

Registration Open for Montana Financial Education Coalition's Financial Literacy Conference, March 19

The [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#) (MFEC) invites you to come to Helena on Tuesday, March 19 for the [MFEC Financial Literacy Conference](#). Registration is now open and can be completed [here](#). The registration fee is \$80 and includes lunch. Teachers and students who attend can also receive a free event registration by entering the promo code "teacher" or "student".

The conference, which will be held on Tuesday, March 19, at the Best Western Premier Great Northern Hotel in Helena, benefits anyone committed to financial education for all Montanans.

MFEC is excited to announce Mike Sheffer, Director of Education at the FoolProof Foundation as the featured speaker. Mike will be delivering the keynote presentation, "Investing in Your Students and Communities Future, How to Make Actionable Education Happen for Everyone!". Also featured is a facilitated panel discussion with Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Troy Downing, Banking Commissioner Melanie Hall, and Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair of the Montana Board of Public Education.

Check out the full conference [agenda](#)

Early-Bird Registration for NBEA's 2024 Convention Ends Tomorrow, February 27

Registration is now open for the [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) 2024 Annual Convention. The [NBEA 2024 Convention & Expo](#) will be held Tuesday-Friday, March 26-29, 2024, at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Both in-person and virtual participation options are available.

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind conference experience at the picturesque beach destination of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Join us for the 2024 NBEA Convention & Expo to combine learning, networking, and perhaps a little bit of sand. Soak up the sun, build valuable relationships, and gain invaluable knowledge as NBEA goes to the beach.

Now included with the in-person registration:

- Continental Breakfast Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
- Lunch Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Awards Luncheon
- Wednesday evening welcome reception
- Transportation on Wednesday evening to [Broadway at the Beach](#)
- Thursday Networking Event: Rooftop Dinner at RipTydz

Virtual registrants can attend sessions from the comfort of their own homes. Sessions will be broadcast live via ZOOM. Select whether you plan to attend the event live, in Myrtle Beach, or virtually when you register.

All attendees will have access to session broadcasts, and most concurrent sessions will be recorded and posted for later viewing for convention registrants.

The Early-bird, NBEA-member rate for in-person registration is \$499 and \$349 for virtual registration. The early-bird rates end February 27, 2024.

If participating in-person, rooms at the [Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel](#) can be booked for \$159+taxes & fees. The convention room block ends February 26, 2024.

Visit the [NBEA 2024 Convention & Expo](#) page for complete convention details

Friday, March 1 is Deadline to Apply for a Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative's 2024 Teacher Externship

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

Please complete the [2024 Montana Teacher Externship Application](#) to pre-register for the 2024 Teacher Externship Program. Pre-registration does not guarantee you an externship since there are limited spots available. You must pre-register through this site and 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 OPI renewal units.

[See what the 2023 teacher externs have to say about their experiences.](#)

Student Scholarships Available from Kids' Chance of Montana

[Kids' Chance](#) provides financial scholarships to children of Montana workers injured or killed on the job. Scholarships may be used at universities, colleges, and technical/vocational schools of the students' choice as well as to pursue other post-high school credentials. Kids' Chance of Montana scholarships are up to \$4,000/year, renewable for up to four years.

The 2024/25 Kids' Chance of Montana Scholarship Applications are available at kidschanceofmontana.org/scholarships. Completed applications are due by March 31.

In 2023-24, 13 students shared \$42,000 in Kids' Chance of Montana scholarship funds.

Scholarship Opportunities for K-12 Students from EVERFI

Did you know nearly 300K in college scholarships were offered last year? Thanks to [EVERFI's](#) community partners, middle and high school students in your district can be eligible for exciting [scholarship opportunities](#).

Spring deadlines are fast approaching. Check out EVERFI's [scholarship page](#) now to see eligibility requirements, then share EVERFI's scholarship guide with your students.

