

THE Awards Show of Awards Season—The Prospects Awards Show

"It's time to play the music. It's time to light the lights. It's time to meet this year's entrepreneurs on The Prospects Awards Show."

[The Prospects Awards Show](#) will take place Friday afternoon, April 22, starting at 12 pm (MDT). Pop the popcorn and get ready to celebrate the 139 high school and middle school business plan and pitch competition entries submitted for the fall and spring rounds. [The Prospects Awards Show](#) will be broadcast on a YouTube near you.

This year's competition has over \$75,000 in cash and prizes, including over \$20,000 in scholarships, for the top plans and pitches.

Be sure to mark your calendars and set the countdown apps on your smart devices so you can catch all the action and support Montana's next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

For more information about [The Prospects](#) program sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation, visit [The Prospects page](#). It is never too early for your students to prepare for next year.

April 25 is Deadline to Apply for Additional Perkins Funding through Rural Reserve Grants

The purpose of the [Rural Reserve Grant](#) is to create career awareness, recruit, and retain students within a CTE Secondary Program of Study that leads to a high skill, high wage, or in demand occupations.

There are currently 176 schools offering over 260 Career and Technical Education courses to students in grades 5-8 in Montana schools; the most offered course is in career exploration. Since Montana does not receive enough funding to provide Perkins's funding for middle school programs, this year's Rural Reserve Grant will be to encourage pathway work for the middle grades.

Schools could use the funds to help

- establish innovative delivery methods for career exploration;
- expose students to employability skills earlier;
- establish foundational elements for work-based learning; and
- improve transitions from middle grades into secondary Career and Technical Education pathways.

Grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to secondary Perkins-eligible school districts to support CTE work in the middle grades (5-8). Schools MUST have completed the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and E-Grant application as well for the 2021-2022 Grant cycle.

The [2021-2022 Perkins Rural Reserve Grant Request for Proposal](#) is available on the [CTE page](#) of the OPI website under the [Funding menu](#).

Applications are due April 25, 2022. For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact Shannon Boswell at shannon.boswell@mt.gov.

Register Today for the Montana Business Education Summer Update 2022 Workshops

[Registration](#) is now open for the [Montana Business Education Summer Update 2022 workshops](#). The Summer Update 2022 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

Topics will include, but not be limited to, the Color Accounting Learning System, engaging activities for your accounting students, cybersecurity, and Montana Business Education and CTE curriculum and funding updates.

While the Summer Update is free, [registration](#) is required for materials planning to ensure everyone attending goes home with all the resources. The deadline for registration is Friday, June 24, 2022.

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.

EVERFI Resource Spotlight for April: Financial Literacy Month

April is Financial Literacy Month. In celebration, [EVERFI](#) would like to spotlight a couple of resources you can implement in your classroom today.

Teacher Tools: Check out the [Financial Literacy Hub](#), which covers all of EVERFI's personal finance lessons + how teachers can easily get started. The [Financial Literacy Hub](#) includes 30 days of activities, lessons, and printables for Financial Literacy Month.

[Student Scholarships](#): EVERFI and their network of K-12 sponsors are giving away over **100K** in college scholarships. [Learn more here](#).

Stukent ProfCon 2022—Free Virtual Conference for Business & Marketing Educators in June

[Stukent](#) is hosting [ProfCon 2022](#) virtually, for free, June 15-17, 2022. ProfCon 2022 participants will experience three days of growth and fun as they learn the latest in business and marketing education materials from fellow educators and industry professionals and prepare for class with free resources.

As a digital courseware provider, Stukent takes education beyond the bounds of traditional textbook publishing. Stukent offers curriculum for [principles of marketing](#), [social media marketing](#), and [personal finance](#).

All [Stukent](#) digital textbooks are refreshed every year to keep up with the fast-paced digital and social media industry. Textbooks contain lesson plans, video content, instructor notes and slides, case studies, quizzes and more. Stukent is a firm believer in providing students with as much real-world experience as possible in an academic environment. The Mimic simulation platform features the world's #1 digital marketing simulation and the world's first social media marketing simulation.

Visit [ProfCon 2022](#) to learn more about the #1 digital marketing conference for educators and to submit your registration for this free, three-day, event.

Summer 2022 Computer Science Professional Development for Montana Teachers

Four unique professional development opportunities in the Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC), the Joy and Beauty of Data (JBD), Mobile CSP, and Python Modules during the summer of 2022. Spots are limited so [register today](#).

All classes are geared towards Montana high school and middle school teachers who would like to offer these courses in their local schools. Dates for classes are listed below.

