

THE WEDNESDAY READER
April 19, 2023

Please note, I will be out of the office beginning Thursday afternoon, April 20, and returning Monday, May 2; therefore, there will not be a Wednesday Reader next week, April 26.

Montana Board of Public Education Sets Start Date for Econ/Fin Lit Grad Requirement

The Montana Board of Public Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 12, , to [amend the notice of adoption](#) for ARM 10.55.905, [Chapter 55 School Accreditation](#). The Board voted unanimously to extend the effective date of ARM 10.55.905 to July 1, 2025.

This means the graduating class of 2026 will be the first class required to complete half a unit of financial literacy or economics and half a unit of civics or government to graduate from Montana public schools.

Opportunity for Virtual Certiport Training and Testing—Pick 1 of the 3 Dates Available

Certiport and Montana OPI are pleased to offer multiple days of FREE [virtual training](#) and certification testing.

There will be [three \(3\) training sessions](#) that coincide with three (3) testing sessions. Each session, the trainings and testing, will be one (1) hour. Please do not sign up for multiple dates. Registrations for multiple dates will be canceled entirely.

--Option 1: Training May 15 @ 11 am (MDT); testing May 19, time TBD.

--Option 2: Training June 5 @ 11 am (MDT); testing June 9, time TBD.

--Option 3: Training June 12 @ 11 am (MDT); testing June 16, time TBD.

In each [training session](#), Janette Sayer with Certiport will provide an overview of all Certiport products and will provide an in-depth training of LearnKey and GMetrix from the perspective of both the teacher and the student.

You will have until Friday of the same week as your training date to study and practice on your own. You will then be able to test using Certiport's Exams from Home Solution. All exams are administered and proctored online.

[Register now](#) to reserve your spot in the session of your choice and receive your free LearnKey and GMetrix materials before your scheduled training. Seating is limited to 25 per training session and will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Below is a [list of certification programs](#) offered through Certiport.

- Adobe Certified Professional
- Autodesk Certified User
- CISCO
- Communication Skills for Business
- EC-Council Associate Certifications
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business
- IC3 Digital Literacy Certification
- Information Technology Specialist
- Intuit
- Microsoft
- Project Management Institute
- Swift
- Unity Certifications

Congratulations to the Top Big Sky Biz Sim Teams Spring 2023

Wow, it was an extremely close competition this semester and it was fun to see several new schools take top positions within their industries.

Join the [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) in congratulating the 1st Place Team coached by Jeffrey Nix from Sunburst with a final Stock Price of \$81.88. The price for 1st Place is \$500.

Well done goes to the 2nd top score of \$80.18 coming from Sidney High School and taught by Russell Biniek and qualifying for \$250 cash prize.

Third place goes to Billings Central and teacher Levi Osborne with a razor close Stock Price of \$80.09 bringing a cash prize of \$100.

MCEE also want to recognize the top Industry Winners who will have a \$50 gift card sent their way.

- Industry A: A13, BMK Widgets; Sidney High School, teacher Russell Biniek
- Industry B: B16, Yellow Bear Industries; Frenchtown High School, teacher Ryan Goris
- Industry C: C5, Wreckers Inc.; Laurel High School, teacher Lisa Condon
- Industry D: D14, Infinite Widget; Sidney High School, teacher Russel Biniek
- Industry E: E15, KJ Coolers; Three Forks Schools, teacher Jessica Oehmcke
- Industry F: F11, CMC; Billings Central, teacher Levi Osborne
- Industry G: G4, Sunburst Schools, teacher Jeffrey Nix
- Industry H: H12, Big Widgets Inc.; Libby High School, teacher Michelle Foss
- Industry I: I16, Del Argent Widgets; Libby High School, teacher Michelle Foss
- Industry J: J1, Sandler; Thompson Falls High School, teacher Madison Wheeler
- Industry K: K18, Walkie Talkies; Moore High School, teacher Joe Vanek

Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank is Montana's premiere student business simulation. This is an in-class business simulation where students make all the operating decisions for their business to produce, sell and distribute widgets. The decision inputs are then matched against other teams competing across Montana for the highest stock market price at the end of eight quarters, or weeks in the simulation.

MCEE is looking forward to next fall and hope you and your students will participate in this educational simulation. To learn more, visit the [Big Sky Biz Sim by First Interstate Bank](#) page of the MCEE [website](#).