Registration is Now Open for the Teaching Economics/Personal Finance Professional Development Seminar

Registration is now open for the [Montana Council on Economic Education's](#) (MCEE) 2024 [Teacher Professional Development Seminar](#), June 27-28 in Bozeman on the MSU campus.

With the support of sponsors, Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, Robinhood Markets, Reach Higher, and First Security Bank in Bozeman, MCEE covers all associated costs for the program.

Educators will qualify for 14 hours of OPI renewal unit professional development credit.

Professors from Montana State University's Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics support instruction and curriculum development. MCEE and its board of directors will host a Teacher Appreciation Dinner Thursday evening.

The program is focused on current economic research, teaching economics fundamentals, personal finance classroom resources, and student engagement ideas/programs.

Enjoy two days in Bozeman, Montana, on the campus of Montana State University. Classes will be offered in Linfield Hall. Teacher's housing will be provided on campus.

MCEE and their generous sponsors will cover your expenses for

- Lodging
- Mileage
- Meals
- Parking
- Class Materials

Click [here](#) to review previous agendas. [Register today](#) to reserve your spot. For questions, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

EVERFI Partners with the NFL to Create a Character Playbook and Teaching Resources

[EVERFI](#), in partnership with the National Football League, has developed the [Character Playbook](#) covering critical topics like building healthy relationships, regulating emotions, respecting self and others, and navigating peer pressure.

As students navigate middle school and enter high school, their relationships with friends and peer groups grow in importance. Cultivating healthy relationships is a crucial component of a positive and supportive learning environment, which is linked to increased interest in learning, improved academic outcomes, and boosted attendance rates.

[Character Playbook: Building Healthy Relationships](#) is a free digital course sponsored by the NFL that teaches students how to establish and maintain healthy, supportive relationships with their classmates. Through an interactive learning experience, students engage in true-to-life scenarios that explore the fundamentals of communication, conflict resolution, and managing emotions. Students will emerge from the course equipped with real-world skills that support them to navigate the social pressures of middle school and entering high school.

Learn more about [Character Playbook: Building Healthy Relationships](#) and access the free lessons and additional course resources on the [EVERFI](#) website.

Celebrate Tax Season with Accounting Careers & Scholarships from EVERFI

Studies show that 82% of Americans wish they had learned more about taxes and money in high school. In the midst of tax and audit season in the real world, you can bring these life-long skills to your classroom.

[Accounting Careers](#) is a free digital resource that shows learners how an accounting background can help them achieve their career goals and benefit their daily life. In the two online lessons, students will also learn about entrepreneurship, investing, and personal finance. So, what are you waiting for? [Access the lessons here](#).

Overview of Accounting Careers

- Length: Two 10-minute lessons
- Grades: 9-12
- Possible Placement: Finances, Business, CTE, Entrepreneurship

These fast-paced lessons expose students to the wide range of careers available in accounting and finance. They're great for advisory periods, fast finishers, bell ringers, extra credit, or brain breaks.

How To Get Started

Step 1: During your prep, click [Add to Class](#) on the Accounting Careers page to give access to your students (if you haven't already).

Step 2: In class, your students will access their EVERFI accounts one of three ways:

- Students can log into their [existing EVERFI accounts](#).
 - You can set up their accounts for them ahead of time from the Students tab, then give them their username & password to log in.
- Students can [self register](#) for a new EVERFI account.
- If they use the EVERFI app on Clever or Classlink, students will log in there with their district credentials.

Step 3: Students will click Start on the Accounting Careers course tile and work independently through the self-paced lessons.

Accounting Careers Scholarship Contest

When students take the Accounting Careers: Limitless Opportunities course, they may become eligible to compete for one of eleven \$5,000 scholarships.

Student Instructions:

- Step 1: Complete at least one Accounting Careers: Limitless Opportunities module.
- Step 2: Write a 300-500 word essay.
- Step 3: [Submit their entry](#) form by April 30, 2024.

Read more about the [Accounting Careers Scholarship Contest](#).

