

THE WEDNESDAY READER

August 30, 2023

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. Today marks the start of the *Wednesday Reader* for the school year. The *Wednesday Reader* is a weekly informational email containing details about professional development opportunities, events for students, curriculum resources, funding opportunities, and other interesting items for your use.

Please feel free to share any resources, events, and ideas you may think may be interesting to other Montana Business & Marketing Education professionals. Enjoy your day and have a great year ~ *Eric Swenson, Business Education Specialist, eswenson@mt.gov*.

Get Preapproved for OPI Renewal Units for Summer Virtual & Out-of-State PD Events

Are you planning to participate in a virtual training this fall or heading out of state for a conference? If so, be sure to work with your local district/school to earn OPI Renewal Units for your participation.

The Office of Public Instruction no longer approves and/or awards OPI Renewal Units for events held by out-of-state providers; the events and renewal units are approved by local districts. Examples include the upcoming Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) virtual certification course in September or attendance at the Association for Career & Technical Education's CareerTech VISION conference in Phoenix in November.

Check with your school to determine the documentation required for pre-approval and the awarding of renewal units.

Mark Your Calendars & Plan to Participate in the Following 2023-2024 Professional Events

Below is a list of some upcoming state-, regional- and national-level Career & Technical Education & Business Education professional development opportunities for the 2023-2024 school year.

New CTE Professionals Workshop 2023 (Complete details & registration available next week)
--Virtual Sessions September 19, October 10, & November 7
-- In-person session October 18 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

[Adobe MAX 2023](#)

--October 10-12; Los Angeles, California

[Montana ACTE Institute 2023](#)

--October 19-20; Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

[Jump\\$tart National Educator Conference 2023](#)

--November 4-6; Chandler, Arizona

--*Attendance funded via the conference scholarship program*

--*Scholarships to attend the conference are due August 18, 2023*

ACTE's [CareerTech VISION 2023](#)

--November 29-December 2; Phoenix, Arizona

[NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education 2023 Conference](#)

--December 4-5; Phoenix, Arizona

[Montana DECA 2024 State Career Development Conference](#)

--February 4-6; Missoula, Montana

[Northwest Council for Computer Education \(NCCE\) 2023 Conference](#)

--February 14-16; Seattle, Washington

Western Business Education Association [2024 Conference](#)

--February 15-18; Eugene, Oregon

[Montana BPA 2024 State Leadership Conference](#)

--March 10-12; Billings, Montana

[National Business Education Association 2024 Convention](#)

-- March 26-29; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

[ACTE Region 5 2024 Leadership Conference](#)

--April 9-12; Honolulu, Hawaii

DECA 2024 [International Career Development Conference](#)

--April 27-30; Anaheim, California

Business Professionals of America 2024 [National Leadership Conference](#)

--May 10-14; Chicago, Illinois

International Society for Technology in Education's [ISTELive](#) 2024

--June 23-26; Denver, Colorado

[Download the Updated Montana Business Education Curriculum Resources for 2023-2024](#)

Many of the Montana Business Education Curriculum Resources have been updated for the 2023-2024 school year and can be downloaded from the shared Google Drive folder at bit.ly/MTBusEd23-24.

File updated for the 2023-2024 school year include the

--[Montana Business Education Planning Calendar for 2023-2024](#);

--[Framework for Business Education in Montana](#);

--[Montana OPI TEAMS K-12 Course Codes, Business & Marketing Education Reference Manual](#);

--[National Standards for Business Education](#) (Released July 2023); and the

--[Perkins Grant CTE Specialist Liaisons](#).

The [Montana Business Education Planning Calendar for 2023-2024](#) (item #1) is a tool to help plan your school year, including professional development opportunities, Career & Technical Student Organization events, and various dates related to CTE and Perkins funding and reporting.

With the release of the new [National Standards for Business Education](#) (item #8) over the summer, both the vertical alignment in the [Framework for Business Education in Montana](#) (item #3) and the crosswalk to the *National Standards for Business Education* and the crosswalk were updated. Additionally, the listing of industry recognized credentials (IRCs) listed within the Framework were updated to align to changes and updates made to various certifications.

The [Montana OPI TEAMS K-12 Course Codes, Business & Marketing Education Reference Manual](#) (item #5) provides the complete collection of OPI course codes for grades K-12 for curriculum alignment and reporting. Please be sure to review the Notes for Business Education-Related Courses and Course Updates and Endorsement Additions for FY2024 Course Listings sections for important details and updates for the new school year.