Results Announced for the 2023 Montana Personal Finance Challenge

This year, the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#) saw 236 students competing across 14 schools and 16 teachers. Thanks to Capital High, Twin Bridges High, Winifred, Chinook High, Frenchtown High, Columbia Falls, Victor High, White Sulphur Springs High, Lima High, Hellgate High, Flathead High, Dawson High, Manhattan Christian High, and Skyview High for giving your students a shot to compete for cash awards with an opportunity to earn a trip to Cleveland, Ohio. The first place team will receive \$500, second receives \$250, and third will get \$100.

The first place team is from Skyview High coached by Jordan Hasquet who will accompany his winning students for an expense paid trip to represent Montana in the National Personal Finance Challenge June 4-5 in Cleveland.

Second place is from Twin Bridges and coached by Jody Sandru and Third Place is from Columbia Falls and led by Becky Bates.

Please join the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE) in congratulating these teams in their success.

The no-cost access to the software and the prize money is possible with the generous sponsors at First Interstate Bank, BNSF, and the Montana Financial Education Coalition.

New this year, MCEE offered a teacher incentive of \$100 for a random drawing based on student participation, the winner of the drawing is Hailey Selch with Capital High School.

Every year, the [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the [National Council for Economic Education](#), hosts the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#). The challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance by connecting with other students from across the state in an online competition. Teams of three-four students have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering the principles of personal finance including money management, credit, investing, and insurance.

MCEE wishes to thank all teachers from signing up; they appreciate your participation.

[MCEE Announces the Results of the 2023 Montana Economics Challenge](#)

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) wishes to thank you all for participating the 2023 [Montana Economics Challenge](#).

This year, there were over 100 students competing across eight schools. Thanks to Hellgate High, Columbia Falls, Capital High, Park High, Frenchtown High, Flathead High, Shields Valley, and Ennis High for giving your students a shot to compete for cash awards with an opportunity to earn a trip to New York City. The first-place team receives \$500, second receives \$250, and third earns \$100.

The top three teams in the Adam Smith level were coached by Steven Klimkiewicz at Hellgate, the top team finished with a score of 630 and are preparing to test at the national level semi-finals.

The first-place team in the David Ricardo level was coached by Joey Lane at Park High, the top team finished with a score of 630 in that division. Second place came from Frenchtown High School coached by Ryan Goris with a score of 600. Third Place comes from Flathead High School with Roy Antley and close score of 580.

Please join MCEE in congratulating these teams in their success.

The no cost access to the software and the prize money is possible with the generous sponsors at First Interstate Bank, BNSF, and the Montana Financial Education Coalition.

New this year, MCEE offered a teacher incentive of \$100 for a random drawing based on student participation, the winner of the drawing is Terri Norman with Capital High School.

Every year, the [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education, hosts the [Economics Challenge Program](#). The Challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of economic literacy by competing with other students across the state in online examinations. Student participants receive cash prizes, awards, and accolades. There are two divisions in the Economics Challenge: 1) Adam Smith, for returning competitors, AP, IB, and honors students; and 2) David Ricardo, for first-time competitors with no more than one course in economics.

MCEE could not do these programs without you, our teachers, and they appreciate you signing up and participating.

Top 10 High School & Jr. High Teams in the Spring 2023 The Stock Market Game Announced

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) would like to congratulate the top finishing teams in the Spring 2023 edition of [The Stock Market Game](#).

The top teams and coaches/teacher in each division are listed below. With the support of The Stock Market Game sponsors at Glacier Bank the top five teams receive cash prizes.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Earnings</u>	<u>High School Division</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Prize</u>
1	\$114,968.79	Frenchtown High School	Goris, Ryan	\$250
2	\$112,346.43	Laurel High School	Kimmet, Matt	\$200
3	\$111,481.01	Laurel High School	Kimmet, Matt	\$150
4	\$111,301.71	Laurel High School	Leinwand, Jeannie	\$100
5	\$110,441.48	Westby High School	Griffin, Amy	\$50
6		Frenchtown High School	Goris, Ryan	
7		Sidney High School	Biniak, Russell	
8		Polson High School	Elser, Sean	
9		Sidney High School	Biniak, Russell	
10		Skyview High School	Hasquet, Jordan	

<u>Place</u>	<u>Earnings</u>	<u>Junior High Division</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Prize</u>
1	\$107,679.07	Washington Middle School	Stickel, Lisa	\$250
2	\$105,491.75	Washington Middle School	Stickel, Lisa	\$200
3	\$101,391.23	Washington Middle School	Stickel, Lisa	\$150
4	\$100,759.97	Gallatin Gateway 7-8	Schultz, Marissa	\$100
5	\$100,347.06	Washington Middle School	Stickel, Lisa	\$50
6		Gallatin Gateway 7-8	Schultz, Marissa	
7		Washington Middle School	Stickel, Lisa	
		North Harlem Elementary	Vance, Jessica	

MCEE is very appreciative of the support from Glacier Bank and its family of Montana banks. MCEE thanks those who were able to send thank you notes to the bank presidents as they were shared out; those really go a long way.

