

Montana Business Education Summer Update 2024—Complete Details Released Next Week

The Montana Business Education Summer Update will be held during Summer 2024 with sessions being held in Billings (Skyview High School), Helena (Capital High School), and Kalispell (Glacier High School). All three sessions will be in-person sessions; a virtual option is not available.

The Montana Business Education Summer Update is a free, one-day professional development event for Montana’s Business & Marketing Education professionals. Attendees can earn up to six (6) OPI renewal units and are responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and meals. Both Perkins and State CTE funds can be used to help support participation and travel.

The Montana Business Education Summer Update 2024 topics will focus on artificial intelligence and preparing for the new Economics/Financial Literacy graduation requirement. The morning session will focus on A.I. for the Business & Marketing Education classroom and the afternoon will include activities and resources for creating/enhancing a Career Development Unit in a Financial Literacy-related course.

A Montana Business & Marketing/CTE/OPI update will also take place with information and updated resources related to Business & Marketing and CTE curriculum and programming for the 2024-2025 school year.

Registration and a complete schedule will be available next week in the May 1 edition of the *Wednesday Reader*. Pre-registration is required to ensure space availability and for materials preparation and resources counts. Sessions will be held during the last week of July-first two weeks of August.

CYBER.ORG Hosting CYBER.ORG EdCon24 June 15-17 in Orlando

Join [CYBER.ORG](https://www.cyber.org) in Orlando, Florida, June 15-17, 2024, for [CYBER.ORG EdCon24](https://www.cyber.org/edcon24) at the DoubleTree at Universal. Registration is now open and classroom teachers can register for \$50.00.

CYBER.ORG EdCon is an annual national conference designed to inspire and empower novice and expert K-12 educators, including teachers, counselors, and administrators, with the skills and resources to teach cybersecurity. Presented by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and made possible by industry partners, EdCon24 is designed to ignite passion for teaching K-12 cybersecurity education and improve student cybersecurity literacy and knowledge of cybersecurity careers.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn ready-to-implement lessons from CYBER.ORG curriculum developers and the CYBER.ORG Range.
- Explore no-cost resources from industry experts.
- Gain firsthand knowledge and expert industry insight from K-12 educators teaching foundational and technical cybersecurity.
- Network with peers in education and industry to build valuable connections.
- Earn PD credits for attending sessions throughout the conference.
- Explore Universal Studios after the conference concludes with discounted passes.

Register for [EdCon24](https://www.cyber.org/edcon24) and join the CYBER.ORG community dedicated to shaping K-12 education and the future cybersecurity workforce.

Registration Now Open for Empowered's RiseUp Workshops

[Empowered](#) is again hosting their one-day [RiseUp Workshops](#) with three sessions being offered—Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; and Wichita, Kansas.

The hosted RiseUp Workshops cost \$25/attendee. In exchange for the investment in the event, all participants will receive:

- Parking, breakfast, lunch, beverages, and snacks, parking,
- All materials/resources needed for the session and an Empowered tote bag
- On-going, no-cost access to [Empowered Hub](#),
- 1:1 Follow-Up Sessions to ensure you have what you need to get started and go deeper, and a
- Professional Development Certificate.

Empowered is planning additional tour events for the rest of 2024 and all of 2025 and your interest can help them choose locations. [Fill out this form](#) to nominate a location and Empowered will use the information to gauge interest.

MSU Offering CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom for Teachers in July

Montana State University is offering CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom: Computational Thinking for Teachers this summer, July 8-12, 2024. The course is free to Montana teachers and will be offered via a synchronous virtual format.

The 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.

The course will meet 8 am-5 pm daily and will be taught by MSU Bozeman Computer Science faculty member Dr. Hunter Lloyd. A full tuition stipend is available for Montana teachers 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 or send an email to msse@montana.edu for questions.

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

FREE & Virtual One-Day Professional Development—AI for Education Summit

[AI for Education](#) is hosting a one-day, virtual event on Saturday, April 27—[AI for Education Summit](#).

