

### **WBEA 2023 Conference Registration—Last Call**

The Western Business Education Association's [2023 Conference](#) will be held in Helena, February 16-19. Today, February 1, is the last day to register for the conference.

With early-bird registration ending January 15, the [regular registration](#) rate for Montana Business Education Association/National Business Education Association (MBEA/NBEA) members is \$350.

The conference will be held at the [Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel](#) and registration includes the Exhibitors' Networking Reception on Friday evening, the Saturday Luncheon, and the Awards Banquet and Closing Session on Sunday evening. Other conference activities include the WBEA Silent Auction, the Great WBEA Pineapple Pull, and Saturday's Dining Up the Gulch.

There will over 20 breakout sessions available focusing on a variety of topics and technologies, including accounting, classroom activities and management, computer programming, cybersecurity, drones, economics and financial literacy, entrepreneurship, eSports, leadership, and many, many more.

Please visit the [WBEA 2023 Conference](#) website for more details and to register.

### **Montana Work-based Learning Collaborative: 2023 Montana Teacher Externships**

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. The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative is offering 40 teachers a three-day externship.

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.

You must complete [registration](#) to be considered for the externship. Upon completion of the externship, you will be eligible to receive a stipend paid by the Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative and up to 20 renewal units. [Register here](#).

### **Spring 2023 Edition of the Prospects & Junior Prospects Student Business Pitch Competition**

Hello and Happy 2023 from all at the Montana Chamber and Chamber Foundation.

The Prospects and Junior Prospects are in full swing. The Chamber Foundation has been engaging with classes to help promote the competition as well as to hear student pitches. The submissions are rolling in and they cannot wait to see what ideas there are this year.

What is The Prospects/The Junior Prospects? If you are unfamiliar with the competition, it is a virtual pitch competition for grades 6-8 (The Junior Prospects) and 9-12 (The Prospects). The requirements are for a student to submit a written pitch and two-minute video, that is it. Business leaders from across the state judge the competition virtually and are able to give their feedback to these budding entrepreneurs.

The students can submit existing businesses that they have already started from a small scale to a full-fledged business. The other category is a new business where students have the opportunity to be creative and think of the next big thing. The new business category is not expected to actually start the business, just share the idea.

The Prize Purse is \$75,000 of unrestricted cash, scholarships, airline tickets, and workforce learning opportunities. New this year for the high school Prospects competition is an in-person pitch competition in Bozeman for the top 10 submissions to compete for an additional \$5,000.

To learn more, please take a look at this [flyer](#).

### Important Dates

#### Junior Prospects

--February 20: Submissions due by midnight

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

#### The Prospects

--March 10: Final Submission Date; Submissions due by midnight

--March 24: Final Advancements Announced

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

--May 21-23: GRAND CHAMPION PITCH COMPETITION, BOZEMAN hosted by the Jake Jobs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University and EdChoice.

View this [presentation](#) for complete competition details.

For additional questions or to set up a Zoom meeting with our Workforce Strategists, please contact Tiana Yates, [tiana@montanachamber.com](mailto:tiana@montanachamber.com), or James Easton, [james@montanachamber.com](mailto:james@montanachamber.com).

### **Registration Open for NGPF's Cohort 31 Certification Courses**

Level up your knowledge in one of five personal finance core content areas with a free [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Certification Course.

Cohort 31 runs from February 13-March 16 with an exam window from March 17-24.

Certification Courses are NGPF's most in-depth professional development format. Each course combines nine (9) hours of live virtual sessions over five weeks focused on a core personal finance content area with a 1-hour assessment exam. These courses are 100% free.

BONUS: Complete six certification courses and earn [NGPF Distinguished Educator](#) status.

Cohort 31 courses include

--Behavioral Economics: Mondays, 5-7 pm (MT)

--Career: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm (MT)

--Investing: Tuesdays, 5-7 pm (MT)

--Cryptocurrency Basics: Wednesdays, 3-5 pm (MT)

--Paying for College: Thursdays, 3-5 pm (MT)

[Register](#) today. If completing courses, be sure to work with your school/district to receive OPI renewal units for hours completed.

### **Updated Curriculum and Upcoming Webinars from Take Charge Today**

Looking for some new ideas and resources for teaching personal finance? Check out the updated curriculum resources from [Take Charge Today](#) and learn more from one of the upcoming webinars.

[Card Games Active Learning Tool](#): This Active Learning Tool has you using decks of cards for many different card games for a variety of lessons and concepts. You will find labels to print out and stick on playing cards to use for these activities.

[New Entrepreneurship Unit](#): Introducing our new Entrepreneurship Unit! We are starting out with four lesson plans, including:

- Types of Business Ownership,
- Principles of Business and Personal Ethics,
- Defining Roles of Social Entrepreneurs & Social Responsibility, and
- Understanding Consumers, Decisions & Markets.

Also coming soon are Leadership and Management Styles and Legal Aspects of Business Ownership.

Updated [Financial Statistics Puzzles](#): This Active Learning Tool has been updated with current statistics and now includes statistics from the new Entrepreneurship Unit.