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.

MCEE also encourages teachers to review other programs offered by [SIFMA](#), including [InvestWrite](#) and [Invest It Forward](#).

Business & Marketing Montana Career Pathways Sent Out for Review and Approval

Following the review of the Business & Marketing Participation Reports from 2022-2023 school year, Pathway Approval Form(s) for Montana’s Business & Marketing Education programs’ Montana Career Pathways were sent out via email the week of April 10.

The courses within the Pathway Approval Form are those most closely related to those in the OPI's Montana Career Pathways' [Secondary Programs of Study](#). In reviewing the CTE Participation Reports and adding courses to/updating the Pathway Approval Forms, I have tried to ensure all courses taught are listed in at least one pathway.

If your program has more than one pathway, the Excel sent in the email will have a sheet for each pathway. All pathways require at least one (1) credit/two (2) semesters of foundational coursework and at least one (1) credit/two (2) semesters of elective, or advanced, coursework.

If you would like to view all the courses within your CTE Participation Report, please let me know. Keep in mind the data in this year's CTE Participation Reports cannot be changed, but the data can be updated when information is entered into TEAMS for the 2023-2024 school year next fall.

To finalize the Pathway Approval Form(s), please complete the following steps.

1. Review the courses and related information listed in the form and note any necessary updates/corrections.
2. List any additional courses not offered this year, but may be offered on an alternating/rotating schedule basis.
3. Include any Work-Based Learning experiences provided by the program &/or the school (a [Work-Based Learning Manual](#) can be downloaded from the OPI website).
4. Identify any Dual Enrollment course offerings and/or Industry Recognized Credentials available within the program area.

When completed, please key your name, or the name of the individual who approved the data within the form, and the date.

Save a copy for your records and email the Excel file/form(s) back to me at eswenson@mt.gov by Saturday, May 30.

With Perkins V, CTE concentrators for Perkins reporting are identified by Montana Career Pathway instead of CTE program area. Therefore, please share your approved pathway(s) with those who work with your school/district Perkins data as these will be the available pathways for next year's reporting. Schools will identify their approved pathways from the 2022-2022 school year when completing the Perkins E-grant application for the 2023-2024 school year.

Thank you for your time to review and complete the Pathway Approval Form(s) and please let me know if there are any questions or if any additional information is needed.

[New Career and Financial Literacy Resources from EVERFI](#)

EVERFI is excited to share new additions to our catalog of 100% cost-free and standards aligned resources for Montana educators. Check out the below lessons added during this school year (and our [Full Catalog of digital lessons](#) for K-12 educators).

[Accounting Careers](#) (High School): Shows high school students how an accounting background can help them achieve their career goals. Learners are exposed to the wide range of careers available in the accounting and finance space.

[Sustainable Investing](#) (High School): Teachers the benefits of sustainable investing with a focus on responsible decision-making that aligns to personal values and how to leave a lasting social impact.

[SmartEconomics](#) (Middle School): Through three fun and interactive exercises, students learn to make real-life decisions that require the understanding of key economic concepts such as the pros and cons of lowering taxes, identifying signs of a strong economy, and understanding the law of supply and demand.

Questions? Reach out to your local EVERFI support representative Sean at sthomas@everfi.com.

EVERFI is offering virtual Financial Literacy and Career Readiness workshops for Financial Literacy month! If you're interested having Sean visit your classroom virtually and host an interactive workshop with your students, you can reach him at sthomas@everfi.com.

[Apply Today to Attend Jump\\$tart National Educator Conference for Free in November](#)

Teachers, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and other supporters of financial education are gathering November 4-6 for the 14th annual [Jump\\$tart National Educator Conference](#) at the Gila River Resort and Casino in Chandler, Arizona, to expand the actionable impact of effective financial education in the classroom.

