

Leadership Opportunities with WBEA—Opportunities to Serve on WBEA Executive Committee

The Western Business Education Association (WBEA) has openings on the WBEA Executive Committee and Montana members are invited to be considered.

The WBEA Executive Committee is comprised of the WBEA elected officers (President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President) and the Directors of the WBEA standing committees.

Currently, there are four Director positions open—Awards & Scholarship, Legislative, Media Communications (Webmaster), and Newsletter.

Montana members who have previously represented the Montana Business Education Association on the WBEA Executive Board within the past 10 years are eligible to be considered for appointment to the WBEA Executive Committee as a Director.

As a member of the Executive Committee, you can be a part of the leadership and management team of the organization, work with conference hosts and the WBEA President to organize committee meetings and breakout sessions, and work with other business education leaders from other states/territories/provinces of the Western regions.

The Executive Committee meets during the annual WBEA conference, attends the annual WBEA Executive Board meeting, and holds a two-day planning meeting in the summer (usually mid-June). Funds are available to help support travel to the summer planning meeting or you may participate in the meeting virtually if travel is not possible.

If interested or to get more information about the open Director positions and being a member of the WBEA Executive Committee, please let me know—eswenson@mt.gov—and I can share details and specifics.

The 2019 WBEA Conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona, February 15-18.

Supporting Students with High-Speed Connectivity

The Broadband for Montana Schools Program enables schools to upgrade their broadband, boosting access to high-speed Internet and providing students with more digital learning tools. Free resources from partners in the program are available to all school district leaders **at no cost** to support you in upgrading your network this year. Resources include:

[\\$2M in State Match Funding](#) for schools to upgrade their Internet infrastructure and work with an E-rate consultants on their application to the FCC E-rate Program

[New Education Super Highway Webinars](#) with tips and best practices to help K-12 leaders navigate the E-rate cycle and learn how to use their free tools, resources, and programs.

Please contact DOCBroadband@mt.gov with any questions.

High School Business Challenge Registration is Now Open for Spring Competition

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 for 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 14 and concluding Wednesday, April 18. College scholarships are awarded yearly to the top three teams, as determined by a year-end playoff. The cost is \$15.00 per team.

Registering Teams For Spring Semester? Questions?: To register teams for the spring Business Challenge competition or if you have any questions, please contact Tim Alzheimer via e-mail, timalz@montana.edu, or by telephone, 406.994.2263 for further information. Please let him know how many teams you wish to register for competition. Team registration deadline is Wednesday, February 7.

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 Tuesday and Wednesday, February 6 and 7, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Attendance at both sessions is mandatory for participation. 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://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7391068183129213699>.

Refresher Webinar For Past Participants: A webinar is scheduled on Monday, February 5, 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://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3216138969580115715>.

Professional Learning Opportunities for Computer Science—Sessions in August in Missoula

Thanks to you, the global movement to teach computer science continues to accelerate, and in the U.S. an unprecedented number of schools, districts, and states are embracing this new subject. But, our schools need more CS teachers, and teachers need more support for every child to have equitable access to computer science.

If you've ever considered teaching computer science or know other teachers who might love it, [Code.org's professional learning programs](#) are an ideal place to begin. Over 72,000 teachers have participated our programs, with 98% of attendees saying they would recommend our program to another teacher.

Applications now open: 2018 Professional Learning Program for Middle School and High School teachers. The 2018 Professional Learning Program for middle and high school teachers begins with a five-day, in-person summer workshop, with four additional one-day follow-up workshops throughout the year.

For Montana, a [CS Discoveries](#) (for Grades 6-10) workshop will be held August 13-17 in Missoula and a [CS Principles](#) (for Grades 9-12) workshop will also be held in Missoula, August 13-17. Both workshops are facilitated via the Code.org partnership with Big Sky Code Academy.

The application period closes on March 30, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Workshop descriptions and application details can be found at code.org/educate/professional-learning-2018.

The Professional Learning Program is open to educators who are interested in teaching the Code.org courses—no prior experience required.

