

Opportunities to Connect Students with Careers in Computing

Help your students engage and learn about careers in computing by connecting your classroom with IT professionals across the country. OPI's Phase I of JP Morgan CCSSO New Skills For Youth grant has created the opportunity for Montana classrooms to connect with software developers Skype (or other frameworks).

These professionals are happy to connect with your class to share their insights on computing topics including:

- careers in IT,
- the myths and reality of their profession and the computing industry,
- the types of problems they solve day-to-day,
- what it takes to be successful, and
- field Q&A from students.

The developers are based in North Carolina, Virginia, Connecticut, and Ontario, Canada and work for PCG, Public Consulting Group, a company that works across multiple sectors of the economy. There are four, one hour sessions available to Montana classrooms.

Contact Amy Williams at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for more information.
Amy.williams12@montana.edu.

High School Business Challenge Announces Fall Semester Winners

The Fall 2016 High School Business Challenge concluded with a team from Anaconda High School winning. Their final stock price was \$186.95/share.

In second place was a team from Capital High School with a final stock price of \$174.55/share and rounding out the top three was a Conrad High School team with \$163.04/share.

All teams start with a stock price of \$25/share.

The top eight teams from the fall semester of the Challenge will go on to compete against the top eight teams from the spring semester on April 29, 2017 in the 'Business Challenge Bowl.' Scholarships will be awarded to all participants of the Bowl with first place receiving \$1,000 per student; second place receiving \$750 per student; and third place receiving \$500 per student. Participants not placing in the top three will each receive a \$100 scholarship.

Other scholarships will be awarded to a team from Dillon Middle School who had the highest increase in their stock price between quarter four and quarter eight, increasing their stock price by \$130.98/share in the last four quarters.

And finally, scholarships will be awarded to a home-school team from Livingston, randomly selected from teams who finished in the top quartile. These students will each receive a \$100 scholarship.

During the eight-week simulation, where each week represents one business quarter, teams dealt with an unstable stock market, human resource issues, and environmental issues. Teams are tasked with managing a

plant that produces digital music players. Each week, they 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-long program.

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 the start of the Challenge in 2002, over 20,000 students have participated.

The Challenge is administered by the Montana Council on Economic Education and scholarships are coordinated by Reach Higher Montana.

Stock Market Game Winners Announced for Fall 2016

Congratulations to Troy Waters, business education teacher at Missoula Loyola Sacred Heart Catholic School, whose students finished in first and second place in the Stock Market Game for the first semester of this year.

The team made up of Muning Sun and Stanley Jack Lincoln finished first with a final portfolio value of \$124,659.04 and will receive a \$200 team prize.

Claiming second place was Jacob Hollenbeck and Pedro Duenas Moriera who will split up a \$150 prize with a portfolio value of \$122,830.01.

Third place went to Caed Barker and Trew Rittle from Red Lodge High School taught by Theresa Reimer. They finished with a portfolio value of \$116,065.55 and will receive a \$100 cash prize.

Congratulations to our winners and all participants of the Fall Stock Market Game. The Montana Council on Economic Education and donors are proud to sponsor the competition and provide the prize money as an incentive for all the students competing.

WBEA 2017 Conference Hotel GranTree Inn Sold Out for Friday & Saturday Night – Feb 17 & 18

The Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman, host site for the [2017 Western Business Education Association Conference](#), has provided notice the GranTree Inn is sold out for the nights of Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18.

If you are planning to attend the WBEA have not yet made your lodging reservations, the GranTree Inn suggests either adding your name to a waiting list in case there are cancelations or book your lodging at one of the other nearby hotels—Days Inn and Suites, Bozeman Inn, Comfort Inn Bozeman, or Homewood Suites by Hilton.

Reservations at the GranTree can be completed by calling the hotel directly at 406.587.5261 and use the Group Code 806427. The GranTree room rate is \$92/night plus tax and includes a breakfast buffet each morning and free WiFi.

Save the Date – Montana Economics Challenge 2017

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis will host the 22nd Annual Montana Economics Challenge on Monday, March 6, 2017 in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel.

The Economics Challenge is a one-day contest in which secondary students compete as team members and as individuals for prizes based on their knowledge of economics. The National Competition held in New York City will feature winning teams from four regional economic challenges. One of the four regional competitions, The Heartland Region, is held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Winning teams from eight other states will meet to determine which teams advance to the national event.

During the first three rounds of competition, students are tested in four areas: macroeconomics, microeconomics, current events/economic applications and international economics. The final round is a timed quiz-bowl play-off between the top two teams in each of two divisions. The first team to answer a majority of the questions wins.

For more information, please contact Helena.MTChallenge@mpls.frb.org or Rhonda Krieger at 406.447.3864.