For teachers, the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference remains an all-[scholarship](#) event. This year, Jump\$tart and its generous scholarship providers and donors will be providing 375 classroom educators with scholarships covering full conference registration, two hotel nights, and six conference meals. Participants are responsible for travel.

All teachers who will attend the conference are recipients of a scholarship from Jump\$tart or one of our scholarship partners. [Scholarship applications](#) are now open and are due August 18.

[Funding the Future's Fall 2023 Financial Literacy Tour will be coming to Montana in September](#)

[Funding the Future](#) is a 501c(3) organization that teaches students vital financial principles by organizing live musical performances at schools across the country and creating a dialogue around financial literacy between students and musicians. Funding the Future believes by teaching financial literacy to the next generation of leaders, these young adults will make smarter financial decisions, leading to increased professional and personal success.

There is NO COST to schools. [Funding the Future](#) uses sponsorships, donations, and various grant programs to fund our shows.

Using the power of a live music performance and their own personal stories, their musicians inspire students to take control of their financial future. The assembly-style show is 60-75 minutes and is intended for 6th-12th grade students. Topics covered include credit scores, avoiding unnecessary debt, avoiding high risk lenders online and elsewhere, pitfalls of predatory lending and payday loans, creating a financial savings and investment game plan, and setting goals and following your dreams.

To learn more about Funding the Future and to [book a show](#), please visit the [Funding the Future](#) website.

Registration Now Open for Montana STEM Summer Institute—July 31-August 2 in Bozeman

The [5th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute](#)—*Spark Curiosity with STEM*—is a one-of-a-kind, Montana-made showcase for STEM integration across all grades and subject areas. The [5th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) will be held July 31-August 2 at MSU Bozeman. [Registration](#) is now open with an early bird rate of \$191.25 thru May 31 and a rate of \$180 for School Systems of Montana member schools.

You will enjoy exemplary K-12 STEM instruction and resources, inspiring national speakers, and the best of Bozeman and MSU. The interactive agenda is designed to spark curiosity about STEM practices and projects, not only for your students, but for educators, too. During the Institute you will discover how Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics complement one another and combine to motivate powerful 21st century learning. Ignite your curiosity as you engage in purposeful networking, attend demonstration sessions and mini-workshops, and meet our inspirational keynote speakers.

Discounted lodging options are available for attendees. Please visit the [Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) website for details.

Free Cybersecurity Curriculum Opportunity from Teach Cyber

Is Your School Offering or Expanding a Cybersecurity Program in Fall 2023? The [Teach Cyber Schools](#) program will enable high schools that have high under-served and/or highly diverse populations and limited resources to establish and/or grow student interest in cybersecurity by providing resources and support to teachers and administrators. We plan to work with high schools that have existing cybersecurity course(s) or plan to offer a cybersecurity course Fall 2023.

What does the Teach Cyber High Schools program offer?

- No Cost Quality Curriculum
- Safe-Sandboxed Virtual Environment for Hands-On Learning
- Teacher Professional Development - Initial and Ongoing
- Best Practices in Cybersecurity Learning
- Support for Placement and Dual Credit
- A Community of Practice

How is this program possible? Thanks to generous donor support, this 3-year program is offered at no cost to high schools. The Teach Cyber Schools program is valued at \$45,000 for selected schools.

Do you want to learn more about the Teach Cyber High Schools program? Join the Teach Cyber High Schools program information session on April 27 at 6:30 pm (MDT). To register for this session, please email Jenny Daugherty at jenny.daugherty@darkenterprisesinc.com.

Is Your School Interested in becoming a [Teach Cyber High School](#)? To apply to be considered as a Teach Cyber High School, click [here](#). The deadline to apply is May 1, 2023.

Get Inspired for Financial Literacy Month with Hot Topics in Financial Education

April is Financial Literacy Month, and the [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Community is already off to a great start.

You are cordially invited to NGPF's next BIG virtual conference: Hot Topics in Financial Education. This virtual event takes place all day Saturday, April 29. It is 100% free. [Register](#) for sessions today.

Why you will love this conference:

- Consider how events like the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, the rise of ChatGPT, cryptocurrency volatility, and Buy Now Pay Later impact your students.
- Collaborate with hundreds of terrific teachers.
- Pick and choose from useful breakout sessions and energizing keynotes.
- Find free classroom-ready resources that you can use the very next school day.
- Win fun raffles and prizes.

