

Industry Night—Helping Students Find Their Future

Do you have students interested in a career in the technical fields? From diesel, agriculture, business and much more, Industry Night is an open house event designed for all Career & Technical Education students.

Industry Night is an open house event designed just for your students. Dinner is provided, so they can bring their parents along to talk with industry professionals about career opportunities in the technical field.

Learn how industry and MSU-Northern work together to prepare students for their future and their career.

Each event will have representatives from Modern Machinery, Tractor & Equipment Co, and RDO Equipment Company.

When and Where?

- March 17th at Modern Machinery in Missoula
- March 24th at Tractor and Equipment Co in Great Falls
- March 29th at RDO Equipment in Billings
- All events run from 6pm-8pm each night

How to Register? Visit msun.edu/admissions/industryevent.aspx.

MCEE Partners to Offer Economic Empowerment Online Curriculum & Training for Teachers

Improve in the classroom while earning renewal unit hours with an online professional development opportunity in economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship.

In partnership with the Virginia Council on Economic Education and their center at Virginia Tech, the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) has partnered to offer a 15-hour [Economic Empowerment](#) online curriculum and training that will qualify teachers for renewal unit credits upon completion of the course.

In addition, MCEE will cover half the cost with a \$60 scholarship for the first 25 Montana educators to sign up.

This is for grades 4-12 with limited to no background in economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship as it covers basic content. MCEE hopes to reach younger educators who are adjusting to the new state standards in Career & Technical Education and Social Studies.

MCEE will host a more advanced, in-person professional development seminar at Montana State University in July (details to be announced soon).

Register for the [Economic Empowerment](#) online curriculum and training before April 1, 2022. See more details in this [flyer](#).

Click [here](#) to go directly to the training [registration](#). For payment, don't forget to type: "MCEE \$60 Scholarship" to qualify for discounted rate

Questions/Suggestions? Please contact Dax Schieffer, MCEE Executive Director, at mcee@montana.edu.

Tourney Time—Bank On It Bracket Battles

It is Time for the Bank On It March Bracket Battle from Start Here, Go Places.

This month, competition is on the basketball court, so why not bring it into your classroom too? With [Bank On It Bracket Battles](#), your students can put their accounting knowledge to the test and go head to head in a full-on tournament - no dribbling, passing or shooting skills required.

Setting your classroom up for a single-elimination Bank On It Bracket Battle is easy, and it's a great way to engage your class.

The Play-by-Play

1. Start by making sure all your students have created [Start Here, Go Places](#) accounts and entered your classroom code on their **My Settings** page.
2. Head to [StartHereGoPlaces.com](#), select **For Teachers** and click on the Bank On It section [r20.rs6.net] of the educator homepage. Then choose **Go Play** on the right side of the screen (or simply go to [BankOnItGame.com](#) and sign in using your Start Here, Go Places account info). If you do not already have an educator account, go ahead and set one up now.
3. Click the **Play Bank On It** button toward the bottom of the page. Do not forget to note your classroom code on the right side of the page, so you can give it to your students to track their play.
4. In the top navigation, click **For Educators** and select **Tournament** from the drop-down menu.
5. Click the **New Tournament** button at the bottom of the pop-up window and select your preferences to design your tournament. After giving it a name, select **Create Tournament**. It's that simple. TIP: We recommend having students play a practice round against the computer before the competition commences to make sure our system automatically recognizes them when it's go time.
6. Let the battle begin!

The Prospects Projects for Junior High & High School Levels Due Friday, 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](#).

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.

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.

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.

Apply Now for the Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program—Apps Due March 31

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.

Fun Facts & Trivia

The *World of Warcraft: the Board Game* is based upon one of the world’s largest massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) of the same name.

With over 1000 individual components making up the game, the *World of Warcraft* board game is truly massive, and an immersive gameplay experience.

For fans of the online game that want to take the world offline, the *World of Warcraft* board game makes a great strategy game.

During the game, players adventure across the continent of Lordaeron, earning experience as well as new items and abilities.

World of Warcraft holds a Guinness World Record for the most popular MMORPG by subscribers.

Fans of *World of Warcraft* can visit a game-inspired theme park in China.

Located in Changzhou, China, the World Joyland is an unlicensed theme park inspired by *World of Warcraft* and *StarCraft*.

Robin Williams was a notorious gamer and loved the game so much he has an in-game memorial.

To visit Robin in-the game, head to the island off the south coast of Talador and rub the Ever-Burning Lamp.

In 2011, martial artist Chuck Norris was hired to star in a *World of Warcraft* commercial alongside his in-game hunter avatar.

Mr. T, the '80s superstar, has starred in commercials for the game and as part of *World of Warcraft's* fifth anniversary, players were given a limited-time Mr. T-themed item, the Night Elf Mohawk Grenade.

Since *World of Warcraft* launched, more than 100 million unique accounts have been created.

That is twice as many accounts as people living in South Korea, or as many as the populations of Germany, Belarus, and Sweden combined.

World of Warcraft is played across 244 countries and territories around the globe, including places like the Bahamas, Antarctica, Tokelau, and Christmas Island.

In November 2007, DC Comics published the first issue of the *World of Warcraft* comic.

It took a team of 51 programmers five years to write the 5.5 million lines of code, equal to 99,000 pages of text, for *World of Warcraft*.

In doing so, they built 1.5 million one-of-a-kind assets for the game, including over 70,000 spells, a variety of settings and props, events, and almost 40,000 non-player characters.

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