In order to participate in this program, applicants are asked to:

- Commit to participating in the full, year-long professional learning program
- Work with their school administration to ensure that this course will be offered on the school's 2018-19 master schedule
- Support the recruitment and enrollment of a diverse group of students in the course, representative of the school's student population
- Teach the course in a school served by one of Code.org's Regional Partners

To find out if your area is served by one of our Regional Partners, please see the [Regional Partner Map](#).

Not sure if this is the right Code.org program for you? [Check out the program recommendations](#) to determine the best fit for your teaching situation.

Ready to get started? [Apply now](#).

Run the NSA Day of Cyber in February for CTE Month

February is CTE Month and a great opportunity to connect your students with the opportunities in Information Technology and Cybersecurity by running the [NSA Day of Cyber](#) experience as an activity that connects students to those in-demand jobs in IT and cyber.

Career and technical education, or CTE, is education that directly prepares students for high-wage, high-demand careers. CTE covers many different fields, including health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, hospitality and management and many more.

If interested in running a NSA Day of Cyber in February, register today at www.nsadayofcyber.com.

Support Questions Contact: support@lifejourney.us.

Every Kid in a Park Grant—Share with a Colleague

The National Park Foundation, Glacier National Park and the Montana Environmental Education Association (MEEA) have teamed up to help fourth grade teachers take their students outside with a \$300 grant to visit any public lands in Montana. Called Every Kid in a Park Grant, the grant helps cover any transportation costs to a public land in Montana.

Visit MEEA's [website](#) to apply for the grant and other information.

Also, MEEA has extended the deadline to apply for the Get 'Em Outside Mini-grant to February 1, 2018. Visit MEEA's [website](#) to apply for the grant.

Deloitte's Virtual Team Challenge - Registration Now Open; Challenge Begins February 14

The Deloitte Virtual Team Challenge is a **FREE** online, multiplayer business simulation and national competition where your students will learn key skills they can apply in their future careers.

Top-performing teams are eligible for prizes for themselves, their teachers, and local charities.

[Learn more and register to compete.](#)

It's super easy to run and works on Windows PCs, Macs, and Chromebooks. The Challenge comes complete with lesson plans and in-class exercises which form a fun curriculum that helps you to meet your teaching and learning standards:

Learning standards

- Student-centered learning
- Problem-solving
- Tech-integrated learning
- A virtual job simulation

General business acumen

- Business ethics
- Negotiation skills
- Decision-making processes

Life/career skills

- Communication
- Professionalism
- Research methods

This simulation takes place in the animated 3D world of New City after an oil spill on the New City River. The student teams' business objective is to help the mayor stage the most efficient oil spill recovery effort.

[Article: Illinois school wins Virtual Team Challenge](#)

The Spring 2018 Deloitte Virtual Team Challenge will run this Spring for six weeks from February 14 to March 28. Average classroom time is about 5 to 10 hours and the game is open 24/7 for the entire six weeks.

[Register now to compete](#)

Montana Teenpreneur Challenge--February 18 Submission deadline

Calling all high school students who run businesses or have ideas for new businesses! [Montana Teenpreneur Challenge](#) is looking to find and reward our state's next generation of business-savvy entrepreneurs. You know who these innovative students are at your school.

Your students may have created hypothetical businesses for their classes. Or, they may run businesses at home or at school for their BPA, DECA or other clubs. All of these are eligible for submission and prizes.

For the time it takes to shoot a short smartphone video and write a brief summary, your students could be eligible to share a purse of \$2,500, attend an all-expenses-paid entrepreneurship bootcamp, receive professional mentoring, and be recognized for their entrepreneurial spirit at a luncheon with the Governor.

To learn about submission guidelines, judging rubrics, helpful tips, last year's winners, online submission portal, and more...go to our [Montana Teenpreneur Challenge](#) webpage. Act quickly...submission deadline is February 18!

Details Announced for the 2018 Montana Financial Education Coalition Conference

The [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#) (MFEC) will be holding its 2018 MFEC Conference—*Financial Education Matters*—in Bozeman on Tuesday, April 3. The 2018 MFEC Conference will be held at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn.

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (www.mtmfec.org) strives to improve the personal financial knowledge and decision making ability of Montana citizens by promoting public awareness of the need for personal financial education, providing a platform for promoting the agenda of Montana financial education providers and building the capacity of their programs.