The [Hot Topics in Financial Education](#) sessions begin at 8:00 am (MDT) and run throughout the day with the Raffle and Wrap Up session starting at 3:00 pm (MDT).

If you participate in the [Hot Topics in Financial Education](#) sessions, you can work with your school/district to receive OPI Renewal Units for sessions completed.

Registration Open for NGPF's Cohort 33 Certification Courses—Courses begin April 24

As the school year winds down, now is the perfect time to get one more FREE in-depth Next Gen Persona Finance (NGPF) [Certification Course](#) in and be able to implement your new knowledge in the classroom (and personal life) right away.

This is the last five-week session NGPF is offering before they kick off the three-week summer cadence in June. Cohort 33 runs from April 24-May 25 with an exam window from May 26-June 2.

Courses offered include

- Advanced Investing: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- Behavioral Economics: Mondays, 3-5 pm (MDT)
- Career: Tuesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- Cryptocurrency Basics: Wednesdays, 5-7 pm (MDT)
- Insurance: Wednesday , 3-5 pm (MDT)

What is an NGPF Certification Course? Certification Courses are NGPF's most in-depth professional development format. Each course combines nine hours of live virtual sessions over five weeks focused on a core personal finance content area with a one-hour assessment exam.

These courses are 100% free. To earn OPI Renewal Units for courses/hours completed, you will need to work with your school/district.

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

500 Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships are now Available

Students, aged 18-35, can earn up to \$2,500 for a Certification or Technical program with the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#). The funds can assist students with tuition, fees, supplies, uniforms, transportation, etc...

Scholarships are awarded up to \$2,500 to pursue a career certification or technical education at an accredited non-profit post-secondary institution in the United States.

For more details and to find a program, visit the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#) page on the ACTE website.

[FREE National Cybersecurity Teaching Academy \(NCTA\) Summer Professional Development Enroll in the Foundations of Cybersecurity course](#) this summer. This self-paced course is free for all certified U.S. K-12 teachers registered by May 1, 2023.

The Foundations of Cybersecurity is the first of six courses in the NCTA program. The course covers the big ideas of cybersecurity including the CIA triad (confidentiality, integrity, and availability). The course is administered asynchronously online via Canvas LMS. A synchronous option may be available depending on the requirements of your state.

A proctored exam is required to receive graduate credit. Participants must pay any fees associated with the exam. Scholarship funds may be available for the three-credit course transfer to one of the participating universities.

For more information you can read the flyer [here](#). If you have questions, please contact Sandra Leiterman at saleiterman@ualr.edu.

[Free & Virtual Summer Computer Science Course Offering from MSU](#)

[CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom: Computational Thinking for Teachers](#) is a two (2) credit course being offered this summer for FREE to Montana teachers.

This virtual (synchronous) course examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition. Exciting ideas and influential people are introduced. A gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language is provided. The course also introduces participants to robotic platforms.

CSCI 581 will be offered virtually July 17-31, 2023, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm daily. The course will be taught by MSU Bozeman Computer Science Faculty, Hunter Lloyd.

Full tuition stipends are available for teachers in Montana who submit a letter of support from an administrator and a brief letter of intent.

Visit the MSU MSSE program website for registration, application and other information: montana.edu/msse or msse@montana.edu.

NOTE: you can take MSSE classes as a non-degree seeking student—you do not need to be admitted to the MSU Master of Science in Science Education (MSSE) program to take this course.

[Registration is Now Open for Empowered's FREE RiseUp Professional Development](#)

[RiseUp](#) events are the flagship of [Empowered's](#) in-person training and professional development program. These three-day, regional programs are designed to assemble 300+ educators (each) to share a truly unique professional development experience. Speakers, panels, sessions, and leave-to-learns are specifically designed to be hands-on and foster participation and exploration.

The western region [RiseUp](#) will be July 18-20, 2023, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tracks will be available for current teachers and teachers new to Empowered's curriculum, as well as joint sessions.

Thanks to the generous support of Empowered's donors and financial partners, registration for RiseUp events is free. Meals and snacks are included as part of the program and hotel scholarships are available for those traveling to participate. Professional Development Certificates will be issued to all participants. Teachers attending RiseUp are responsible for their transportation costs and incidentals.

Need more information? Try the [FAQ](#) page or [contact Empowered](#). If attending, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units for Professional Development (RUPDs) events.

