

Montana Business Educators Host National Business Education Association's Regional Conference

Members of Montana's business education community hosted the [National Business Education Association's](#) western region conference in Bozeman, Montana, February 16-20, 2017.

The [Montana Business Education Association](#) (MBEA) (www.mbea.info)—the state-level professional development organization for middle school, secondary and post-secondary business education professionals—organized, planned, and welcomed members of the [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) to the 2017 WBEA Conference entitled *Elevating Business Education* with sessions held at the Best Western GranTree Inn and Bozeman High School.

Nearly 100 business educators from across the western United States traveled to Bozeman to participate in leadership training, hands-on technology workshops, instructional sessions, certification testing, exploration of curriculum resources and tools from national vendors, and professional networking.

The WBEA 2017 Conference was under the leadership of the 2016-2017 WBEA President Elaine Stedman (Sidney High School, retired), 2017 WBEA Conference Chair Janie McFarland (Conrad High School, retired), and current Montana Business Education Association President Chad Eichenlaub (St. Regis High School).

Several Montana business educators participated in the conference's educational program by presenting hands-on technology-related workshops and instructional breakout sessions. Montana business educators who shared their enthusiasm, knowledge, resources, and skills with conference attendees included Nicole Bogunovich (Billings West), Mark Branger (Huntley Project), Sue Cheff (Flathead), Kerri Cobb and Brad Mehr (Bozeman), Nancy Francis (Belgrade), Julie Hanson (White Sulphur Springs), Cindy Jones (Glacier), Bertha Kirschten (Plevna), Brenda Rudolph (Flathead Valley Community College), Jody Sandru (Twin Bridges), and Eric Swenson (Business Education Specialist, Montana Office of Public Instruction).

In addition to contributing to the conference program, as the hosting state association, many of the Montana Business Education Association's members served in leadership roles as conference committee chairs. The following Montana business education professionals have been working for the past four-five years to organize and plan for the 2017 WBEA Conference.

- Janie McFarland, Conrad High School (retired): Conference Chair
- Brad Mehr, Bozeman High School: Off-Site Coordinator
- Scott Anderson, Baker High School: Publicity and Website
- Beth Lawrence, Garfield County District High School: Registration and Speaker Gifts
- Jennifer Rohrer, Simms High School: Vendors and Exhibits
- Eric Swenson, Business Education Specialist, Montana OPI: Program, Graduate Credit, and Renewal Units
- Christy Hendricks, CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist, Montana OPI: Silent Auction and Raffle
- Sue Cheff, Flathead High School: Tours and Transportation
- Mark Branger, Huntley Project High School: Equipment and Audio/Visual
- Terri Norman, Capital High School: Door Prizes
- Bertha Kirschten, Plevna High School: Finance

The Western Business Education Association is the western regional affiliate of the National Business Education Association. The Western Business Education Association is comprised of business educators from the 10 western states, including Alaska and Hawai‘i, as well as the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and the territory of Yukon.

Montana Business Educators Recognized for Contributions to Profession at WBEA 2017 Conference

During the Western Business Education Association (WBEA)’s 2017 Conference, three Montana business education professionals were recognized for their contributions to business education on the local, state, regional, and national levels. The WBEA 2017 Conference, *Elevating Business Education*, took place February 16-20 in Bozeman at the GranTree Inn and Bozeman High School.

Montana Business Education Specialist with the Office of Public Instruction Eric Swenson received one of two awards as part of the State, Territory, Province (S/T/P) Communication Recognition Program for his weekly e-newsletter, the *Wednesday Reader*. The *Wednesday Reader* is sent out to all Montana business and marketing education professionals, along with some school and college administrators and career counselors, weekly during the school year. The *Wednesday Reader* provides information regarding professional development events and opportunities, accomplishments and recognitions achieved by students and teachers of business and marketing education programs, updates pertaining to career and technical education funding and reporting, as well as resources and opportunities for curriculum development and support.

The S/T/P Communication Recognition Program is designed to recognize and reward S/T/Ps for the standard of excellence in publications, the newsletter recognition encourages S/T/Ps to keep in contact with every member on a regular basis, promote professional and educational opportunities, and serve as a support network among its membership locally, regionally, and nationally.

Janie McFarland, retired business educator from Conrad High School, was represented with the 2017 WBEA President’s Award. The recipient for the WBEA President’s Awards is selected directly by the current WBEA President and is presented annually at the WBEA conference. The WBEA President’s Award recognizes one individual for their continued support and leadership during the year as they work in support of the WBEA President.