Earn the Cyber Teacher Professional Development Certificate

Corporate-funded scholarships are now available for teachers to earn the **Cyber Teacher Professional Development Certificate**.

The Cyber Teacher Certificate is a highly relevant, comprehensive, online professional development program that will enable teachers to learn the **Fundamentals of Cybersecurity** and receive **eight (8) hours of CEU's** while connecting their students to the most in-demand STEM career in the world, cybersecurity.

"Cybersecurity job growth is creating career opportunities for students at an unprecedented rate. Educators are actively trying to bring cyber into their classrooms so their students understand their opportunities. Computer Science teachers now have a simple and powerful way to bring this capability into their classroom," remarked Rick Geritz, CEO of LifeJourney, the technology partner of CSTA for the launch of the Cyber Teacher program.

How Teachers Can Register for the Cyber Teacher Certificate Program

Teachers can [register for the Cyber Teacher Certificate program here](#) where they can review the program and learn more about it. There are a limited number of corporate-funded sponsorships that are available so be sure to sign-up today.

To register, please visit <http://bit.ly/cyberteacher>.

Google CS4HS Grants for Teacher Professional Development

As a company, Google believes in making information universally useful and accessible for all our users. This translates to the world of education by providing educators with the preparation, resources and support necessary to boost their confidence and skills as computer science educators. Google is committed to supporting computer science teachers through [CS4HS](#) (Computer Science for High School). Funding applications for the [2017-2018 school year](#) are now open.

CS4HS awards support to [PD practitioners](#) (research institutions, universities, community colleges, school districts and educational non-profits such as CSTA chapters) dedicated to creating and delivering professional development (training) in CS to local communities of teachers. Teachers apply what they've learned during their CS4HS workshops to inspire and empower students to not just be consumers but creators of technology.

To learn more about CS4HS awards and how teachers are working with local PD practitioners, please visit the [CS4HS website \(cs4hs.com\)](#) or email the CS4HS team at cs4hs@google.com.

EverFi Hiring Montana Schools Manager

[EverFi \(everfi.com\)](#) is bringing its online curriculum to thousands *more* students throughout the U.S., and the need a dynamic, tireless and passionate schools manager in Montana to help [EverFi](#) do so.

[EverFi](#) is a fast-growing, venture-backed company that teaches kids critical skills (e.g., financial literacy, digital awareness) that help them succeed outside the classroom and later in life. [EverFi](#) schools managers establish partnerships with school districts by developing high-level relationships, training teachers, providing counsel and support—and driving towards ambitious usage and satisfaction objectives.

If you or someone you know is interested, apply [here](#). To discuss the position further, feel free to contact Mick Karls of EverFi at 406.204.1148 or mick@everfi.com.

EverFi Announces Six \$1,000 Scholarships for Financial Literacy

Did your students complete Vault or FutureSmart? Have them share what they learned in the [Student Blog Contest](#) for a chance to win a \$1,000 529 College Savings Scholarship.

Students completing the [FutureSmart \(everfi.com/k12/future-smart\)](#) middle school financial literacy course are eligible for 5 \$1,000 scholarships through the [National Blog Contest](#). Additionally, another \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for students who have completed the course by March 31, 2017.

FutureSmart empowers students to effectively manage their finances, make sound decisions, and become stewards of their financial future. Through the story-based narrative, students play the mayor of a town as they help local citizens make real-life, personal finance decisions. Interactive exercises challenge students to make choices in real-life scenarios to achieve important goals around saving, education and career planning, and budgeting.

Built around the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies and the National Jump\$tart Standards for Financial Literacy, this online course provides students with engaging and educational 21st century skills.

To learn more, contact Mick Karls of EverFi at 406.204.1148 or mick@everfi.com.

WBEA 2017 Conference Computer Workshops & Breakout Sessions

Planning to attend, or thinking about attending, the [Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference](#) in Bozeman in February? Check out the complete listing of hands-on computer workshops and breakout sessions on the [WBEA 2017 Conference](#) website or directly at <https://goo.gl/LepsrU>.

All hands-on computer workshops will be held on either Friday, February 17 or Saturday, February 18 with breakout sessions taking place on Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19.

One new offering this year to WBEA conference attendees will be the option to complete the w!se Teacher Certification for Personal Finance. W!se will be conducting an informational session on Saturday morning with certification taking place Saturday afternoon. For more information about the w!se Teacher Certification for Personal Finance, please visit the WBEA 2017 Conference website or download the information, including registration requirements, at <https://goo.gl/XcmRR4>.

Graduate Credit Available for WBEA 2017 Conference – Only \$99

The 2017 Western Business Education Association's 2017 Conference will be held in Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20, 2017, and the WBEA 2017 Conference Committee is excited to provide attendees with an added benefit. Attendees of the WBEA 2017 Conference will be able to earn graduate-level college credit from Montana State University Billings. The cost for the credit is \$99.00.