It is also highly recommended teachers utilize the [TEAMS Course Coding Worksheet](#) (both a PDF and Word option are posted, items #6 & 7) to align your 2023-2024 course offerings to the proper course codes and to ensure correct enrollment numbers are entered into TEAMS. Once completed, please share your Worksheet with the individuals within your district/school who enter data in TEAMS. Remember, once TEAMS closes for the Fall Data Entry, courses cannot be changed or added; course information for all semesters/trimesters must be submitted in the fall.

During the summer, Kaitlin Trutzel joined the CTAE Unit as the new Industrial Technology Education Specialist. For schools who previously had Mike Houghton as their Perkins contact/grant liaison, Kaitlyn will be the new contact. Kaitlin can be reached at kaitlin.trutzel@mt.gov. The [Perkins Grant CTE Specialist Liaisons](#) (item #11) provides a complete listing of Perkins contacts/grant liaisons for all Perkins-eligible Montana high schools.

If you have any issues accessing the files above, please let me know via email at eswenson@mt.gov.

New CTE Professionals Workshop—FREE Professional Development for Those New to the CTE Classroom

The Office of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education Specialists will be conducting the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023 via four (4) sessions—three (3) virtually and one (1) live, in-person—beginning Tuesday, September 19, via Zoom.

The New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023 focuses on early-career professionals—specifically Career & Technical Education professionals within the first five (5) years in a Montana Career & Technical Education classroom. Additionally, Montana CTE professionals who have participated in the past are invited to attend to enhance their classroom skills and knowledge of Career & Technical Education. School administrators and counselors who may be new to or want to learn more about Career & Technical Education in Montana are also invited to attend.

This FREE professional learning opportunity will provide attendees with information on a variety of topics related to Career & Technical Education including

- Advisory committees,
- Classroom safety & liability,
- CTE and program-area standards and guidelines,
- Dual Enrollment,
- Instructional strategies for the CTE classroom,
- Managing and marketing local Career and Technical Student Organizations
- Montana Career Pathways,
- Perkins funding,
- Professional development organizations,
- State CTE funding & data reporting,
- Work-Based Learning, and
- workplace Skills through your CTSOs.

The hybrid workshop will be held virtually Tuesday afternoons September 19 and October 10, and live, in-person, on Wednesday, October 18 at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. There will be an optional, virtual follow-up session on Tuesday afternoon, November 7.

The workshop is offered free of charge and up to seven (9) OPI Renewal Units will be offered.

Additional details about the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023, including a schedule of events, will be available next week.

Registration for the New CTE Professionals Hybrid Workshop 2023 will also open next week. Registrants will receive a packet of materials onsite at Fairmont Hot Springs on Wednesday, October 18. To be included in the materials count, please submit registration by the end of the day on Monday, September 18, 2023. Please note, materials cannot be guaranteed for registrations received after September 19.

For registration assistance or for more information, please contact Business Education Specialist Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov.

Montana CTE Professionals Gathering at Fairmont for 2023 Fall Institute

The Montana Association for Career & Technical Education (Montana ACTE) invites all Montana Career & Technical Education professionals to [Fairmont Hot Springs Resort](#) for the [Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#), October 19-20. The 2023 event, *Financial FREE with CTE*, will feature joint CTE sessions and program area-specific breakout sessions, the Montana ACTE annual business meeting, a networking social, and the Montana ACTE Awards Banquet.

A 2023 Registration Packet with a schedule of events and lodging information is available on the [Professional Development](#) page of the [Montana ACTE](#) website. Rooms can be reserved at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort for as low as \$98 plus tax & fees/night using the group ID 25464. The room block ends September 18.

MBEA Accepting Nominations for Awards Program—Recognize Your Colleagues

Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) Past-President Mandy Wichman is seeking nominations for Business Teacher Awards. Nominating a colleague, or yourself, is an excellent way to highlight the amazing work you are all doing in your classrooms and schools.

Please consider writing up a paragraph about why someone you know is a fabulous teacher and the contributions they have made to their schools, CTSOs, Montana, and business education. The award categories are Outstanding New Teacher of the Year (0-5 years of service), Outstanding Business Teacher of the Year (5+ years of service), Distinguished Service Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Use [this Google form](#) to make a nomination. Reach out to Mandy via email at mandy.wichman@hobson.k12.mt.us if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your nomination, and remember to register for this year's [Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#) at Fairmont Hot Springs on October 19 and 20.

NGPF Hosting a Fall Professional Development Event—Certification Cohort #37

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) is providing a free, [professional development event](#) to kick off fall and the new school year. Registration is now open for their [Cohort #37 Certification courses](#).