This one-day virtual event offers educators and school leaders a unique opportunity to progress from the practical to the possible. Kick off the day by building your AI skills and learning from leading experts before moving on to an afternoon of hands-on experimentation with the latest AI tools. Your experience then culminates with a collaborative exploration into the future of education designed to spark your innovative thinking and start dreaming big.

If you are not able to participate during the live event, recordings and resources will be available to all registered participants.

Wanting to learn more about AI? Check out AI for Education's free, two-hour, online, self-paced, and hands-on course [An Essential Guide to AI for Educators](#).

Save the Date for the 2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference

Mark Your calendars and plan to attend the [2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) in San Antonio, Texas, on December 9-10, 2024. This premier event for K12 cybersecurity educators offers tools to promote the discovery of cybersecurity careers and multiple pathways, identify methods to transform learning and much more.

This year's theme is Spurring Collaboration in K12 Cybersecurity Education. This year's event will take place at the beautiful [La Cantera Resort](#) in San Antonio's breathtaking Hill Country.

Included in this year's conference:

- World class keynotes
- Free and ready-to-use resources
- Professional development documentation
- Endless networking opportunities
- Pre-conference workshops and tours
- Bonus events: National Cyber Signing Day, Presidential Cybersecurity Educator of the Year panel, Evening Social, Exhibitor Showcase, and more
- Adjacent to the [Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\) CareerTech VISION Conference](#)
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Join hundreds of K12 educators and supporters as we come together to learn, network, create community, promote, and increase K12 cybersecurity education programs nationwide.

Early-bird registration opens August 1, 2024, with an early-bird registration rate of \$350.00. Learn more about the [2024 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference](#) by visiting the conference site [here](#).

Free Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp for Juniors & Seniors

Calling all college-bound juniors and seniors—the [Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp](#) is an all-expense paid immersive experience for rising juniors and seniors seeking to become teachers.

The [Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp](#) will be held June 16-21, 2024, on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman. Participants will stay on campus.

The Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp will feature—

- Teaching Orientation: Teaching experience, leadership orientation, and mentorship from award-winning teachers and faculty.
- Campus Orientation: Admissions coaching, financial aid coaching, and residence life intro.
- Community Orientation: Extreme history walk, hiking, swimming, kayaking, bowling, live music, and more.

Future attendance at MSU not required, mileage to and from the camp is reimbursed, and all expenses paid.

Interested?

Step #1: Sign up for the Future Rural Educators' Summer Camp [here](#).

Step #2: Submit your application for the immersive summer camp experience.

Free Cyber Games from Purdue Northwest

Are you looking for cybersecurity games for your classroom or for activities to introduce your students to cybersecurity? Check out the [cybergames](#) created by Purdue Northwest (PNW). There are four categories of games to choose from and each game calls on specific cybersecurity skills.

Check out the games that address the following topics:

- VR Games: a simulated experience that can be similar to or completely different from the real world. Applications of virtual reality can include entertainment (i.e. gaming) and educational purposes (i.e. medical or military training). Other, distinct types of VR style technology include augmented reality and mixed reality.
- Ethical Hacking: sometimes called as Penetration Testing is an act of intruding/penetrating into system or networks to find out threats, vulnerabilities in those systems which a malicious attacker may find and exploit causing loss of data, financial loss or other major damages.
- Robotic Programming: refers to the process of developing a control scheme for how a machine interacts with its environment and achieves its goals.
- Digital Forensics: a forensic science branch that involves the recovery, analysis, and preservation of any information found on digital devices; this forensics branch often concerns cybercrimes.

Visit the PNW Cyber Games website [here](#).

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.

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.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Redwood National Park is located on the northwest Pacific coast of California, between the cities of Klamath Glen on the north and Trinidad on the south border of the park.

The Park is situated along a long, narrow stretch of the northern California coast, nearly abutting Oregon.

Redwood National Park was established on October 2, 1968, and expanded on March 27, 1978.

Redwood National and State Parks protect old growth coast redwoods, some of the world’s tallest trees.