[Spending Boards](#): The Spending Boards from Major Expenditure Mania, Introduction to Spending Plans (Spending Plan Shakeup) and Financial Decisions have all been updated with new and modern options.

[Weekly Shopping Ad Food Cards](#): Weekly Shopping Ad Food Cards were added to the Major Expenditures lesson for the Eating on a Budget activity. Statistics were also updated in this lesson to reflect current average household spending.

Save the date for upcoming Take Charge Today webinars:

- February 8: Taxes Don't Have to Be Scary
- March 29: Teaching Entrepreneurship

Taxes Don't Have to Be Scary. Paying taxes is part of our civic responsibility, and many of today's students are often paying taxes before they are old enough to vote! If teaching about taxes is something that scares you, join us in a joint workshop with The Arizona Council on Economic Education for hands-on activities that help students see the benefits derived from paying taxes and build their confidence in understanding income taxes.

Join Take Charge Today on February 8 at 4:30pm (MST) for a one-hour webinar on the Take Charge Today Basics of Taxes and Paying Your Income Taxes lesson plans. We will go over the activities within these lessons and how easy it is to fill out your own tax form. Participants can register to receive one hour of professional development if they choose.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/85865979442>.

The Teaching Entrepreneurship webinar will be March 29 at 4:30 pm (MDT). The one-hour webinar on our new Entrepreneurship Unit featuring four lesson plans:

- Types of Business Ownership,
- Principles of Business and Personal Ethics,
- Defining Roles of Social Entrepreneurs & Social Responsibility, and
- Understanding Consumers, Decisions & Markets.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87161897831>.

## **CSTA Montana Announces Meeting Schedule**

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) Montana Chapter Officers met last week to plan out events, meetings, and opportunities for members, and are excited to share they have a truly exciting year planned.

This year, CSTA Montana meetings will be held every second Wednesday of the month from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm with an optional "app-y hour" from 5:30 pm-6:00 pm where you can share, network, and talk with other members across the state.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates for this year's meetings:

- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

A raffle for fun prizes will be held at all meetings, and will also have teachers sharing lessons, partners sharing their activities and opportunities, reminders about upcoming professional development workshops and community events, updates on CSTA Montana, and of course time for meeting like-minded professionals across the state.

For the next meeting on February 8 from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm, CSTA Montana is looking for one or two teachers to share a "Nifty Lesson." If you have a fun, engaging, exciting lesson that you would like to share with others, please email CSTA Montana at [montana@csteachers.org](mailto:montana@csteachers.org).

[Membership](#) in the Computer Science Teachers Association at the CSTA Basic level is free. For more membership information, visit the [CTSA website](#).

## **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).

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

The new [National Business Education Association](http://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](https://code.org).

### **Fun Facts & Trivia**

The *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* screenplay was based on Mary Norton's book, with additions by Bill Walsh, who came up with the German invasion.

The film takes place in the autumn of 1940 when an eccentric, ladylike spinster, Eglantine Price, becomes an apprentice witch, in hopes of finding a magic formula which will help England win the war against Nazi Germany.

With the help of three London children, who she takes in to save them from the blitz, she first seeks out her amusing but bogus professor of witchcraft, Emelius Browne, and then ventures into Portobello Road in search of the rare formula.

Miss Price finally discovers that the words of the magical spell can be found on the legendary "Lost Isle of Naboombu," so she, Browne, and the children travel there, having adventures beneath the sea along the way.

They discover the lion king of Naboombu is wearing a medallion with the words to the spell on it, which they have to obtain.

All of this magical travel is possible with the aid of a magical bedknob.

Returning home, Miss Price uses the formula to raise a ghostly army of armor from the local museum that routs a band of invading German commandos.

*Bedknobs and Broomsticks* was released in the U.S. on December 13, 1971 and stars Angela Lansbury as Eglantine Price.

The creative talent behind *Mary Poppins* joined forces again for this film, including producer-writer Bill Walsh, director Robert Stevenson, songwriters Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, music supervisor Irwin Kostal, art director Peter Ellenshaw, and special effects technician Eustace Lycett.

One song sung by Angela Lansbury on the soundtrack record album, "A Step in the Right Direction," was edited out of the film just before its release.

The film was made entirely on the Disney Studio lot in Burbank, California, where outdoor sets included the town of Pepperinge Eye and Miss Price's seaview cottage, and indoor sets including a three-block section of London's legendary Portobello Road.

The ghostly medieval army's weapons and armor had originally been assembled in Spain for the film *El Cid*, and then were shipped to America to be used in the Warner Brothers musical *Camelot*.

*Bedknobs and Broomsticks* was the Academy Award winner for Best Special Visual Effects. The movie was nominated also for Best Art Direction/Set Direction, Best Song ("The Age of Not Believing"), Best Scoring, and Best Costume Design.

Angela Lansbury also voiced Mrs. Potts in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* franchise and played The Balloon Lady in *Mary Poppins Returns*.

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*