Elaine Stedman, 2016-2017 WBEA President, presented Janie with this year’s President’s Award, and stated “Janie has been a truly valued friend, co-worker, and supporter throughout my year as WBEA President. Janie is one of those quiet, humble, and unassuming people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that every detail is taken care of. Her work ethic, organization skills, and dedication are simply amazing.”

As the 2016-2017 Western Business Education Association President, Elaine Stedman (retired business educator from Sidney High School) was presented with the 2017 Past President’s Award. Elaine has previously served as President of the Montana Business Education Association, a member of the Montana Association for Career & Technical Education’s Board of Directors, Chair of the Business Professionals of America Montana Association State Executive Board, and member of the Business Professionals of America’s national-level Classroom Educators Advisory Council.

Elaine served as the WBEA President-elect during the 2015-2016 school year and will complete her service on the Western Business Education Association’s Executive Board and Executive Committee during the 2017-2018 school year as the WBEA Past President.

Do You Teach BLaw or Street Law? Apply of the Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers

Since it began in 1995, the [Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers](#) has brought together over 1,200 teachers from across the country to convene in Washington, D.C., for six days of educational activities related to teaching about the U.S. Supreme Court. The Institute is co-sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society.

The Institute includes sessions led by Supreme Court experts, journalists, authors, and lawyers, who give teachers an in-depth understanding of how the Court chooses and decides cases, and what it is like to argue before the Court. The Institute covers six current or recent cases, and teachers even learn about the personalities of the justices. This exciting opportunity culminates with a visit to the Court to hear decisions handed down and a reception at the Court.

The Institute prepares teachers to use innovative methods to teach about both current and historical cases. Beyond the content-rich sessions and activities, teachers are also equipped with the skills and tools to train fellow teachers at home.

Two Summer Institutes will be held in 2017: June 15-20 and June 22-27.

- 30 teachers from across the country will be accepted for each Institute (60 total)
- Admission is based on a competitive application process
- Applicants must teach or supervise secondary social studies or law-related education
- Applicants must commit to attend all sessions and train other secondary school teachers
- Teachers who have already attended one of Street Law's Supreme Court Institutes or Seminars are not eligible for this program
- Applicants from ethnic and racial minorities, people teaching in urban schools or on Native American reservations, and people new to the teaching profession are encouraged to apply.
- Participants in the 2017 Institute are expected to participate in the program evaluation by responding to one brief survey.

For complete information about the [Supreme Court Institute for Teachers](#), please visit http://streetlaw.org/en/CalendarEvent/161/2017_Supreme_Court_Summer_Institute_for_Teachers. Registration for the 2017 Institute closes March 13, 2017.

Virtual Business Scholarship Opportunity for Students Worth \$2000

Each year Knowledge Matters offers a Virtual Business Scholarship opportunity that you have so kindly shared with the business, marketing and finance high school educators within your state. Would you be willing to do the same this year?

The Virtual Business Scholarship application is available online at <https://knowledgematters.com/about/scholarships/>.

The scholarship is for high school business, marketing and personal finance students currently enrolled in their junior and senior years of high school throughout the United States. This scholarship is intended to help eligible applicants defray the costs of their continuing education.

The scholarship applications will be judged nationally and the winner will receive \$2,000.

Applications Now Open for 2017 Next Gen Personal Finance Summer Institute

Looking for great professional development opportunities this summer? The [Next Gen Personal Finance \(NGPF\) Summer Institute](http://nextgenpersonalfinance.org/summer-institute) (nextgenpersonalfinance.org/summer-institute) may be what you are looking for.

NGPF is excited to announce applications for the Summer Institute 2017 are now open.

What To Expect at Summer Institute

An opportunity to collaborate with eleven other passionate, dedicated, innovative personal finance educators which will result in relationships that extend well beyond the Institute. Meaningful, relevant workshops delivered by the NGPF team, as well as special guest presenters. For example, last year we visited the Stanford d-school for a session on design thinking. A one-year commitment where you will serve as an NGPF Fellow, sharing your expertise with the educator community. All expenses paid, including transportation, hotel accommodations, all meals, and a few fun events around town. A lot of hard work and a lot of fun.

Who Should Apply

[NGPF](http://nextgenpersonalfinance.org) (nextgenpersonalfinance.org) anticipates selecting teachers with a diverse set of experiences. For example last year's Summer Institute had 12 participants hailing from 11 states who came from a variety of school types (public, charter, and private), settings (rural, suburban, and urban); and had different levels of teaching experience.

Applicants must:

- Be current US high school personal finance teachers or teacher-educators
- Be able to travel to our Palo Alto, California, office where the Summer Institute will be held
- Participate in all sessions during the 2 1/2 day professional development including a Welcome Dinner on the Sunday of your arrival
- Serve as an NGPF Fellow for the 2017-2018 school year (details to be provided)
- Submit a completed application by March 3, 2017

For insight into how selections were made last year, read NGPF [Application Tips For Summer Institute 2017](#).

