.

Early-Bird Rate for NBEA Convention Extend to March 12—Virtual Option Available

The [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) has extended early-bird registration the [NBEA 2022 Annual Convention](#) to March 12, 2022.

The [NBEA 2022 Annual Convention](#) will be held April 12-15, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. If you are not able to attend in person, NBEA is also offering a virtual option again this year.

The early-bird rate for NBEA members is \$399 for both the in-person and virtual options. Please visit the [NBEA 2022 Annual Convention](#) site for complete event details and to register.

NGPF New Certification Course—Behavioral Economics—Begins March 14

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is introducing another brand new Certification Course: Behavioral Economics.

[Register now](#) to complete a five-week, nine-hour NGPF Certification Course during Cohort #21 to become certified in specific personal finance topics. Sessions are just two hours a week and start the week of March 14.

- Increase your confidence with current personal finance content knowledge
- Gather ready-to-implement resources to bring to your students
- Earn a Certification Badge to share on your email signature, resume, and LinkedIn

Continue earning your credits for [NGPF Academy](#) this school year.

Four Courses are Available during this Cohort:

- Behavioral Economics (new)
- Credit
- Cryptocurrency Basics
- Investing

[Register today](#) for Cohort #21. The course runs March 14-April 14. If you participate, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units.

Upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 Perkins Deadlines for Amendments & Cash Requests

Districts are encouraged to complete monthly cash requests to spend down their allocations. Some districts may need to submit an amendment for additional funds allocated in the fall after initial grants were approved before cash requests can be completed.

If there are questions on your cash request, please contact [Becky Belling](#). If there are questions on your Perkins grant application or amendments, please contact [Shannon Boswell](#).

Please note upcoming tasks and deadlines as outlined in the [Montana State and Federal Grant Handbook](#).

- June 1: Final Grant Amendments for E-Grants
- June 30: Last day to obligate funds for projects ending June 30
- July 31: Last day to liquidate obligations for projects that ended June 30
- August 10: Final Expenditure Reports due for projects that ended June 30

Montana Financial Education Coalition Mini-Grants Now Available

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) is pleased to announce the opening of their 2022 [mini-grant applications](#).

The MFEC is proud to promote local efforts to expand financial education across Montana. The [mini-grants](#) are intended to help support activities in local communities that are rooted in Financial Literacy Awareness. The MFEC places an emphasis on applications which target high-needs populations and that create a best-practice or tool that is replicable.

The deadline for the submission of the MFEC mini-grant applications is April 15, 2022.

Adobe Design Circle Scholarships for Students—Applications Due March 14

The [Adobe Design Circle Scholarships](#) application is now open. Applications are due on Monday, March 14 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.

Adobe believes that young people should have the opportunity to learn and express themselves through creativity and technology, regardless of their economic or cultural backgrounds. A diverse design community that reflects the world around us is essential to our industry's future innovation and economic success.

To help reach untapped youth communities and foster more diversity in the design industry, the [Design Circle scholarship](#) will do just that: Adobe is awarding 10 annual college scholarships—up to \$25,000 per year, for each year of the recipient's undergraduate education (up to four years or \$100,000).

The scholarship is ideal for students who want to enter product design or experience design-related careers (e.g. digital, web, UX/UI, interaction design, or similar).

For more information and to access the application, click [here](#).

Great Opportunity for Students to Win Cash While Testing Personal Finance & Econ Skills

The Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is pleased to announce they will host the [Montana Economics Challenge 2022](#) and the [Personal Finance Challenge 2022](#).

To inspire more participation and remove any financial or travel barriers, both programs will be made available at no charge to schools and available completely online.

With the help of sponsors, the software fees are covered and MCEE will award \$500 to all the first place teams, \$250 to second place, and \$100 to first place. There will be two divisions for the Economics Challenge.

In economics we love incentives. The top performers in Montana have opportunities to compete at regional and national levels, including possible all expenses paid travel to New York City of the national Economics Challenge.

Registration is open now and all testing will need to be completed by April 8, 2022, to determine the Montana winners. Once teachers are registered, they will have access to practice exams and additional preparation resources.

Visit the [Montana Economics Challenge 2022](#) and the [Personal Finance Challenge 2022](#) pages for other details.