Less well-known are the prairies and oak woodlands and the coastal and marine ecosystems.

Three California state parks and the National Park Service unit represent a cooperative management effort of the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Together these parks are a World Heritage Site—designated on September 2, 1980—and an International Biosphere Reserve—designated on June 30, 1983—protecting resources cherished by citizens of many nations.

The ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, containing as many as 25 different species of conifers, are dominated by only a few.

Sitka spruce dominates southeast Alaska and coastal British Columbia, while Douglas fir dominates in Oregon, Washington, and inland British Columbia.

The stately coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), largest of all, dominates northern California.

There are 50 Redwood trees over 350 feet tall along the coast of the Pacific.

The tallest, named Hyperion (located in a remote part of the forest), stands at 379.9 feet tall—that is nearly 60 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.

More easily accessible is the Stratosphere Giant, the 4th tallest tree in the world at 370.5 feet, is located in Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

The first Redwood trees pre-date humans, spiders, and flowers, first appearing over 240 million years ago during the time of the dinosaurs.

In comparison, humans have been around for about 200,000 years.

The oldest living Redwood is said to be nearly 2,500 years old; it would have been a seedling during the time of the Roman Empire.

There are around 400 very rare Ghost Redwood trees scattered about the California North Coast region.

These trees, stripped of all color, remove poisons from the soil and receive needed sugars from healthier Coast Redwoods in order to survive.

Redwoods are so immense that they have their own ecosystems living on their large branches.

Foliage shed by the trees settles on the branches and decomposes into soil that becomes host to worms, spiders, amphibians, beetles, and crickets.

The bark of the largest Redwoods can be one foot thick, helping to make them fire, pest, and fungal resistant.

The world-famous Avenue of the Giants is 31 miles long, providing easy access for all vehicles and plenty of easy-to-navigate trails for those that want to get out of their car.

Only in old growth forests are all of the following characteristics present: large living trees and a multi-layered canopy; large standing snags; large down trees; and large fallen trees in streams.

Burls in coast redwood are masses of stem tissue where elongation of the many stem tips has not occurred.

They are anatomically similar to tissues in eucalyptus called "lignotubers" by the Australians.

Burls develop from axillary buds in the seedling redwood.

This "basal burl" (sometimes called a bud collar) persists, growing larger throughout the life of the tree.

The dormant stem tips continue slow growth and branching, but do not elongate.

Unlike aerial stems of redwood, burl tissue grows downward and forms an enlarged mass near the base of the tree above or below the soil surface.

Burl tissue overgrows the root tissues at the base of the tree and may also occur well up the main stem and on branches.

A variety of wildlife species call Redwood National and State Parks home.

The diversity of ecosystems in the parks means that creatures as different as black bears, sea stars, and bald eagles can be seen by a lucky visitor in a single day.

Marine mammals such as sea lions and gray whales are among the most visible wildlife in the parks.

Visitors are also likely to see Roosevelt elk browsing in the prairies.

Pelicans, ospreys, and gulls are frequently spotted along the coast along with tidepool creatures such as anemones and crabs.

Rocky and jagged, the coastline is a meeting place of ocean and continent where a unique collection of life has adapted to the harsh environment.

Buffeted by the salty sea winds, salt-tolerant vegetation springs up among the beaches and steep cliffs that dominate this stretch of California's North Coast.

Among the seastacks, brown pelicans and seals find a comfortable home; crabs and colorful anemones crowd the tidepools along the sea's edge.

Despite the extreme nature of fierce ocean winds, pounding waves, and geologic instability, visitors will find this pristine coastline an enchanting, unexpected part of your Redwood National and State Parks experience.

Rivers at Redwood National and State Parks are world-renowned for fishing and no less loved for recreation and sheer beauty.

The Smith River, named for explorer Jedediah Smith, arises in the Siskiyou Mountains and flows through the parks' north section.

It is now California's last major free-flowing river and is famous for salmon and steelhead.

The Klamath River, also a salmon and steelhead river, crosses the midsection of these parks.

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