Due to the number of high quality applicants received last year, in 2017 NGPF will be hosting TWO Summer Institutes—that means 24 educators will have the opportunity this summer.

Here are the Summer Institute dates:

- June 25-28, 2017
- July 16-19, 2017

Applications close March 3, 2017. Apply today. Questions? Contact Laura at laura@nextgenpersonalfinance.org.

Apply directly at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2ik_4p2sYZDuASZJnZWiiCX9hJIfSyIoeOVGmuu-xs9HOPA/viewform.

EverFi Announces New Schools Manager

Did you know that over 5,000 Montana students used an EverFi course just last semester?

EverFi (www.everfi.com) is proud to introduce Cari Turner, EverFi's new Schools Manager based in Helena, Montana. Moving forward, Cari will be the main point of contact for your school & district. Mick Karls will still be with EverFi, working with sponsoring organizations throughout the West.

Cari is a former middle and high school teacher and math coach. Cari is here to make sure your experience with EverFi is top notch, so don't hesitate to reach out. Cari can be reached at cturner@everfi.com or by calling 406.204.2224.

EverFi looks forward to working with you in 2017.

New Course – Joy & Beauty of Data at MSU Bozeman with Funding Available for Teachers

Montana State University (MSU) will offer a new Master of Science in Science Education (MSSE) course for Montana teachers, "Computer Science in the Classroom: Joy and Beauty of Data," July 17-21, 2017 on MSU's campus in Bozeman.

The 2-credit course is intended for 7-12th grade teachers who want to learn how to incorporate computational ideas in the classroom. In addition, teachers who take the course will be introduced to the broad area of data science and will extend their knowledge of the Python programming language.

Please note: Joy and Beauty of Computing is a prerequisite in order to participate in the Joy and Beauty of Data.

High school teachers who complete the course can potentially teach CSCI 1xx, The Joy and Beauty of Data, as a dual enrollment course.

The course builds upon the pre-requisite course, "Joy and Beauty of Computing," previously offered at MSU (2014-2016) and offered this summer at the University of Montana.

The course will be taught by Dr. John Paxton, Director, Gianforte School of Computing, Montana State University.

Support for Montana teachers is available. For more information and how to apply, please contact Diana Paterson, MSSE Associate Director at 406.994.5679 or msse@montana.edu.

Joy & Beauty of Computing Workshop @ UofM – Travel Funds & Stipends Available

The University of Montana will be hosting a Joy and Beauty of Computing workshop on the University of Montana campus in Missoula June 12-16, 2107.

The workshop will focus on Computational Thinking, Python programming, and Topics in Computer Science. A sample curriculum can be viewed at cs.montana.edu/paxton/classes/joy-and-beauty/. Plan to attend and learn the Joy and Beauty of Computing curriculum so you can offer the course at your high school, potentially as dual enrollment.

This workshop is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under grant no. CNS-1639841. Funds are available to help cover travel as well as stipends of \$1000 each to offer to over 15 accepted participants.

Instructors for this event include Yolanda Reimer (University of Montana), Jeff Braun (Montana Tech), Tim Olson (Salish Kootenai College), and Qing Yang (Montana State University).

Participants must be willing to take a free online python course prior to arrival and attend two (2) follow-on weekend workshops in Missoula.

If interested, apply online at https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aahKo3kpBXC5Ok5.

For more information, contact Yolanda Reimer at yonlanda.reimer@umontana.edu.

Introducing the New Montana Career Lab

The Montana Department of Labor & Industry announces the launch of the new Montana Career Lab at www.careers.mt.gov.

The Montana Career Lab is the State's premier source of career planning resources offering career tools for pre-K, elementary, middle school, high school, college, adult job seekers and senior citizens. One of the resources on the site is the Montana Career Information System (MCIS). MCIS is an online career exploration and planning system that is available for all Montanans at no cost. This tool is currently being used in over 700 sites which includes middle schools, high schools, adult education, Job Service and Vocational Rehabilitation offices.

The Montana Career Lab has videos, interactive lessons, lesson plans and other teacher/counselor planning tools, and workbooks. MCIS contains assessments, information on hundreds of occupations with Montana labor market information, programs of study including apprenticeships, 2- and 4-year public and private colleges, proprietary schools, financial aid, scholarships, resume' creator, and job-search tools, including links to job postings.