Complete conference details, including registration and lodging options, will be available soon. Check out www.mtmfec.org for updates.

CTE Calendars and Monthly Updates from CTE Specialists on the New OPI Website

Welcome back to school from all of the OPI staff in the Career and Technical Education division.

As you may have noticed the OPI website looks quite different. Rest assured all of the information from the CTE division has been transferred to the new website. The CTE web page is located on the home page under Family & Student Support.

As you get back into the swing of things, we thought you might like a little reminder of what is coming up for the school year. Although all CTE due dates and deadlines are already posted on the general OPI calendar, we thought this would be an additional help to you.

First, the [DUE DATES and DEADLINES Calendar](#) lists all due dates and deadlines relating to CTE accountability data and money-related concerns. Second, the [2017-2018 CTE Calendar of Events](#) lists additional dates and happenings related to Career and Technical Education such as student organization conference dates and teacher professional development.

You will find both calendars as well as the [latest monthly updates](#) from our CTE Division Specialists on the CTE web page under the 'CTE Updates' tab and located here: <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Career-Technical-Education>.

As always, please feel free to contact the OPI CTE offices at 406.444.9019 if you have any questions or if we can be of service or help to you as we all serve the great students in our Montana schools.

Hands on Banking® Helps Students Gain Financial & Entrepreneurial Skills

[Hands on Banking®](#) (handsonbanking.org) is a free, engaging, highly flexible financial capability program that can be used independently or integrated into existing programs to help people in all stages of life become smarter about money, make informed financial decisions, and achieve their financial goals. *Hands on Banking* offers a comprehensive suite of financial education articles, courses and tools designed for self-paced or group learning.

Since 2003, [Hands on Banking®](#) has reached nearly 4 million people with their financial education program through classes, workshops and our website. In 2017, more than 1.5 million unique visitors from within the United States and abroad visited their website.

As an award-winning, free financial education program, widely used in schools and by non-profits since 2003, *Hands on Banking* offers:

- Content available in English and Spanish
- No commercial content, no product ties
- Extensive age-specific (children through senior adults) and custom audience (entrepreneurs, military) curriculum
- Flexible Web-based and traditional instruction delivery channels

[Hands on Banking®](#)'s Vision is to be the relevant and timely resource of choice for educators and individuals in the development of financial capability to successfully navigate life's financial ups and downs and succeed financially.

[Hands on Banking®](#) provides relevant and creative content to help improve the financial capability of youth, young adults, adults, entrepreneurs, seniors, veterans and service members.

[Hands on Banking®](#) can help students address real-life financial situations including budgeting, opening accounts, managing credit, investing, steps to buying a car and starting a small business. There are several resources available to explore these financial topics, including Zing, a friendly and curious green alien that helps students in grades 4-5, or self-paced modules for high school students.

The youth curriculum has been aligned to Common Core State Standards, which includes English language arts and math standards for students in grades 4-12, followed by many of the country's school districts. Instructor Guides packed with engaging and interactive activities, including worksheets, planning tips, classroom activities, and much more are available online at www.handsonbanking.org and www.elfuturoentusmanos.org.

Additionally, [Hands on Banking®](#) engages thousands of team members in their local communities through our annual participation in the American Bankers Association's Teach Children to Save and Get Smart about Credit

campaigns. In the past five years, 11,000 team members taught 15,000 classes, reaching over 610,000 participants.

Visit www.handsonbanking.org to learn more about *Hands on Banking* and it can be used in your classroom and community.

Apply Today for a FREE 2018 Advanced Accounting Training—Boise, June 19-21; Stipends Available

The application for the [2018 APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) (formerly known as Accounting Pilot & Bridge Project) training is now open. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) has partnered with state CPA societies and/or state departments of education throughout the country to bring you training sessions to equip you with higher order accounting curriculum that will increase your students' engagement.

Becoming a part of APBP is not only FREE, but also provides high school teachers with a \$200 stipend upon completion of the program.

More than 1,000 high school teachers in 42 states have attended the training, received their free materials and been provided ongoing support. Are you interested? Head over to the APBP website to find a training near you.

A 2018 training for Idaho, Montana, and Utah is currently scheduled for June 19-21 in Boise.

