

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR IMPACT REPORT



**Montana Council for
Economic Education**

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YEAR IN REVIEW



The Montana Council for Economic Education empowers youth by improving their economic and financial decision making to improve the quality of life for current and future generations. We are excited to report that in FY24 our impact increased by 31% serving 4,843 students in our programs. When factoring in increased training for professional development for teachers, we saw a 47% increase partnering with 138 teachers reaching every corner of the state.

Our work has never been more critical with the recent change in graduation requirements for Montana students to take a half credit in economics or personal finance. MCEE is uniquely positioned to support schools, administrators, and teachers with our focused work in adding new professional development training in business, entrepreneurship, economics, personal finance, and investment education.

We couldn't do this work alone, we are grateful for the leading businesses and organizations who have stepped up their sponsorships so that our impact keeps its momentum while welcoming new partnerships to increase economic and personal finance literacy for Montana's youth. Reach out and let's discuss how you can join in our journey in ensuring students in your community are given these critical life-long skills.

Dax Schieffer, Executive Director



104

Participating schools



4,843

Students served



5

Annual programs



138

Teacher partnerships



IMPACT
1246 participants
460 teams



Big Sky Biz Sim is an in-class business simulation where students make all of the operating decisions for their business to produce, sell and distribute widgets.

The decision inputs are then matched against other teams competing across Montana for the highest stock market price at the end of eight quarters, (weeks in the simulation).

In this partnership with First Interstate Bank, the game has been streamlined for teachers and modernized to manage against potential remote learning disruptions. The Biz Sim software and game has been in schools in Montana since 2000 with over 28,000 students participating with the support of the Montana State Chamber Foundation. It was formerly called the High School Business Challenge.

MCEE believes strongly in education through experiential learning. Students who participate will learn teamwork, communication, flexibility, problem solving, critical thinking and grit. All skills that will serve students and their future employers.

When students experience the ups and downs of their profitability based on their decisions, they not only will be taught the fundamentals of managing a business, but set in a competition, we can light the spark of entrepreneurship.

Fall 2023 - 1st Place
Sidney High School



Spring 2024 - 1st Place
Billings Central HS





The Stock Market Game is a nine-week simulation in which students are given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Students must have at least five separate stocks and/or mutual funds at the end of the simulation, so research and diversification are crucial for success. Top state winners are given cash awards thanks to the generous sponsorship of Glacier Bancorp and its Montana family of banks.

IMPACT
3,138 participants
1,128 teams

Fall 2023 1st Place - Skyview High School Billings



Spring 2024 1st Place - Hellgate High School Missoula



MONTANA ECONOMICS CHALLENGE

The Montana Council for Economic Education is proud to bring economics and personal finance competitions to Montana's youth providing state competitions for the National Economics Challenge and National Personal Finance Challenge. We believe when we provide the tools to understand financial fundamentals, we have the power to improve the futures' of students, their families, and their communities.



The 2024 Adam Smith Division first and second place teams represented Hellgate High School and a student team from Columbia Falls finished in third place. For the David Ricardo Division, students new to economics, first place came from Sunburst High School, second place from Columbia Falls followed by third place also from Sunburst.

These winning students qualify to compete with the top teams around the country. For the Economics Challenge, students compete online regionally and the top scores are invited to New York City. The classroom simulations in Montana are sponsored by BNSF, First Interstate Bank, and the Montana Financial Education Coalition.



IMPACT: 102 participants

PERSONAL FINANCE CHALLENGE

Every year, the Montana Council for Economic Education, with support from the National Council for Economic Education hosts the the Montana Personal Finance Challenge. The challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance by connecting with other students from across the state in an online competition.



The first place team for the Montana Personal Finance Challenge came from Broadview High School, second place from Skyview High School in Billings, and third place from Hellgate High School in Missoula. Top teams from every state are invited to compete at the National Personal Finance Challenge which was held in June in Cleveland at the Federal Reserve Bank. Montana was represented by Skyview High! Go Falcons!



IMPACT: 357 participants

TEACHER TRAINING & PROGRAMS



Thanks to Montana State University Department of Agricultural Economic & Economics, the Montana Council for Economic Education hosted high school teachers from around the state for a two day seminar in June to improve classroom skills in delivering economic fundamentals to their students.

This professional development opportunity is only made possible with the help of the talented and generous team at Montana State. The seminar featured a teacher celebration dinner and covered the costs of materials, mileage, and lodging with the support of the First Security Bank, Visa, RobinHood, Reach Higher, and the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation.

MCEE's mission is to empower Montana's youth by improving their economic and financial decision-making and the most effective way to meet this mission is to support teachers in the classroom who can have the most impact with students. This collaboration really makes a difference for our state and we look forward to future partnerships supporting teacher professional development.

In addition to the annual in-person professional development seminar offered in Bozeman, MCEE provides instruction at the MFPE Educators Conference during the state mandated PIR days. Courses include teaching investing, applying business simulations to learning economics, and current economic events in banking and productivity and debt.

New this year, with the generous support of RobinHood Markets, Visa and Council for Economic Education, MCEE is able to provide additional online professional development in economics, business, investing education, and entrepreneurship with teacher stipends as incentives along with renewal unit credit in professional development for licensure needs.



Class of 2024 teachers and MCEE board members gathered at Montana State for the Summer Professional Development Course.

OUR SUPPORTERS

\$10,000 - \$20,000



\$5,000 - \$9,000



D|A|DAVIDSON



\$2,000 - \$4,000



\$500 - \$1,500



Individual Gifts

Ken Laddusaw, Sean Sturges, Ryan Lindsay,
Commissioner Melanie Hall, Commissioner Jim Brown, Carol Perlinski,
Melanie Reynolds and Bob Rowe Foundation, Barbara Wagner, Dan Sullivan,
Dax & Chantel Schieffer, Koy Hoover, Randy Olson, and Brenden Craig

OUR BOARD

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Myles Watts – MSU Economics Professor Emeritus
Eric Swenson – Montana Office of Public Instruction
Rhonda Krieger – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Helena Branch

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Barbara Wagner – MT Dept of Labor & Industry – Helena
Myles Watts – MSU Economics Professor Emeritus – Bozeman



The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics educates students to make a difference by applying solid critical-thinking skills to address some of the world's most pressing issues.

Situated jointly within the College of Agriculture and the College of Letters and Science, our award-winning faculty members are dedicated to high-quality education, outreach and research. In pursuit of this mission, the department is reviewed biannually by a dedicated External Advisory Board.

ABOUT CEE & MSU

The Council for Economic Education (CEE) is the leading organization in the United States that focuses on the economic and financial education of students from kindergarten through high school. For 70-plus years, our mission has been to help our kids to create a financially stable future for themselves and their families by teaching them how to think through life choices.

It is only by acquiring economic and financial literacy that children can learn that there are better options for a life well-lived, will be able to see opportunities on their horizon line and, ultimately, can grow into successful and productive adults capable of making informed and responsible decisions.

We carry out our mission by providing professional development to teachers, teaching resources across the curriculum, and nationally-normed assessment tools. We deliver our programs through in-person local workshops, partner organizations, and online. We are embracing online technology as the new vector for delivery because teachers have less time and money to spare from their classrooms for their own education.

