

Fall 2014 High School Business Challenge Winning Teams Announced

Students from North Toole County (Sunburst) High School, Whitefish High School, and Hamilton High School took top honors in the Fall 2014 edition of the Montana High School Business Challenge. Teams participating in the fall semester Montana High School Business Challenge (HSBC) completed competition on December 8.

During the eight week simulation, where each week represents one business quarter, teams dealt with an unstable stock market, environmental issues and hiring of a new production manager. Teams are tasked with managing a plant that produces Digital Music Players and each week analyze cash flow and determine the number of employees needed, production and advertising costs, and conduct market research. Teams are ranked at the end of the competition by the final stock price of the simulated business they manage in a competitive market place against other schools in the semester program.

First place honors went to Forrest McEwan and Quintin Omdahl of North Toole County High School in Sunburst. The team was guided by NTCHS business teacher Russell Biniek. McEwan and Omdahl achieved an ending stock price of \$94.15 per share.

The team placing second was Watler Sobba and Sam Benklemsn from Whitefish High School, under the direction of business teacher Jeremy Anderson. The team was able to finish with at \$88.15 per share.

In third place was one of Hamilton High School business teacher Sharon Mattix's teams made up by Daniel Gabriel, Lindsey Dunham, and Lacey Davis. The Hamilton team members were able to achieve a final stock price of \$87.35 per share.

Students on the First Place Team receive a \$1,000 academic scholarship to any 2 or 4 year college. Second place team members receive a \$500 scholarship and Third Place team members a \$250 scholarship. Other scholarships are awarded to a randomly selected team that finished in the top quartile of stock prices (Bonner Middle School) and for realizing the largest stock price rebound from the mid-point of the competition until the final week (Terry High School). Teams are recognized at local awards ceremonies in their communities and during Business Days at the Capitol in January.

The Montana Chamber Foundation, with support from individuals, businesses and foundations, offers the business education competition to any school in Montana interested in bringing their students a real life simulation that teaches business operations and management. Since 2002 more than 18,000 students have learned business skills by competing in the program.

For more information regarding the Montana High School Business Challenge go to www.MTHSBC.com or contact Stacye Dorrington (HSBC Coordinator) at 888-442-6668 x100 or Stacye@MontanaChamber.com.

The Spring 2015 Semester edition begins Wednesday, February 18 with registration due today, February 11. Please see the article below about participating in the Spring 2015 Semester Montana High School Business Challenge.

Certificate in Computer Science Education at St. Scholastica

Scratch. App Inventor. Java. Even though they sound like a team of superheroes from a comic book, these names represent some of the latest advancements in computer science education. And as a computer science teacher, you'll be expected to keep pace with all of them—even if you have no formal educational training on them.

St. Scholastica (www.css.edu) in Duluth, Minnesota is wanting to change that.

With their [Certificate in Computer Science Education](#), you will learn about the new technologies and teaching methods you'll need to take you and your students to the next level—no matter if they're beginners, advanced placement students or anywhere in between.

And with 100% online courses, an affordable tuition rate and a part-time format that allows you to complete the certificate in just over a year without interfering with your home and work life, you can do it on your terms.

The credits earned through your Certificate in Computer Science Education can be applied toward their Master of Education program to meet elective strand requirements.

The next term starts on March 16. [Apply by March 2](#) to secure your spot in the class.

Questions? Please contact Heidi Bergstedt, Admissions Counselor, at 651.403.8633 or hbergstedt@css.edu, or Jen Rosato, Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems, at 218.723.6152 or jrosato@css.edu.

Register Today for the 2015 NBEA Convention

The [2015 National Business Education Association Convention](#) will take place March 31-April 4 in Chicago.

The 2015 NBEA Convention offers exciting, innovative, and progressive educational sessions that will enhance and refresh you as a business educator. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for professional growth.