Details about the [2018 APBP: Accounting Program for Building the Profession](#) project can be found at www.startheregoplaces.com/teacher/apbp-advanced-accounting.

To see the topics that will be covered in the training., download a PDF of the [sample rubric](#).

AICPA research has found the first accounting course high school students take greatly impacts their decision to pursue accounting as a major and career choice.

H&R Block Budget Challenge Helps Teens Learn Money Management & Earn Scholarships

The H&R Block Budget Challenge helps teens get Real-World Ready from the safety of the classroom. In this learn by doing simulation, students pay bills, manage expenses, save money, invest in retirement and pay taxes while competing for \$200,000 in college scholarships.

Awards include:

- 10 opportunities for student scholarships of \$20K (5 scholarships remain for Spring semester)
- Student incentives during game play

Spring 2018 sessions begin January 18, February 1, and February 15.

Think of Budget Challenge as the Road Test for Personal Finance®. Students are in the driver's seat as they immerse into the financial life of a recent college graduate who has been working for about six months. Each student gets a regular paycheck, a checking account, a 401(k) savings account and bills to pay throughout the simulation. Students increase their score by maximizing 401(k) savings, paying bills on time, avoiding penalties and fees like late fees, overdraft fees and finance charges and responding correctly to quiz questions.

For more information about Budget Challenge, visit the [Learn More](#) page.

Bring the H&R Block Budget Challenge to their students by registering at www.hrblock.com, logging in and creating a class for the spring simulations.

Returning teachers use their existing teacher account from the 2016-2017 school year to [login](#) at www.hrblock.com/budgetchallenge.

Spots are limited, so REGISTER and CREATE A CLASS today to reserve your space for your students to experience this free one-of-a-kind program.

Need help getting started? Watch the [“What is Budget Challenge?” webinar](#) today.

In this webinar, you will experience the student registration process and daily activities of a student participating in the game through a virtual tour of the simulation presented by an experienced Budget Challenge team member who has facilitated this game in her classroom. You will be viewing teacher resources, scoring, grading, and benefit from suggestions on how to implement Budget Challenge in your classroom.

Participating teachers are surveyed at the end of each simulation and their feedback is used to continuously provide improvements to the program.

NEW this year:

- Read the Starting Line to answer the question, “How do I get started?”
- Engage your students with newly designed quiz questions and scenario.
- Check for quick links to resources on the smarter Teacher Home.
- View student performance and engagement in real-time on the Dashboard, reducing the number of teacher emails.

Visit www.hrblock.com for complete details including timelines and deadlines for each of the three (3) spring sessions.

Save the Date—Montana Economics Challenge 2018

The Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis will host the *23rd Annual Montana Economics Challenge* on Monday, March 5, 2018 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 call Rhonda Krieger (406.447.3864) or Leslie Wunderwald (406.447.3820) at the Helena Federal Reserve Branch.

Enter Your Students in Web.Comp2018—Get Free Resources for Yourself and Classroom Use

[Web.Comp](http://groklearning.com/webcomp/) (groklearning.com/webcomp/) is a web design competition for high school students. We'll teach them how to build a website as we go along, rather than expecting them to be an expert already.

Students won't just learn HTML and CSS, they will also learn design concepts and creative communication.

[Web.Comp 2018](#) will run for 5 weeks, from Monday, February 26 thru Sunday, April 1. Each week, we'll release interactive notes with the information they'll need to complete the week's web design challenges. The last week will be a web design tournament where students can submit their own design and vote on everyone else's!

Visit groklearning.com/webcomp/ for more information.

Teachers can also utilize the learning resources and courses with FREE access. Teachers can register directly at groklearning.com/register/?next=&noskip=1.

New Youth Technology Grants from Triangle Communications

Triangle Communications has established a new program to benefit the varied youth clubs and organizations within their service area.

The Triangle Communications Youth Club/Organization Technology Grant program offers monetary support to youth clubs/organizations in the Triangle service area.

Eligible youth clubs include 4-H, BPA, DECA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, Boys & Girls Club, and more. Local chapter of club/organization must have majority of members within in the Triangle Communications service area.

Funds can be used for Science, Technology, Engineering or Math related projects. Up to \$500 Grants are available.

The deadline to apply is February 1, 2018.