[Empowered](#), a non-profit organization, partners with and supports K-12 educators. The Empowered Community—with thousands of teachers nationwide—believes that every student deserves an education that helps them discover and develop their own, unique skills and truly prepares them for life ahead.

[Empowered](#) offers 140+ engaging learning activities, training and professional development (including [RiseUp](#) events), support, from our staff and teacher community, and a collection of tools and resources to help bring learning to life.

[Free Summer Virtual Professional Development from CYBER.org](#)

[CYBER.org](#) is offering three (3) professional development events during the summer for teachers wanting to learn more about teaching cyber education and cybersecurity. The weeklong, five days, events will be offered virtually with both asynchronous and synchronous learning methods.

[Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be offered June 26-30 and, again, July 24-28. This event is a full five-day professional development (8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT) that includes a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning. Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear from the range developers some tips for best practices. Participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student's perspective.

Attendees will work through challenging and technical labs with the CYBER.ORG staff while running through less challenging labs on their own. Attendees will also review selected Case Studies on their own and then discuss as a whole group. New to 2023, there will be a beginner track for those still getting used to using a cyber range and an advanced track for participants who are comfortable using a cyber range.

[Intro to Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be held July 17-21, from 8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT. This is a new course for 2023 and is at both middle schools and high schools who are trying to implement a cybersecurity course that is not as technical as CYBER.ORG's technical Cybersecurity course.

This course was created by New Jersey's Garden State Cyber, piloted by New Jersey teachers in the 2022-2023 school year, and obtained by CYBER.ORG to be used in all classrooms across the country. Using a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning, participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student's perspective. Attendees will work through labs with the CYBER.ORG staff as well as work through labs and activities on their own.

Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear some tips from the range developers for best practices.

[CYBER.org](#) also hosts a series of hour-long professional development sessions throughout the year on various topics related to their free curriculum and resources. Please visit the [CYBER.org Events](#) page for details regarding all their free, virtual events and professional development opportunities.

[Foundation for Economics Education Conference in Las Vegas—Free Hotel & Registration](#)

The [Foundation for Economics Education](#) (FEE) invites all teachers teaching, or interested in teaching, economics to Las Vegas, June 27-28. This two-day professional development event will equip you with

the pedagogical tools and instructional resources to start you on the way to becoming a master Economics educator. This professional development includes a complimentary hotel stay the nights of June 27 and June 28 at [Red Rocks Resort & Spa](#).

A \$49 deposit is required when [registering](#) to hold your place and will be refunded in full upon your attendance at this professional development. If you must cancel your registration, please do so 7 days in advance of the event to receive a full refund.

Please visit the [FEE website](#) for more information and/or to create a free account to access [conference details](#) and FEE materials.

CYBER.ORG Offering Travel Grants for EdCon 2023 in Arizona

Do not let financial constraints keep you from [CYBER.ORG's EdCon 23](#) at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona, June 20-22, 2023.

CYBER.ORG has a limited number of \$500 travel grants available for eligible teachers. Recipients of travel grants will be able to use the funds to seek reimbursement for up to \$500 of registration, airfare, and/or hotel costs.

All applicants will receive a response to their application within 14 days with an award decision. Please note: (A) in order to *accept* the travel grant, you must (1) register for EdCon 23; (B) in order to *receive funds*, you must (1) attend EdCon 23 and (2) submit receipts for the total for which you are seeking reimbursement. Complete instructions will be given to awardees in the email notifying them of the award decision.

[Apply today](#).

CYBER.ORG Hosting CYBER.ORG EdCon 23 in June in Mesa

[CYBER.ORG](#) announces registration is now open for [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#). [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) (formerly CEDF) is a national conference designed to inspire and empower novice and expert K-12 cybersecurity educators alike.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn ready-to-implement lessons from CYBER.ORG curriculum developers.
- Explore at-no-cost resources from industry experts.
- Gain firsthand knowledge from K-12 educators teaching foundational and technical cybersecurity.

[CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) will be held June 20-23, 2023, at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona.

[Early bird registration](#) is \$50 for K-12 Educators & Government, \$100 for Higher Ed & Non-Profit, and \$150 for Industry member and ends April 30, 2023.

[Book Your Stay](#) at the Delta Hotels Phoenix Mesa for \$103 plus taxes per night. The rooming block ends May 19, 2023.