Accepted participants will receive a stipend ranging from \$360-\$600 upon successful completion of the professional development. Some additional stipends are available for teachers who integrate the professional development curriculum in their high school classroom(s) during the upcoming 22/23 academic year. Travel and housing for face-to-face PDs is also included.

Participants can earn up to 40 renewal credits per class.

Python Modules

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.

--Location: Online, synchronous attendance only.

--Dates: July, exact dates still TBD

--Class length: 3 days

--Stipend: \$360

--Questions? Contact yolanda.reimer@mso.umt.edu

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC)

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC) 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.

--Location: Missoula, face-to-face only

--Dates: July 18-22, 2022

--Class length: 5 days

--Stipend: \$600

--Questions? Contact jbrown@mtech.edu

Joy and Beauty of Data (JBD)

Pre-requisite: Joy and Beauty of Computing

--Location: Missoula, face-to-face only

--Dates: July 18-22, 2022

--Class length: 5 days

--Stipend: \$600

--Questions? Contact hunter.lloyd@montana.edu

Mobile Computer Science Principles (CSP)

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 mobile-csp.org.

--Location: Online only

--Dates: TBD

--Class length: 5 days

--Stipend: \$600

--Questions? Contact stacy_dolderer@gfps.k12.mt.us

Summer Professional Development from Code.org

[Code.org](http://code.org), and regional training partner Avid, are offering professional development opportunities for Computer Science Discoveries and Computer Science Principles during the summer 2022.

[Computer Science Discoveries](#) is designed for grades 6-10 and [Computer Science Principles](#) is for grades 9-12. Curriculum is open-source and available at no cost.

Trainings for each curriculum/course is nine (9) days total. This includes a five-day (week-long) summer training and four one-day workshops (all virtual) spread throughout academic year (usually one per quarter). This equals roughly 54 hours of professional learning.

Summer trainings will be held in-person in Seattle (WA), June 27-July 1, and virtually August 1-5.

[Click here](#) for more information.

New for this year is [AP Computer Science A](#), being piloted for first time in 2022-2023. Computer Science A is designed for grades 9-12 following the completion of Computer Science Discoveries or Computer Science Principles.

[Training for AP Computer Science A](#) will be held June 27-July 1 in Seattle (WA) and in Boise (ID), August 1-5. Please note, a virtual training for Computer Science A is not available.

The cost for all trainings is \$1,500. Participants are responsible for their own food, travel, and lodging expenses. [Scholarships](#) are available to cover the cost for all 6-12 trainings, [apply today](#). Scholarships are awarded based on availability to those with the highest site-based level of need, factoring in two federally identified criterion: (1) percentage of students at the site (local district/school) receiving free-and-reduced meals; and (2) percentage of students at the site (local district/school) who are part of an underrepresented community.

Renewal units or college credit (vis UC San Diego) are available.

Interested in information and training for grades K-5? [Trainings for Computer Science Fundamentals](#) are also being offered this spring and summer. Click [here](#) for more details.

For any questions, please contact Ty Stevenson at code@avid.org.

Register for the Free NGPF National Conference: Financial Wellness Beyond Trends

Join [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) for the [2022 National Conference: Financial Wellness Beyond Trends](#). The free, virtual conference will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Conclude your Financial Literacy Month by attending NGPF's 14 brand new sessions on current events, new ways to shop, cryptocurrency, and more.

Notes for participation:

- You must register for each session you want to attend
- Please do not register for more than one session in a single time slot
- Please note that there are timed breaks in between each session
- For each session you attend, you will receive NGPF Academy credit (.5 or 1 credit, depending on the length of the session)
- The final session will be a wrap up an raffle session with swag and prizes. You must register for and be at the session to win. In addition, you must have attended at least 1 hour (that is not the raffle) of conference to qualify for incentives

All [sessions](#) are held virtually and begin at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 30. If you participate, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units for sessions completed/NGPF Academy credits earned.

Horatio Alger Career & Technical Scholarship Program

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans is accepting applications for its [Career & Technical Scholarship Program](#), which will award up to \$2,500. Please share with your students.

Applicants must

- have completed high school (or earned high school equivalency) by summer 2022.
- be enrolled in a two-year or less career or technical degree/certificate program in the fall that will lead to employment.
- attend a not-for-profit post-secondary institution.
- demonstrate financial need; applicants must be Pell Grant eligible.
- be under the age of 30.
- be a United States citizen.

The priority deadline is June 15, 2022. [Applications](#) will continue to be accepted until all scholarships have been awarded.

Teach Financial Literacy in Your Classroom with Intuit Tools

Intuit offers [free resources teachers](#) can use today.