Get back in the groove of the academic year by kicking it off with a Certification Course to boost your financial savvy and feel confident teaching concepts in the classroom. These courses are 100% free and you can use them for professional development credits/renewal units. [Cohort 37](#) runs from September 11 to October 12 with an exam window from October 13-20.

Courses being offered in Cohort #37 include

[Insurance](#): Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00 pm (Mountain time);
[Investing](#): Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm (Mountain time);
[Banking & Budgeting](#): Wednesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm (Mountain time); and
[Paying for College](#): Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 pm (Mountain time).

[Register today](#) for the course(s) of interest.

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

How does it work? Attend a two-hour session once a week for four (4) weeks, and attend a one-hour virtual session and an option one hour review session during week five. Then, take a one-hour, self-paced exam and become certified with a score of 80% or higher.

Two additional cohort certification courses will be offered later in the fall, October 16-November 22 and November 27-December 12, with topics including Behavioral Economics, Career, Credit, Taxes, Consumer Skills, Cryptocurrency Basics, Psychology of Money, and Taxes.

Want more details on what you'll learn in each course? Visit the [NGPF course catalog](#).

[Registration is Now Open for the Fall 2023 Edition of Big Sky Biz Sim—All Fees Sponsored](#)

The [Montana Council on Economics Education](#) (MCEE) is excited to announce [registration](#) is open for the [Big Sky Biz Sim](#) until September 27. Team fees and prizes are sponsored by First Interstate Bank.

What: A, free, in-class business simulation where students make all of the operating decisions for their business to produce, sell and distribute widgets.

When: Fall Competition Dates are October 4 to December 6, 2023

Who: Teams with 2-5 students, open to all ages

Why: \$1,000+ in cash prizes. Join the 25,000 Montana students who have competed in Montana's leading business program since 2000.

How: The Big Sky Biz Sim provides an experiential simulation where students operate a manufacturing plant and make financial and ethical considerations that generate weekly results on profitability and stock price.

A one-hour online teacher training is being offered and participants qualify for professional development credit and a \$50 teacher stipend.

Where: Register at econedmontana.org/sign-up.

To learn more about [Big Sky Biz Sim](#), please visit the [MCEE website](#). For questions about Big Sky Biz Sim or simulation registration, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

The Fall 2023 Edition of the Stock Market Game Begins October 16; Register Today for Free

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is pleased to announce registration is now open for [The Stock Market Game](#) with team fees sponsored by Glacier Banks.

What: The Stock Market Game is an online simulation of the global capital markets that engages students grades 4-12 in the world of economics, investing and personal finance and that has prepared nearly 20 million students for financially independent futures.

When: Fall 2023 competition runs for nine (9) weeks, October 16 to December 8, 2023.

Who: Teams are made up of 2-5 students and competition is open to all students grades 4-12.

Why: Montana's top performing teams win prizes from \$500 cash awards to \$50 gift cards. The Stock Market Game connects students to the global economy with virtual investing and real-world learning while competing for cash prizes.

How: The Stock Market Game™ provides all of your lesson plans, activities, and ongoing support to make getting started easy, fun, and effective. Stock Market Game students are provided access to their own online portfolio with \$100,000 starting balance. They research and apply their investment ideas in a real-world market environment.

A one-hour, online teacher training is being offered with participants earning professional development credit and a \$50 teacher stipend.

Where: Visit stockmarketgame.org for more information and to registers.

For questions regarding the Stock Market Game and/or the teacher training, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

Second Annual World of Works (WOW) Expo at Great Falls College—Tuesday, September 26

In partnership with the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Cascade County, and many prominent community partners, we are thrilled to announce [Worlds of Work \(WOW\)](#), a world-class career exploration event, designed to connect youth to their future.

On September 26th, 2023, the second annual [WOW](#) launches at Great Falls College–MSU and the University of Providence from 9:00 am–6:00 pm. WOW is open to a small, rural schools in the target counties of Blaine, Cascade, Choteau, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Teton, and Toole.

[WOW](#) is a career expo – **NOT** a typical job fair, and this event opens new avenues of opportunity for middle school students—eighth graders, specifically—they never knew were possible. While students are at the event, it is the expectation they will have a hands-on learning activity at each exhibit. Participating businesses will staff their exhibits for the entire day and lead the hands-on activities. The event does not allow for individual marketing materials or handouts. It is about immersing the students in engaging tasks which might spark an interest in a career that will keep them in our city, region, or state after their graduation.

Students will be divided up into groups and will have a navigator who will guide them to and through each of the zones, where they will explore for approximately 30 minutes before traveling to the next zone. [WOW 2.0](#), a program specifically for high school students and their parents, will take place later in the afternoon.