Visit www.itstriangle.com/education-support/youth-club-organization-technology-grant for more details and to apply.

Spring Time in the Rockies with ACTE Region V—Colorado Springs, April 2018

Region V is the [Association for Career and Technical Education](#)'s (ACTE) western region and the 2018 Region V Conference will be held just down the road in Colorado Springs.

The [2018 ACTE Region V Conference](#) will take place April 11-14 at the [Cheyenne Mountain Resort](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Registration for the [2018 ACTE Region V Conference](#) is \$425 and includes most meals during the conference. Hotel rooms can be booked directly at the [Cheyenne Mountain Resort](#) for \$144 per night plus tax.

View the [Schedule at a Glance](#) as you plan your travel.

If you are interested in presenting, at the [2018 ACTE Region V Conference](#), a Speaker Proposal can be completed at https://docs.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6ARLfJHeG6h2Gtvdf17HTw3h3F5EEIAkulsJK5IKcgclmg/viewform?usp=sf_link. The deadline for submitting a proposal is February 1, 2018.

For more information about Region V and the 2018 Region V Conference, visit www.acteonline.org/regionv.

Please note, the 2019 ACTE Region V Conference will be hosted by [Montana ACTE](#) and in Bozeman, April 2019.

Head East for the 2018 NBEA Convention—March 27-31 on Baltimore's Waterfront

Register now for the [National Business Education Association \(NBEA\) 2018 Convention & Trade Show](#) in Baltimore, March 27-31, 2018. You won't want to miss this cutting-edge, energizing convention focused on the advancement of business education.

Early-Bird registration for the 2018 NBEA Annual Convention ends March 7, 2018.

The NBEA 2018 Convention will provide over 70 exciting and cutting-edge educational sessions, more than 20 technology workshops that will expand specific skills and introduce new technology, and general session speakers who will educate and inspire.

In addition, the Business Education Research Conference will be held in conjunction with the NBEA 2018 Convention. Do not miss this amazing opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills as a business educator, take part in networking opportunities, and be challenged to return to your classroom ready to educate, empower, and energize your students.

With more than 130 attractions, museums, historic sites, and performing arts groups, Baltimore promises something for everyone. From "The Star-Spangled Banner" to African American history, to The Baltimore Basilica (America's first cathedral), there's something exciting around every corner.

NBEA is excited to offer pre- and post-convention tours as well. Come early and stay late to be involved in all that the NBEA 2018 Annual Convention has to offer.

Visit the NBEA 2018 Convention site (www.nbea.org/newsite/conferences/convention/convention.html) to access the complete convention details, including general convention information, session descriptions, professional development seminars, technology workshop descriptions, and information on pre- and post-convention tours.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The island of Rottneest near Perth, Australia is the primary home of the quokka, a type of marsupial.

Quokkas have round, compact bodies that are 16-21 inches in length and are covered with short, coarse brown-grey and have small rounded ears and a black nose.

An early Dutch visitor to the island, Willem de Vlamingh, mistook the marsupials for large rats when he arrived in 1696.

He named the island “Rattennest” (Dutch for “Rat’s Nest”), which was later adapted to Rottnest.

Aside from Rottnest Island, small groups of quokkas also inhabit the mainland in Western Australia, as well as Bald Island, a small island to the southwest.

Groups of quokkas live in territories, which are defended by dominant males.

Quokkas often live in tall grass near water sources.

Quokkas are herbivores who primarily feed at night, meaning they are mainly nocturnal, and they eat the leaves, stems, and bark of many plants in addition to grass.

If necessary, Quokkas can survive for long periods of time without food or water by living off the fat stored in their tails.

After a month of gestation, the female gives birth to a baby called a joey. Females can give birth twice a year.

The joey lives in its mother’s pouch for six months. Once it leaves the pouch, the joey relies on its mother for milk for two more months.

At 1.5 years old, quokkas are old enough to have their own babies.

Known as the world’s happiest animal, quokkas big feet are tipped with very sharp claws which can tear into plants and flesh.

Inquisitive, appealing, and fearless, quokkas have adapted to human presence in their environment in admirable fashion. Campsites and condos are all fair game for hungry quokkas, who have become notorious for raiding local homes in search of late-night snacks.

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