Make the decision today to join us in Chicago. Below are the links for convention registration and hotel reservations at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

2015 Convention Registration: <http://www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/registration.html>

2015 Convention Hotel Reservations: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/12124981/owner/1361/home>

The Early-Bird registration deadline is Wednesday, March 11.

If you have already registered for the 2015 NBEA Convention, we thank you and look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Spring Stock Market Game Training Webinar Tomorrow

Want to facilitate learning that is exciting and fun for both you and your students? There are many benefits of involving your students in The Stock Market Game™, sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education.

The program is easy to administer, and teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts: Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Cooperation and Communication, Primary Research, and Saving and investing. Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive gameplay creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. Cash prizes are also awarded for the top three teams.

Registering Teams for the Stock Market Game: Competition begins on February 16, 2015, and runs for 10 weeks. To find out more information and register teams for competition, go to www.stockmarketgame.org, and click on the registration link in the upper right-hand corner.

Training Webinar: A training webinar is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. It is designed for those that have never participated in the Stock Market Game, or for those wanting to better understand the game functions. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Seating is limited. To register for the webinar, go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/802292072>.

What students gain from The Stock Market Game™ program is a remarkable experience—and even more important, an education for life. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer, Montana Stock Market Game Coordinator, at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, (406) 994-2263.

Today is Deadline for Montana High School Business Challenge Registrations

The key to getting your students to understand key business concepts is through hands-on activity. If you've not yet done so, consider this simulation designed to develop management, financial, marketing and critical thinking skills in a competitive, learning enhanced environment.

The Montana High School Business Challenge, sponsored by the Montana Chamber Foundation and administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education lets your students actively participate in a state-wide simulation as real entrepreneurs. The students manage the business of a Digital Music Player manufacturer, and many daily decisions face the students, including financial, ethical, legal, and competitive issues. It is a dynamic simulation that can be incorporated into many different class disciplines.

The state-wide competition runs eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, February 18 and concluding Wednesday, April 22. College scholarships are awarded to the top three teams. The cost is \$15.00 per team.

Registering Teams For Spring Semester? Questions?: To register teams for the fall Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail at timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 994-2263 for further information. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, February 11.

First Time Participants: First-time participants need to be trained prior to involvement in the Business Challenge by webinar training sessions which introduces the teacher to the concepts and procedures the simulation. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 9-10, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. If you are a first-time

participant, or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of the Business Challenge, please register online at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/213118489>.

Refresher Webinar For Past Participants: A webinar is scheduled on Wednesday, February 11th, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for teachers that have previously participated in the Challenge who want to refresh their skills and learn more about the simulation. This webinar is voluntary, and is open only to teachers that have previous HSBC involvement. Space is limited. The web address to register for this webinar is <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/657796225>.

Register Today for the ACTE Region V Leadership Conference

The Western region of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) will be holding its 2015 Leadership Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, April 15-18.

Hosted by the Kansas Association for Career and Technical Education, registration for [2015 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](http://www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015) is now open. Links to all the information regarding the [2015 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference](http://www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015), including lodging and registration details, can be found at <http://www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015>.

The early-bird registration deadline is March 15 with hotel reservations at the Overland Park Marriott needing to be finalized by March 25.

Printed Copies of Your Guide Available for Your Classroom for FREE

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education has about 2,000 copies of the 2014-2015 edition of the *Your Guide* available for schools, teachers, counselors, students, and parents.

The *Your Guide* is a comprehensive listing of certificate and degree programs available at Montana's two-year, four-year, tribal and community colleges organized by Career Cluster.

The *Your Guide* is a great instructional tool and visual aid for inclusion within any career development/career counselling program.

Teachers interested in placing an order should contact Katie Spalinger at kspalinger@montana.edu and provide your name, school, and mailing address.

To checkout an electronic version of the 2014-2015 *Your Guide* please visit <http://mus.edu/2yr/YourGuide.pdf>.