Thank you for the competition sponsors First Interstate Bank, BNSF, and the Montana Financial Education Coalition.

For questions, please contact Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

[Save the Date for the 2022 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#)

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the [NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, December 5-6, 2022.

The [NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) is the national conference for K12 cybersecurity education. Gain tools to accelerate learning, identify methods to nurture a diverse learning community, and guide career development for the cybersecurity workforce of the future.

Join hundreds of K-12 educators and supporters as everyone comes together to learn, network, create community, promote, and increase K12 cybersecurity education programs throughout the country.

[Cyber Education Discovery Forum—June 20-22, 2022—in Alexandria, Virginia](#)

The [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#), hosted by [CYBER.ORG](#), is a professional development event designed to prepare and empower K12 educators to teach cybersecurity topics. Early-Bird Registration is \$50, ending March 31, and increases to \$100 after March 31.

- Learn and practice ready-to-implement lessons in daily workshops
- Explore relevant cybersecurity education topics through breakout sessions
- Network with K-12 educators as well as cybersecurity industry and organizations

The [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#) will be held June 20-22, 2022, in Alexandria, Virginia, at The Westin Alexandria Old Town. Room rates are \$195 with reservations due by May 18, 2022. The Westin Alexandria Old Town is 4.5 miles from Reagan National Airport (DCA).

The [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#) will have four tracks: 1) Cybersecurity Awareness for Elementary; 2) Cybersecurity Awareness for Middle School; 3) Technical Cybersecurity for High School; and 4) Cyber Society.

Apply Now for the Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the quality educator [student 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 1-March 31, 2022.

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.

The Junior Prospects Competition & The Prospects Entries Due Soon—March 18

The Montana Chamber Foundation is excited to announce that this year’s competition will also include a prize purse for entrepreneurial minded junior high schoolers.

These prizes include cash awards, sponsored by Jobs for Montana’s Graduates (JMG) and Two Bear Capital, to encourage entrepreneurial thinking that improves local communities; and we are accepting submissions for existing or new business ideas for generating money.

This competition is open to all Montana middle school-aged entrepreneurs. To learn more, contact Tiana Yates, Youth Entrepreneurs Coordinator at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Current Prize Purse: \$2,000 cash—Enter as individuals, teams or as a class to compete for cash prizes of \$100-\$250 for entrepreneurial thinking that improves your community; and for existing or new business ideas that generate money.

Submission Requirements: Pitch Video (two minutes or less), Business Summary (1,000 words max.), Participation Agreement/Waiver Form signed by an Educator and/or Parent or Guardian.

Dates: The Spring Round will take place January 17-March 18 with the Awards Show (Virtual) on Friday, April 22 at 12 pm.

Submission Link: More information can be found on the [Montana Chamber’s Prospects](#) website. To learn more, please contact Tiana Yates, Youth Entrepreneurs Coordinator, at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Categories & Structure: The Junior Prospects competition is designed to develop entrepreneurial thinking through the Youth Entrepreneurs project-based learning activities. To provide structure, the Montana Chamber Foundation recommends formatting your submissions in one or more of the following categories.

- [The Vacant Lot](#): Team or Class Competition
- Free Category: Follow your passion
- Industry Specific Ideas: Health, Tech, Construction, Manufacturing
- Mobile Applications to improve life
- Sports-related goods or services
- Non-Profit/Community Development New product or invention
- Improve existing services

The Prospects Update (High School): The Spring Round for The Prospects (high school division) has officially opened and will go through March 18. Great submissions have been received in the first round and are looking forward to seeing even more come in. The prize purse is up to \$63,500 and continues to grow.

To easily access the eligibility waiver, competition guide, and a full list of prizes please click [here](#). This Google Drive is being updated weekly with prizes and information so please make sure to keep checking back. The drive is a helpful place to help narrow down student ideas if they are struggling as there are some specific prizes and categories. You can also visit The Chamber website: [The Prospects - Montana Chamber of Commerce](#).

The Prospects 2022 High School Business Competition—Spring Round Ends March 18

[The Prospects](#) is a virtual statewide entrepreneurship competition for high school students with new ideas and existing small businesses. This collaborative initiative invests in our students while developing a mentorship platform to connect with business and community leaders.

[The Prospects](#) is Montana's premier opportunity for high school students to demonstrate and be handsomely rewarded for their entrepreneurial spirit...that spirit you are unleashing in your classes.