Scholarships Available for CTSA's 2023 Virtual Conference Registration

The [Computer Science Teachers](#) Association (CTSA) 2023 Virtual Conference will be July 11-13, 2023. CSTA is offering [scholarships](#) that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers whose limited financial resources may prevent them from attending.

CSTA will award as many scholarships as possible to help deserving teachers join this excellent learning opportunity and will give priority consideration to:

- First-time conference attendees
- Teachers of color
- Teachers who teach underrepresented students in Computer Science
- Active CSTA members and volunteers
- Conference presenters (and those who submitted proposals)

Chapter leaders who attend the Chapter Leadership Summit already receive complimentary conference registration and need not apply. Contact conference@csteachers.org with any questions.

To be eligible for scholarships to the 2023 CSTA Conference, you must:

- be a CSTA Basic* or CSTA+ member,
- directly teach computer science to K-12 students, and
- not have access to funding from your school or organization to cover conference registration fees.

If not a CSTA member, you can join as a member for free at csteachers.org/join. [Applications](#) close on April 28, 2023.

[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 Lion King tells the tale of a young lion cub, Simba, as he struggles to find his place in nature's "circle of life" and follow in the regal paw prints of his father, the great King Mufasa, after his father is killed by his treacherous uncle, Scar.

Scar convinces Simba that he is responsible for his father's death and urges him to run far away from the Pride Lands and never return.

A frightened and guilt-stricken Simba flees into exile where he is befriended by a wacky but warmhearted warthog, Pumbaa, and his free-wheeling meerkat companion, Timon. Simba adopts their "hakuna matata" (no worries) attitude toward life, living on a diet of bugs and taking things one day at a time as he matures into a young adult.

When his childhood friend, Nala, arrives on the scene, he is persuaded to return to the Pride Lands, which have fallen into hard times under Scar's reign, and take his rightful place as king.

The wise shaman baboon, Rafiki, convinces Simba that his father's spirit lives on in him and that he must accept his responsibility, and when he returns, he manages to defeat Scar and an army of hyenas.

The Lion King was initially released in New York and Los Angeles on June 15, 1994, with general release on June 24, 1994.

Voices include Jonathan Taylor Thomas (young Simba), Matthew Broderick (adult Simba), James Earl Jones (Mufasa), Jeremy Irons (Scar), Niketa Calame (young Nala), Moira Kelly (adult Nala), Ernie Sabella (Pumbaa), Nathan Lane (Timon), Robert Guillaume (Rafiki), Whoopi Goldberg (Shenzi), Cheech Marin (Banzai), and Jim Cummings (Ed).

The Lion King originated a number of years earlier under the title *King of the Jungle*.

When production began, an artistic team traveled to Africa to search for ways to best present the African settings in the film, and the animators studied actual live lions and other animals that were brought to the Studio.

Songs were by Elton John and Tim Rice, with a background score by Hans Zimmer.

Computer generated imagery was used to create the dramatic wildebeest stampede, a visual highlight in the film and a new level of sophistication for the art form.

The Lion King became one of the highest grossing films of all time.

The song, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," won a Best Song Oscar for Elton John and Tim Rice, and a second Oscar was awarded to Hans Zimmer for Best Original Score.

A 3D version of *The Lion King* was released on September 16, 2011.

A stage show based on *The Lion King* film opened at the New Amsterdam Theater in New York City in 1997.

The stage version of the animated film had a pre-Broadway tryout at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis beginning July 8, 1997, before opening in previews at the New Amsterdam Theater on Broadway on October 10 with the official opening on November 13, 1997.

The show earned rave reviews and smashed box office records.

The performers utilize a wide array of masks and puppetry techniques to portray the story's 13 characters, as well as dozens of other animals.

The production was awarded six Tony awards—for Best Choreography, Best Costume Design, Best Lighting Design, Best Scenic Design, Best Direction of a Musical, and Best Musical.

The show closed at the New Amsterdam on June 4, 2006, and moved to the Minskoff Theater on June 13 to make room for *Mary Poppins* at the New Amsterdam.

In April 2012 it became the highest grossing show on Broadway, passing *Phantom of the Opera*.

In 2013, it hit \$1 billion in grosses from North American touring companies.

In 2014, it became the highest grossing of any production in any entertainment medium, with worldwide grosses of more than \$6.2 billion.

On June 16, 2016, a Mandarin-language version of the show premiered in the Walt Disney Grand Theatre in Disneytown at Shanghai Disney Resort.

The show welcomed its 100,000,000th guest worldwide in May 2019.

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