Looking for Office 2010 Instructional Resources? Contact Della

Lodge Grass High School business educator Della Anderson has some Office 2010 instruction materials she is willing to donate to a classroom needing some resources.

Della has 20 textbooks and student CDs, a teacher's manual and instructor's resource CDs, as well as 15 books for the Office 2010 at the advanced level. All materials are published by Pearson.

If you are interested in the materials or would like addition details, please contact Della directly at danderson@lodgegrass.k12.mt.us or by phone at 406.639.2385, ext. 122.

Roberts High School Business Teacher in Search of MS Office & Adobe Resources

Jeanette (Mitzy) Carter at Roberts High School is looking for some additional instructional resources for teaching Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop and InDesign.

Below is a listing of the textbooks titles she is seeking.

--10 copies of Introductory Microsoft Office 2007 by Pasewark and Pasewark, published by Course Technology Cengage Learning

--6 copies of Adobe Photoshop CS4 Comprehensive Concepts and Techniques

--2 copies of Adobe InDesign CS4

If you can help Mizty out or need more details regarding her request, please contact Mitzy directly at carter@roberts.k12.mt.us.

Introduce Your students to Coding and Earn \$1000 or More for Your Classroom

All the technology you and your students love and use—mobile games, medical devices, YouTube videos -- are all made with code. Imagine what your students could invent!

From [Khan Academy](#) and thanks to a partnership with DonorsChoose.org and Google, you can **earn \$1,000 or more for your classroom** by helping your students complete an online, self-guided, introductory coding course.

Any public high school teacher can participate! Whether you're teaching English, math, or art history -- if your students can type, they can get started with this tutorial. You can offer extra credit, start an after-school coding club, or spend a week on programming in your classroom. Your students can discover the magic of coding in a 12-hour course at their own pace.

Here's how it works:

Step 1: Register your class at <https://www.khanacademy.org/donors-choose> and invite your students to join it. Help them complete the Intro to JS course by **March 17, 2015**.

Step 2: In April, you'll receive a DonorsChoose.org gift code equal to \$100 per student (e.g. if you help 15 students, you'll receive a \$1,500 gift code).

Step 3: You'll receive a wrap-up survey for your students. If 10 or more of you students self-identify as part of groups traditionally under-represented in computer science, we'll send you an additional **\$1,000 gift code** as a thank you.

Questions? See the [full details](#), which also explain how to get help if any coding questions come up. Together we can help more students learn to code and bring more funding into the classroom.

Let's do it!

Students Can Blog & Win Some \$\$\$\$ in the Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Blog Contest

The [Montana Bankers Association](#) and their member banks are encouraging students across Montana to speak up and share their stories about how financial education has and will impact their lives by launching the [Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Student Blog Contest](#).

Students are encouraged to tap into their creativity and get involved for a chance to win one of three **\$500 prizes** to be used toward their education.

Visit the [blog contest guidelines](#) to learn more about the contest and promote it to your students.

[Montana Bankers Financial Scholars Student Blog Contest](#) entries are a great opportunity for extra credit, for generating ideas for a class or group project, or can even be a homework assignment.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on May 11, 2015.

For further information about EverFi and the critical skills courses offered to schools at no cost or the blog contest, contact Mick Karls at mick@everfi.com or 406.204.1148.

Get the Complete Details About the MSU Billings 3-Graduate Credit CTE Course for Educators

History and Philosophy of Career Technical Education in Montana is a three-graduate credit online course being offered by Montana State University Billings and taught by Dr. Lyle Courtnage.

Complete course details and registration links can be found at <https://extendedcampus.msubillings.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=E153PDCTEG1>.