Any of Montana's 40,000+ high school-aged students are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas and solutions or enter their existing businesses. Matt and Tiana Zoomed with over 100 students in more than 10 classrooms around Montana in December. During these meetings they are encouraging students to think about their passions and what motivates them. They then offer suggestions on how to turn these passions and motivators into a business. They also discuss students' current business ideas and brainstorming on how to cultivate their ideas into a winning submission. If this is something you would like to bring into your classroom, please email Tiana Yates at tiana@montanachamber.com to schedule a time for Tiana and Matt to Zoom with your class.

The current prize purse includes \$51,000 in cash and scholarships. Stay tuned for regular updates as the prize purse grows. Prizes will include cash prizes, scholarships & financial aid, technology prizes, and opportunities for mentoring, internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning.

Participants will need to submit a (1) a pitch Video (two minutes or less), (2) a business summary (1,000 words max.), (3) a waiver form signed by an educator and/or parent or guardian, and (4) a completed W-9 Form.

The Spring 2022 round runs January 17-March 18, 2022.

The awards show will be held Friday, April 22 at 12 pm (MDT).

Judging for both the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 rounds will taken place following the closing of the spring round.

Complete details about The Prospects and submission information can be found at MontanaChamber.com/Prospects.

To learn more or to get questions answered, please contact Tiana Yates, Youth Entrepreneurs Coordinator, at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Fun Facts & Trivia

In 1271, 17-year-old Marco Polo started on a journey to China with his father and older brother.

After a long and grueling journey that led through Jerusalem and Mesopotamia and over the "Silk Road", they reached the court of Kublai Khan in 1275.

In *The Voyages of Marco Polo*, players recreate this journey, with each player having a different character from history with a special power in the game.

The game is played over five rounds and in each round, the players roll their five personal dice and can perform one action each turn with them.

Each action requires the use of one or more dice, and can be collecting resources or money, acquiring contracts, or traveling on the board.

When traveling, each player begins at Venice and can decide between several routes eastward, all the way to Beijing.

When a player stops at a city, they place a trading post there, giving them access to extra actions or resources for the rest of the game.

The higher the value of the dice used for an action, the better the options that may be chosen, but also the more money the player must pay if an opponent has already chosen the same action.

After five rounds, the game ends with players receiving extra victory points for having trading posts in Beijing, fulfilling the most orders, and having trading posts in the cities on secret city cards that each player gets at the start of the game.

A Venetian merchant, Marco Polo's travels are recorded in *The Travels of Marco Polo*.

The book described to Europeans the then mysterious culture and inner workings of the Eastern world, including the wealth and great size of the Mongol Empire and China in the Yuan Dynasty, giving their first comprehensive look into China, Persia, India, Japan and other Asian cities and countries.

Kublai Khan, the grandson of great Mongol leader Genghis Khan, was impressed by Marco's intelligence and humility.

Marco was appointed to serve as Khan's foreign emissary, and he was sent on many diplomatic missions throughout the empire and Southeast Asia, such as in present-day Burma, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

As part of this appointment, Marco also travelled extensively inside China, living in the emperor's lands for 17 years and seeing many things that had previously been unknown to Europeans.

Though he was not the first European to reach China, Marco Polo was the first to leave a detailed chronicle of his experience.

His writings provided the Europeans with a clear picture of the East's geography and ethnic customs, and was the first Western record of porcelain, coal, gunpowder, paper money, and some Asian plants and exotic animals.

A form of tag often played in swimming pools is also known as Marco Polo.

The game shares similar traits with blind man's bluff, an essentially identical game played on dry land which dates back to at least the 16th century.

Marco Polo was known as a water game in America by the 1960s.

Between 1965 and 1970, some respondents to a *Dictionary of American Regional English* survey, when asked to name a game played in the water, responded with "Marco Polo".

By the mid-1970s, the game had spread and become very popular in swimming pools frequented by expatriates living in Hong Kong.

The game has featured in two episodes of *The Simpsons*—Oh Brother, Where Art Thou? (1991) and Little Big Mom (2000).

The game is played in the episode entitled Marco Polo of *The Sopranos* (2004), and the episode of the same name of *Modern Family* (2014).

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