[Turbo Tax Simulation](#): Help students overcome the fear of Tax Day forever with our real-world tax simulation.

[Intuit Financial Literacy Foundations course](#): Our new finance curriculum helps students get introduced to the foundations of personal finance.

[Mint](#): Get students up to speed with budgeting, credit scores, savings, and more using Mint.

Celebrate Financial Literacy Month by using one of these resources with your students.

Save the Date—Teaching Economics Professional Development Seminar

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is pleased to offer Montana educators a no-cost professional development seminar for July 14-15, 2022, at Montana State University.

This is an opportunity to improve teaching economics and personal finance led by leading researchers and instructors at Montana State University. MCEE and its sponsors will cover lodging, meals, materials, and mileage to Bozeman to remove any barriers to participation.

The program will be structured in alignment of the new Economics State Standards with opportunity to earn 14 renewal unit credit hours. MCEE and its board of directors will host its Celebration of Teachers dinner the evening of July 14.

Enjoy two days in beautiful Bozeman, Montana, on the MSU Campus. Classes will be offered in Linfield Hall. Teacher's lodging will be on campus.

MCEE and sponsors will cover expenses for:

- Lodging
- Mileage
- Meals
- Parking
- Class Materials

Registration will open mid-April with additional details. Please feel free to email mcee@montana.edu for any questions or clarifications in the meantime.

Summer Teacher Externship Opportunities

Looking for something new to do this summer? Montana Work-based Learning Collaborative is offering 40 teachers a one-week externships to be immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies need to succeed in the industry or in a career pathway.

Educator Externships are a unique professional development opportunity where teachers are immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies needed to succeed in that industry or career path.

Some of the Business who are offering externships are:

- Wood's Powr Grip, Laurel
- Diversified Plastics, Missoula
- CM Manufacturing, Missoula
- Spika Design & Manufacturing, Lewistown
- Mystery Ranch, Bozeman
- Applied Materials, Kalispell
- Class One, Kalispell
- Red Oxx Manufacturing, Billings
- H-E Parts Mining, Billings
- Intercontinental Truck Body, Anaconda
- SRS Crissafulli, Glendive
- Hi-Country Snack Foods, Lincoln
- Montana Silversmiths, Columbus
- Tuscano Machine, Big Timber
- Blackhawk, Manhattan
- PDM, Manhattan
- Wheat Montana, Three Forks
- West Paw, Bozeman

The experience strengthens an educator's teaching abilities and brings relevant, real-world context into the classroom. Externships are often transformative for educators, students, and industry partners. Impacting just one teacher allows a company to reach between 20-150 students each year.

Please fill out the [survey](#) to receive more information. Want more information? Please contact opicte@opiconnet.org.

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](#).

Fun Facts & Trivia

Battlestar Galactica: The Board Game is based on the epic and widely acclaimed SyFy Channel series.

Battlestar Galactica: The Board Game puts players in the role of one of ten of their favorite characters from the show.

Each playable character has their own abilities and weaknesses and must all work together in order for humanity to have any hope of survival; however, one or more players in every game secretly side with the Cylons.

Players must attempt to expose the traitor while fuel shortages, food contaminations, and political unrest threatens to tear the fleet apart.

Battlestar Galactica: The Board Game is a semi-cooperative game for three-six players ages 10 and up that can be played in two-three hours.

Players choose from pilots, political leaders, military leaders, or engineers to crew Galactica.

They are also dealt a loyalty card at the start of the game to determine if they are a human or Cylon along with an assortment of skill cards based on their characters abilities.

Players then can move and take actions either on Galactica, on Colonial 1, or in a Viper.

They need to collect skill cards, fend off Cylon ships, and keep Galactica and the fleet jumping.

Each turn also brings a Crisis Card, various tasks that players must overcome.

Players need to play matching skill cards to fend off the problems; skill cards that don't match hinder the players success.

As players get closer and closer towards reaching their Earth, another round of loyalty cards are passed out and more Cylons may turn up.

If players can keep their up their food stores, fuel levels, ship morale, and population, and they can keep Galactica in one piece long enough to make it to Earth, the Humans win the game; but, if the Cylon players reveal themselves at the right moment and bring down Galactica, the Humans have lost.

Regarded as one of the best space opera television shows, *Battlestar Galactica* made its initial debut in 1978 and only ran for one season with 24 episodes.

The show immersed fans in a world of Cylons, Colonies, and mythical tales of a lost Earth.

Universal Studios saw the potential for a remake and brought the show back in 2003 and developed a weekly show on the SyFy channel.

The SyFy channel reboot ran for four seasons.

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