The goal of *History and Philosophy of Career Technical Education in Montana* is to explore Career Technical education by first learning about the early roots of vocational education and its relationship to work followed by then seeing how the Federal government has influenced CTE, primarily through Carl D. Perkins legislation. The class looks at Perkins from both a historical, current and future perspective. Perkins funds are also the primary source of funding for Montana CTE, including secondary schools, postsecondary two-year education and state agencies. The class looks at CTE of each group from both a funding and strategic point of view. The emphasis of the class through each of its components is to analyze CTE issues in light of how CTE affects you, your classroom and your students.

The course will be held over a nine week period with two sections currently planned. The first section will begin February 16 and end April 17 and the second section begins April 20 and ends June 19. The course will be facilitated using the Desire2Learn, or D2L, learning management system. The course is a professional development course and credits cannot be used for undergraduate or graduate degrees. The total course fee is \$657.00.

An introductory video about the course can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE1pBU35_6I.

To get more information visit <https://extendedcampus.msubillings.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=E153PDCTEG1> or contact Lyle directly at lyle.courtnage1@msubillings.edu.

Free Professional Development Offered by Oracle Academy

Oracle Academy virtual instructor led courses specifically aim to simulate an interactive live classroom learning experience, while offering you the flexibility to participate from anywhere that is convenient for you—eliminating the time and expense of travel.

The courses are offered on a variety of dates and times. Please visit the Oracle Academy [Events Calendar](#) to see the upcoming spring schedule.

[Register](#) today for any of the following courses:

- * Java Fundamentals
- * Java Programming
- * Database Design and Programming with SQL
- * Programming with PL/SQL

Oracle Academy courses align to Oracle certification, regional, national, and state standards. Courses are available to Oracle Academy members as part of our suite of free resources in support of CS education. There is no cost to join the Oracle Academy Introduction to Computer Science program or to attend professional development.

Oracle Academy Introduction to Computer Science members receive:

- * Free professional development
- * Modular curriculum including lesson plans, projects, and assessments
- * Discounts on Oracle Certification resources

For more information or questions about Oracle Academy please visit www.oracle.com/academy or contact Oracle at academy_ww@oracle.com.

Registration ends soon so [sign up](#) today.

Montana Saves Scavenger Hunts to be Completed Next Week

Montana State University Extension is offering two *Montana Saves Scavenger Hunts* as a part of the America Saves program during 2014-2015. The hunts are specifically designed for two age groups: 11-14 and 15-19. Students will learn about the benefits saving and investing, how credit can be a friend for foe, and how to be in control of their money.

Students who complete the **Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt** are eligible for a drawing for one of 33 cash awards of \$100 in each age group during America Saves week February 23-27, 2015. The 66 cash awards for Montana students are courtesy of:

- First Interstate BancSystem Foundation
- Montana Credit Unions for Community Development
- Montana Consumer Protection Division, Office of Attorney General
- Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
- Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) Legacy Foundation
- Montana Bankers Association Education Endowment Fund of the Montana Community Foundation
- Montana 4-H Foundation

The **Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt** can be used by teachers who want to incorporate learning about finances into their. The Scavenger Hunt could also be utilized as an *extra credit* opportunity for students to complete “after hours” at home or the local library.

Students have until February 20, 2015 to complete the nine quizzes for the **Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt**. The hunts do not have to be completed all at one time.

The Montana Saves Website has links to all the **Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt** materials: Invitation to Students, Posters for each age group, and a list of websites for all quizzes.

Teachers whose students participated last year indicated a list of the websites for the school Computer Technician would be helpful. You can print out the list or refer your Computer Technician to the site.
www.montanasaves.org/

Fun Facts and Trivia

In Georgia, it is against the law to slap a man on the back or front.

A barber is not to advertise prices in the State of Georgia

In Louisiana, a bill was introduced years ago in the State House of Representatives that fixed a ceiling on haircuts for bald men of 25 cents

In Oklahoma, no baseball team can hit the ball over the fence or out of a ballpark.

In Rochester, Michigan, the law is that anyone bathing in public must have the bathing suit inspected by a police officer

In Kentucky, it's the law that a person must take a bath once a year.

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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