Want help getting your students started on *EVERFI*, the flagship high school financial literacy course, before you start *Accounting Careers*? [Join EVERFI live](#) in one of their upcoming FinEd Friday sessions.

[Montana STEM Summer Institute—Call for Presenters & Registration Now Open](#)

School Services of Montana and the MSU Science Math Resource Center are hosting the [6th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) at the MSU campus in Bozeman, August 5-7, 2024.

They encourage [Presenter Proposals](#) from K-12 teachers, informal and home school educators, school leaders, teacher educators, and other STEM enthusiasts! This year's conference theme of "STEM Across the Curriculum" is built around 3 strands:

- Planning STEM Learning Environments
- Implementing Ready-to-Use STEM-based Projects
- Reimagining STEM Learning.

Presenters and attendees interested in STEM learning at any grade level and in any discipline are welcome.

Please visit the [Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) website for more information regarding submitted presenter proposals, event registration, and schedule of events. Early-bird registration ends March 31, 2024.

[Apply Today for a Scholarship to Attend CSTA 2024 in Las Vegas](#)

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) announces the opening of [scholarship applications](#) to attend the [CSTA Annual Conference](#), July 16-19 in Las Vegas at Ceaser's Forum and Harrah's Las Vegas.

CSTA prides itself in promoting equitable access to the CSTA Annual Conference, their premier professional learning program for K-12 CS teachers, by offering scholarships that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers who could not otherwise attend the CSTA Annual Conference due to funding limitations. [Scholarship applications](#) are due April 1.

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 CS,
- Active CSTA members and volunteers, and
- Conference presenters (and those who submitted proposals).

Visit the [CSTA Annual Conference](#) website for complete event details and registration.

[Scholarship Opportunities for Your Students & CTSO Members](#)

[Horatio Alger Association scholarships](#) range from certification to Doctorate and are worth \$2,500 to over \$52,000. General eligibility is AGI below \$65,000, GPA 2+, and extra-curricular and community service. Apply as a junior and/or senior in high school through application online. Can be used for both in and out of state schools.

[STAR a P.E.O.](#) - International high school scholarship for \$2,500. Family income is not part of the evaluation process. Process starts with being nominated by one of 81 chapters in Montana. Students should be a junior in High School, have a GPA of 3+, be a citizen of the US or Canada, plan to attend college (2 or 4 year) and exhibits excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, and community service. Can be used for both in and out of state schools.

[Program for Continuing Education a P.E.O.](#) - International nontraditional student scholarship up to \$3,000. Process starts by being nominated by one of 81 chapters in Montana. Applicant should be a citizen of the US or Canada, enrolled in a certification or degree seeking program, has had at least 24 consecutive months as a non-student, and within 18 months of graduating. Can be used for both in and out of state schools.

[Applications are Now Open for Code.org's Professional Learning Program—Scholarships Available for Montana Teachers](#)

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators! Explore the CS curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and hone your teaching strategies for the 2024-2025 academic year.

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, Computer Science Principles, or AP Computer Science A in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

[Computer Science Discoveries](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington
- August 17-October 2: Virtual

[Computer Science Principles](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington

[AP Computer Science A](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washington

The cost of CSA, CSD or CSP is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (9 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.

[Scale to New Learning Heights at the Edtech Event of the Year—ISTELive 24](#)

Registration and housing for [ISTELive 24](#), June 23-26, 2024, in Denver and online are now open. [ISTELive 24](#) will be held at the Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver. [Lodging](#) for ISTE Live 24 is available at many downtown Denver hotels.

At [ISTELive](#), you will scale to new learning heights during 1,000+ strategy-packed sessions that will help you meet the needs of all students. Plus, become more confident with the latest tech for learning as you explore online tools during hands-on sessions, live demos, and how-to presentations.

Maximize your learning by adding the Leadership Exchange at ISTE Live, the 2024 ASCD Annual Conference, the 2024 ASCD Leadership Summit, or ISTE membership to your experience. You will save exponentially when you create a custom year-round PD plan.

