

### **Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank Spring Session Registration Now Open**

The Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) announces [registration](#) is now open for the Spring 2023 edition of the Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank.

The Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate is an eight-week business simulation that puts your students in the driver's seat to make decisions with their manufacturing plant to maximize profits and manage expenses.

This program is made possible by the generous support from the team at First Interstate Bank.

The sponsors at First Interstate Bank also will be supporting cash prizes for the winning teams, \$500, \$250, \$100 for first, second and third. In addition, all team fees are waived to encourage more participation and remove any barriers for schools to introduce these business concepts into the classroom.

Check out the site [here](#) for more instructions, details and introductory video.

Teams will be assigned into industries later this month. MCEE asks that all teams be registered by January 30 so student logins can be provided by February 1. The first inputs will be due February 8 at 4 pm.

MCEE wishes to thank partners at the Montana Commissioner of Securities & Insurance, Montana Department of Commerce, and Office of Public Instruction who support financial literacy for ALL Montana students.

### **MCEE-Sponsored Stock Market Game Registration Open for Spring 2023 Investors**

[Registration](#) is now open for Spring 2023 [Stock Market Game](#) competition sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE). With the support of Glacier Bank, prizes for a high school and junior high division will be presented

MCEE had over 1100 students and teams competing in the Fall Stock Market Game across 40 schools. MCEE encourages you utilize the program to help students learn financial and investment education while competing for cash prizes. Glacier Bancorp and its family of Montana Banks will sponsor all team fees.

The Stock Market Game is a nine-week simulation in which students are given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Students must have at least five separate stocks and/or mutual funds at the end of the simulation, so research and diversification are crucial for success. Top state winners are given cash awards thanks to the generous sponsorship of Glacier Bancorp and its Montana family of banks.

To register for the Stock Market Game, go to the SMG web page, [stockmarketgame.org](http://stockmarketgame.org), and click on the link in the upper right hand corner of the page labeled 'Registration'. Follow the instructions to complete your registration.

For further information, contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at [mcee@montana.edu](mailto:mcee@montana.edu).

## **[Early-Bird Registration for the ACTE Region V Leadership Conference is Now Open](#)**

The [2023 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#) is April 12-15 in Fargo, North Dakota. Early-bird registration is now available through March 1 at a rate of \$475 with hotel rates of \$119-\$139 at the [Delta Hotels Fargo by Marriott](#).

Interested in presenting? The [Call for Presentations](#) is open with proposals due January 27.

Visit the [2023 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](#) website for additional details.

## **[Make the Move from Holiday Season to Tax Season with Intuit with FREE Financial Tools](#)**

Get ready for the new semester with free financial literacy tools and curriculum for your classroom from Intuit.

### **Personal Finance Resources**

Teaching Taxes: Intuit and EVERFI are helping students develop healthy financial habits by building confidence around handling their taxes with the new TurboTax simulation. [Explore tax modules](#).

Interactive Budgeting Course: Intuit's new Mint simulation is a guided, interactive budgeting tool introducing students to real-world financial scenarios with embedded quizzes and activities. [Check out the simulation](#).

Financial literacy basics: Use these 7 online modules to provide students with basic personal finance knowledge, including topics like budgeting, retirement planning, credit scores, and more. [Dive into the curriculum](#).

### **Entrepreneurship Tools**

Design Thinking & Innovation: Intuit's Design for Delight course provides students with the tools to innovate and think creatively about customer-focused products and solutions. [Teach design thinking](#).

Small Business Accounting: Prepare your aspiring student entrepreneurs for business ownership with valuable accounting skills and experience using a powerful, real-world tool. [Sign up for QuickBooks](#).

### **Upcoming Programs**

Intuit is always working to support teachers and students through interactive programming, training, and workshops.

Spring Social Innovation Challenge: Get ready for the Spring Social Innovation Challenge, beginning in March. Students will learn durable skills, build innovative solutions, and win prizes. [Registration opened January 17](#).

Financial Literacy Workshops: Intuit is working with students and teachers across the country, building financial literacy through interactive workshops for your classroom. [Learn more about workshops](#).

Play Kahoots!: Engage your students with Intuit's fun financial literacy Kahoots! Students will learn about real-world financial events, personal finance best practices, and much more. [Play now](#).

## **[NBEA to Pay Contributors Up To \\$200/Lesson Plan for New Lesson Vault](#)**

The new [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) strategic plan passed by the Board of Directors last November calls for developing a unique lesson plan archive that allows teachers to access relevant, standards-based lesson plans for flexible implementation in the classroom or online

environment. NBEA has completed the specifications for proposed lesson plans and is now calling on teachers interested in providing lesson plans to find out more.