As all can agree, Central Montana needs students to come back home after their graduation from trade schools and other institutions of higher education for us all to bolster our regional economic vitality. The simple reality is most students do not know the career pathways wide open in their own backyards, and this model helps our community by exposing our future workforce to those avenues.

The basic construct of [WOW](#) includes four zones, with each containing four worlds. Each world represents one of the 16 nationally recognized career clusters. This year, each world will contain a minimum of four and maximum of six businesses participating in each world. If each world has a minimum of four businesses present, students would be exposed to at least 64 businesses by the end of the experience. If each one contains six business, their total exposure is 96 businesses.

What does exposure mean? It means students would have an experiential introduction to a specific business or industry cluster. For example, there could be a hammer and nail contest hosted by a construction company; or students could perform simulated healthcare-related procedures under the supervision of doctors or nurses; or designing a logo for a business; along with many other exciting, informative, hands-on opportunities.

After reading this, hopefully you will agree this event is going to be a fantastic resource for the local workforce development needs, and an opportunity to connect our youth to their future. Below are links to videos created at the inaugural event last year, allowing you to see the energy and the organization that returning with this fall.

Here are those informational resources:

- [Worlds of Work](#)
- [WOW Video from Great Falls College MSU](#)
- [WOW Thank you video](#)

Schools and parents are cordially invited to take part in this event with your 8th graders and 10th graders. Please reach out to Director of Workforce Development, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director, Central Montana Works! Scott Wolff at swolff@greatfallschamber.org with questions, comments, or concerns.

[MCA Hosting a Build Montana Popup Event at the Billings Career Center, September 14](#)

Join the [Montana Contractors Association](#) (MCA) for the first annual [Build Montana](#) popup event Thursday, September 14, at the Billings Career Center (3723 Central Avenue, Billings), from 9:00 am-1:30 pm.

Schools schedule a two-hour block between the 9:00 am-1:30 pm timeframe. Give your students the opportunity to connect with industry professionals and explore career options in the construction industry.

Contact Hailee@mtagc.org to reserve a spot for your school or business. Also, ask about available transportation grants.

[Fun Facts & Trivia](#)

Known as the Crown Jewel of the North Atlantic Coast, Maine's [Acadia National Park](#) was established in 1913 when President Woodrow Wilson set aside 6000 acres as Sieur de Monts National Monument, which is within what is now Acadia National Park.

With the acquisition of more land and private support and funding, in 1919 President Wilson signed an act establishing Lafayette National Park.

In 1929 the park's name was changed to Acadia.

Acadia comes from both Italian and Greek roots meaning a place of rural peace in pastoral poetry.

Originally a French territory, Acadia was a colony of New France in northeastern North America which included parts of what are now the Canadian Maritime provinces, the Gaspé Peninsula, and Maine to the Kennebec River.

Acadia National Park was established to protect the area's spectacular scenic values, Maine's rock-bound coast, its coastal and its offshore islands as characterized by the geologic features, natural history and the native plant and animal life.

Acadia National Park is unusual because it was neither carved out of public lands nor bought with public funds., it was envisioned and donated through the efforts of private citizens.

Many people loved Mount Desert Island, Schoodic Peninsula, and the nearby islands and Maine residents and summer visitors alike donated their time and resources to preserve Acadia's beauty.

George B. Dorr and Charles W. Eliot, a former president of Harvard University, saw danger of development and acted to avoid them.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., also played a critical role by building the carriage roads and gave more than 11,000 acres, about one-third of the park's area, to what became known as Acadia National Park.

Since 1986, the park has purchased small tracks of land and easements to define its permanent boundary and to preserve scenic values.

Many landowners today continue in the tradition of the park's founders by placing easements on their property that limit development.

The park encompasses 35,000 acres of beautiful seacoast, rocks, islands, forest, lakes, and mountains for all to enjoy.

At 4 million visits a year, Acadia is among the top 10 most-visited National Parks and the majority of park visitors come in the summer and early fall.

Acadia, as the name suggests, was French before it was English and then American.

French frigates hid from English men of war in Frenchman Bay, screened from detection by the Porcupine Islands.

French explorer Samuel Champlain sailed into the Bay in 1604 and named the island Mount Desert Island because of its landmark bare top.

There are two campgrounds in Acadia National Park and all park campsites are situated in woods, within a 10-minute walk of the ocean.

The famous city of Bar Harbor lies on Mount Desert Island and the island is 60 miles southeast of Bangor.

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