The Montana Business Education Association has partnered with Montana State University Billings to provide WBEA 2017 Conference participants with the option to earn one (1) graduate-level credit from MSU Billings' Extended Campus. Registration and payment for the credit can be completed at <https://goo.gl/IEkuA1>.

The credit, EDCI 589-450, is not applicable to a Master's degree offered by MSU Billings; however, the credit may be used to fulfill K-12 licensure requirements, "lane changes," or other continuing education requirements for professionals.

WBEA 2017 Conference attendees who wish to earn the graduate credit will be required to provide proof of registration and attendance (such as a copy of registration receipt and nametag), a provide a written agenda/synopsis listing all the conference sessions and all the conference-related activities attended (including workshops, tours, networking sessions, etc.), and create a lesson plan in which materials and/or resources gained from the WBEA 2017 Conference are implemented. All materials will need to be submitted by March 1, 2017.

For complete details about the credit offering, including a template for the lesson plan, directions for utilizing the lesson plan template, and a copy of the rubric which will be used to evaluate the lesson plan and lesson materials can be found on the WBEA 2017 Conference website at <https://goo.gl/a0bd6d> along with other details regarding the 2017 event in Bozeman.

Questions regarding the graduate credit offering can be sent to Eric Swenson at eswenson@mt.gov. See you in Bozeman.

W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Available at WBEA 2017

W!se developed a Financial Literacy Teacher Certification Program in 2008. Teachers prepare for the assessment through self-guided study using the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual. After preparation teachers take the W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test. Testers have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the comprehensive 75 multiple-choice question assessment. The test evaluates instructor's knowledge on topics that are aligned to state & national standards.

Teachers who pass the test earn a Certification in Personal Finance (CPF). The CPF demonstrates proficiency in personal finance. Certified teachers are subsequently encouraged to enroll their schools in the W!se Financial Literacy Certification Program for students.

The W!se Teacher Certification in Personal Finance Test will be offered during the 2017 WBEA Conference in Bozeman Montana. Certification will be available on Saturday, February 18, beginning at 1:45 pm. Details regarding certification testing and the WBEA 2017 testing schedule, please visit <https://goo.gl/XcmRR4>.

Testers MUST bring a personal WIFI enabled device (laptop, iPad, Chromebook...) to test upon. The cost of testing is \$50. To participate teachers must register prior to the conference. To register please visit SurveyMonkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZLJ8TZ> and complete the registration survey.

Payment for the test can be submitted through PayPal, via the link included in the survey, or by contacting David Anderson of w!se (danderson@wise-ny.org, 212-421-2700). Once registration is complete and payment has been submitted testers will receive the W!se Certification in Personal Finance Manual via email.

Working in Support of Education (w!se) was founded in 1998 with a mission to improve the lives of young people through programs that develop financial literacy and readiness for college and the workforce.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Located on the southeast tip of the Arabian Peninsula, humans have lived in what is now known as Oman for at least 106,000 years and the city of Dereaze is at least 9,000 years old.

Oman is the oldest independent state in the Arab world. It has been ruled by the Al-Said family since 1744.

When the Portuguese entered the Indian Ocean trade they coveted the port of Muscat and took over the Omanis for almost 150 years until local tribesman drove them out in 1650.

Oman has enjoyed a strong relationship with the United States for over 200 years, and Oman was the first Arab nations to recognize the United States as an independent nation.

There are almost no Coca-Cola Company products while Pepsi is widely sold—Mountain Dew is widely popular with the Omani people as it is the country's top selling beverage.

Coffee is superb in Oman and it is always served with dates. The little cups are never full. Traditionally Omani drink coffee in a thousand little sips, each served separately.

Oman still has its weekend on Thursday and Friday. Friday is the Muslim holy day when Jumu'ah prayers take place.

Used extensively in religious rituals and in the perfume industry, frankincense trees only grow in the wild in Oman.

Oman is traditionally known for breeding Arab horses.

Zaad AL-Rakeb was the first horse in Arabia and to which all the Arab progeny horses were tracked back. It belonged to the Uzd, the old members of the Arab Uzd tribe of Oman.

Oman officially allowed tourists to enter its territory freely only starting in 1987 when Omani government decided to ease visa restrictions; up to 1970 there were no hotels in the country at all

Trade of fish, dates and some agricultural products along with tourism form a significant portion of the economy of Oman; whereas its neighbors, (United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) are solely oil-dependent economies.

Oman has 91.1% literacy rate.

In Oman, almost all signs and writings appear in both Arabic and English.

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.

Eric Swenson

Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov



"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