NBEA will pay authors up to \$200 per lesson plan submitted. The lesson plans in this new "[Lesson Plan Vault](#)" are designed with a teacher's edition, including teaching tips, objectives, assessments, answer keys, and to be taught in 50 minutes, an easy printable lesson for the learner.

Lesson plans are subject to approval via a blind review by a task force that will evaluate each lesson against the criteria for each lesson plan. NBEA seeks to have over one hundred lesson plans in the vault by the start of the 2023 school year. NBEA Executive Director Joe McClary said, "this is a great opportunity for us to pay our members what they are worth and build something that could serve the whole community. Our members have asked for this for years, and I'm happy our Board has provided the leadership to make it a priority." Those interested should register their interest with [jmccclary@nbea.org](mailto:jmccclary@nbea.org) before February 1, 2023.

Get more details about the Lesson Plan Vault on the [NBEA website](#).

### **[Applications Now Open in Montana for the Code.org Professional Learning Program](#)**

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators. If you are interested in teaching computer science for the 2023-2024 academic year, this is your time to explore the computer science curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, our professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you. Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and High School teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries (CSD), Computer Science Principles (CSP), and/or Computer Science A (CSA) in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

--Option 1: Virtual, July 24-28, 2023

--Option 2: University of Idaho—Coeur d'Alene Harbor Center, July 31-August 4, 2023

--Option 3: Raisbeck Aviation High School, Tukwila, Washington, August 7-11, 2023

The cost of CSD, CSP, or CSA is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (nine total days of training). Any travel, lodging, or food costs for in-person trainings are separate. Scholarship opportunities are available to cover the costs of Code.org training tuition for qualified applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact [Code.org](#).

### **[Center for Economics Education Offering Free Personal Finance Workshops for High School Girls](#)**

The Montana Council for Economics Education is excited to announce a new opportunity from the national Center for Economics Education—[Invest in Girls](#).

[Invest in Girls](#) is a FREE online program tailored to teen girls so they can learn about money matters in a supportive environment.

This winter, Invest in Girls is inviting your high school students to learn about personal finance through three offerings--

- Master the basics of personal finance,
- Learn how to invest money, and
- Discover careers in finance.

As a bonus, after students complete a course, they will unlock access to summer fellowships, mentorships, and more.

All programs listed are online and free to attend. The winter term starts January 23, 2023.

To learn more about the upcoming offerings and to sign up, click [here](#).

For questions, please reach out to Cristina Medina at [cmedina@investgirls.org](mailto:cmedina@investgirls.org).

### **Register for NGPF's First Virtual Conference of 2023—January 21**

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) announces its first virtual event of 2023—[Tools for Teaching Excellence Conference](#)—on Saturday, January 21, 2023.

The [Tools for Teaching Excellence Conference](#) will be held from 8 am-3:30 pm (MST) with everyone who attends at least two hours of conference programming qualifying to win \$1000 in prizes at the end of the conference during the Raffle and Wrap-Up session.

[Register today](#) for the virtual conference.

### **Fun Facts & Trivia**

*The Jungle Book* tells the story of Mowgli, a human boy being raised in the jungle by wolves.

When it is deemed unsafe for him to stay in the jungle because of Shere Khan, the tiger, who has vowed to kill the man cub, Mowgli begins the journey back to civilization, known as man village.

Bagheera, the panther, is selected to accompany Mowgli on his journey.

Along the journey, Mowgli meets Baloo the bear, a lovable "jungle bum."

When Mowgli meets a young girl from the man village, he willingly returns to civilization.

*The Jungle Book* was released on October 18, 1967.

The movie was based upon the Rudyard Kipling classic tale of the jungle.

*The Jungle Book* was the last animated feature Walt Disney supervised.

The film became one of Disney's all-time box-office winners.

The film featured the Oscar-nominated song "Bare Necessities."

A live-action adaptation of *The Jungle Book* was released April 15, 2016.

Directed by Jon Favreau, the film included the voices of Idris Elba (Shere Khan), Ben Kingsley (Bagheera), Bill Murray (Baloo), Scarlett Johansson (Kaa), Christopher Walken (King Louie), Lupita Nyong'o (Raksha), and Giancarlo Esposito (Akela).

The live action is blended with photorealistic CGI animals and environments, using up-to-the-minute technology to immerse audiences in an enchanting and lush world.

It won an Academy Award for Best Visual Effects.

The Jungle Cruise attraction opened in Disneyland's Adventureland on July 17, 1955.

The Jungle Cruise opened in Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World on October 1, 1971, in Tokyo Disneyland on April 15, 1983, and in Hong Kong Disneyland on September 12, 2005.

The Hong Kong Disneyland attraction is known as Jungle River Cruise.

The name of the Tokyo Disneyland attraction was changed to Jungle Cruise: Wildlife Expeditions on September 8, 2014.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at [www.mbea.info](http://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*