Register now at our best price of the year; both the live and virtual [early-bird registration](#) rates end March 1.

[Register Today for the Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#)

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.

How does the Personal Finance Challenge work?

Timing: Registration is open now and students can test anytime following independent course preparation. Testing must be completed by April 12, 2024, to compete for cash prizes, trip.

Who: MCEE encourages any classroom teaching personal finance to form teams and complement their instruction with a chance to win cash prizes. It is a low commitment with a great pay-off.

Teams of three-four students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering the principles of personal finance including money management, credit, investing, and insurance.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

State champions are invited to compete in the national challenge. The 2024 National Personal Finance Challenge finals will be hosted in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 19-20, 2024. MCEE and its sponsors will cover airline costs while food, lodging, and all events are hosted by CEE.

[Register today](#); the Personal Finance Challenge ends April 12.

The Montana Economics Challenge Competition is Now Open—Students Can Win Cash Prizes

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:

- Adam Smith: For returning competitors, AP, IB, and honors students.
- David Ricardo: For first-time competitors with no more than one course in economics.

How does the Economics Challenge work?

Timing: Registration is open now and students can test anytime following independent course preparation. Testing must be completed by April 12, 2024, to compete for cash prizes.

Who: MCEE would encourage any classroom teaching Intro or AP Economics to form teams and complement their instruction with a chance to win cash prizes. It is a low commitment with a great pay-off.

Teams of three-four students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering a broad variety of economic principles.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

State champions are invited to participate in the regional competition where top teams travel to New York City for the National Economics Challenge.

[Register](#) your teams today.

Final Submission Date for The Prospects 2024 is Coming Soon—Friday, March 15

The [Montana Chamber Foundation](#) is excited to announce the 2024 edition of [The Prospects](#), an entrepreneurship competition. With over \$75,000 in cash, prizes, and scholarships available, this is a great opportunity to get your students' ideas exposed to business leaders in Montana.

[Tiana Yates](#) (tiana@montanachamber.com), the Montana Chamber Empowered Coordinator, will be your main contact for this year's competition. You do not have to be teaching [Empowered](#) to participate in the contest.

[The Prospects](#) includes both a high school and a middle school division. The Fall competition is open now with submissions being accepted beginning December 1, 2023. Submission will be judged as they are submitted with finalists being announced on February 1, March 1, and April 1. The 2024 Virtual Awards Ceremony will be held April 24, 2024.

Key Dates for The Prospects 2024

- December 1: First Submission Date
- February 1, March 1, & April 1: Advancements Announced
- March 15: Final Submission Date
- April 25: Virtual Awards Show
- May 19-21: In-person competition in Bozeman for the Grand Champion prize

The Prospects categories for the High School level include

[Existing Business Idea](#): Any high school students already running their own small business. Pitch your business and how you intend to grow and sustain it moving forward.

[New Business Idea](#): Do you have the next big thing? We want high school students to reach for stars and come up with the next amazing, new idea.

[Hack My State](#): Take time to help us come up with solutions for one of our state's biggest concerns right now, Childcare. Come up with a solution that could help solve the problem for finding childcare all across Montana.

[School Enterprise](#): Does your school, class or club run a business? If so, tell us why it exists and ways to improve or expand to benefit your school.

At the Middle School level, the Junior Prospects competition categories include

[Design Challenge](#) (6th grade only): 6th graders will be tasked to combine three items and let their creativity shine. Create the next big thing and help innovate Montana.

[Hack My School](#) (7th & 8th grade): Let's be solution makers. We want you to take a deep dive into your school and come up with a realistic and attainable solution to make your school better for everyone.

[Vacant Lot](#) (7th & 8th grade): Like Hack My School, but we want you to look at your community to be the next generation of change makers. Look at the vacant lots, existing buildings, and other areas of your community and pitch to us your solution to make your hometown better.