Along with the launch of the new website design, the Montana Career Lab is now on Facebook www.facebook.com/montanacareerlab. Each day the Montana Career Lab's Facebook page will have a new activity that parents and teachers can use to help build career awareness with young children and create career plans for middle school and high school students. Each day of the week is targeted for activities at a particular age level.

- Mondays: pre-K and Kindergarten
- Tuesdays: 1st and 2nd Grade
- Wednesdays: 3rd and 4th Grade
- Thursdays: 5th and 6th Grade
- Fridays: Middle School, High School, and Adult Job Seeker

Like the Montana Career Lab Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montanacareerlab, to get access to these daily activities.

4-Year STEM Scholarship at University of Great Falls

The University of Great Falls and the National Science Foundation are offering 4-year S-STEM scholarships to Montana high school seniors interested in pursuing careers in STEM.

The scholarship is renewable and is for students majoring in chemistry, biology, or math.

The deadline to apply is March 1, 2017. View the application packet [here](#) for additional information.

Save the Date--Economics Seminar for Teachers in Bozeman, June 14-16

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) is happy to announce—back by popular demand—the Economics Seminar for Teachers.

The Economics Seminar for Teachers will be held in Linfield Hall on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman, June 14-16. On-campus lodging will be available if needed.

The three-day professional development event will include professors and industry experts providing a program featuring the best practices in teaching economics at the high school level.

Participants will be able to earn OPI Certificate Renewal Units or one (1) 500 level college credit.

Registration will involve \$50 fee that will be refunded upon successful completion of the course.

Registration materials will be available soon. If interested in attending or if you have questions regarding the workshop, email mcee@montana.edu.

Join the Best of the West at the 2017 ACTE Region V Conference in Rapid City

The ACTE Region V Conference will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota, April 6-8, 2017. Join your fellow western-region Career & Technical Education professionals at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn for this year's event.

Registration is not open, with early-bird registration ending on March 1. Hotel rates at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn are \$89 + tax.

For more information about the conference, including the [conference brochure](#), submitting a [Call for Presentations](#), or to complete your [online registration](#), please visit www.acteonline.org/regionv/#.WJDZDk0zWgc.

Planning to be a First-Time ACTE Region V Attendee? Would You Like \$500?

If this year's [2017 ACTE Region V Conference](#) will be your first time attendee at the Region V conference, be sure to apply for one of the stipends that are available.

Up to 10, \$500 stipends will be awarded for the 2017 conference in Rapid City, SD and the 2018 conference in Colorado. To be eligible for the \$500 stipend, you do need to attend both the 2017 and 2018 ACTE Region conferences.

Applications must be submitted by March 15 and are available at acte.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT01ODY4ODIyJnA9MSZ1PTc3MTYzMzkzNiZsaT00MDU5MjcyOQ/index.html.

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](http://everfi.com/k12/future-smart) (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.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Uzbekistan is bordered by five countries: Kazakhstan and the Aral Sea to the north; Tajikistan to the southeast; Kyrgyzstan to the northeast; Afghanistan to the south; and Turkmenistan to the southwest.

Uzbekistan is a dry, landlocked country. It is one of two doubly landlocked countries in the world (that is, a country completely surrounded by landlocked countries), the other being Liechtenstein.

The Uzbekistan land was once part of the ancient Persian Empire and was later conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C.

The territory was made into the Uzbek Republic in 1924 and became the independent Uzbekistan Soviet Socialist Republic in 1925.

In June 1990, Uzbekistan was the first central Asian republic to declare that its own laws had sovereignty over those of the central Soviet government. Uzbekistan became fully independent and joined with ten other former Soviet republics on December 21, 1991, in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Uzbekistan's economy relies mainly on commodity production, including cotton, gold, uranium, and natural gas.

In Uzbekistan, handshakes are only acceptable if it is between two men.

The way to greet an Uzbek woman is by bowing to her with your right hand placed over your heart.

It is Uzbek tradition that the most respected guest be seated farthest from the house's entrance

Uzbekistan's Muruntan gold mine is one of the largest open pit gold mines in the world.

The Uzbeks believe that turning bread upside down will bring you bad fortune.

Palov or Plov is the national dish. Made of mutton, rice, onions and grated carrots, legend holds it was invented by the cooks of Alexander the Great.

Traditional Uzbek bread, known as 'obi non' or simply 'non', is flat and round and always torn by hand, never sliced with a knife. It is also never thrown out.

Soccer and tennis are the country's most popular sports.

The Aral Sea was once the Earth's fourth largest inland sea; however, after the Soviets depleted its water supply to irrigate the cotton fields in the 1960s and extensively used chemical pesticides and fertilizers, it has shrunk to half its former area and decreased by threefold in volume.

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