[Existing Business Idea](#) (6th-8th grade): Any middle school students already running their own small business. Pitch your business and how you intend to grow and sustain it moving forward.

Eligibility: Any of Montana's high school and middle school students are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas and solutions or enter their existing businesses.

Submissions: Pitch Video (2 minutes or less), Business Summary (1,000 words max.), a Waiver Form signed by an Educator and/or Parent or Guardian, and a completed W-9 Form.

Complete contest and submission details can be found on [The Prospects page](#) of the Montana Chamber Foundation website.

For questions, please contact Tiana Yates at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Each participant will receive an extensive digital resource handbook specifically designed for this seminar. The handbook includes:

- Sample prompts and strategies for using AI tools to create engaging and personalized business lessons that cater to individual student learning needs
- Ideas and resources on how to make the best use of AI tools in your classroom
- Descriptions and overviews of the AI tools covered in the seminar as well as additional tools to consider for specific business ed content areas
- Ways to use AI to automate routine administrative tasks, allowing more time for teaching and student learning
- Practical strategies and tutorials to more effectively introduce AI tools to business ed students

[Fun Facts & Trivia](#)

Katmai National Park and Preserve lies about 290 miles southwest of Anchorage on the Alaska Peninsula, just west of King Salmon.

Kodiak Island lies just off the Katmai Coast to the east.

Katmai National Park and Preserve was proclaimed as Katmai National Monument on September 24, 1918, and established as a national park and preserve on December 2, 1980.

The boundaries of Katmai National Park and Preserve have changed over the years and currently stands at a total area of 4,725,188 acres or 7,383 square miles.

Among all this diversity, Katmai National Park and Preserve is famous for its brown bears and fish populations.

The park is named after Mount Katmai, a massive volcano that stands at an elevation of 7,000 feet and is located within the park's boundaries.

Bristol Bay streams, including the Naknek River, are the source of some of the world's largest salmon runs and appear to have been so for about the last 4000 years.

Trophy-size game fish such as trout inhabit many of the park and preserve streams.

The bears come to feed on the fish, sometimes in unusually large concentrations.

Overall, Katmai National Park and Preserve contains at least 29 species of land animals, six of sea mammals, 150 species of birds, and 28 of fish, as well as uncounted intertidal and coastal species.

Brooks Falls is a famous spot to watch salmon leaping up the falls while brown bears compete with each other for the best fishing spots.

The largest and most successful bears can catch and eat more than 30 salmon (over 120 pounds) per day.

Bears are most abundant at Brooks Falls in late June and July during the sockeye salmon migration, but also keep an eye out for bald eagles, lots of gulls, and maybe even the occasional wolf trying to partake in the salmon buffet.

Katmai is one of the most famous Alaska national parks given the amount of social media traffic it gets each summer and fall as the bears feasting on the salmon is captured on the Katmai Bearcam.

The National Park Service holds an annual "Fat Bear Week" while the brown bears are gorging themselves on salmon in preparation for the long winter.

Katmai National Park is home to some epic volcanic landscapes, perhaps none as famous or breathtaking as the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes

The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes is a valley within Katmai National Park and Preserve which is filled with ash flow from the eruption of Novarupta on June 6-8, 1912.

Following the eruption, thousands of fumaroles vented steam from the ash.

Robert F. Griggs, who explored the volcano's aftermath for the National Geographic Society in 1916, gave the valley its name, saying that "the whole valley as far as the eye could reach was full of hundreds, no thousands—literally, tens of thousands—of smokes curling up from its fissured floor.

The 1912 eruption was the largest eruption by volume in the 20th century, erupting a magma volume of about 3.1 cubic miles.

As many as 14 major earthquakes between magnitudes 6 to 7, and over 100 earthquakes greater than magnitude 5, resulted from the collapse of the caldera at Mount Katmai and movement within the magmatic plumbing system.

There are 14 active volcanoes within Katmai National Park and Preserve, making it one of the most active volcanic regions in the world.

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