

# 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR IMPACT REPORT



Montana Council for  
Economic Education  
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# OVERVIEW



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. In other words, MCEE programs make an IMPACT, only made possible by a team of teachers, administrators and business partners working together for our students.

This report will reflect on the impact MCEE has made for the 3,690 participating students representing every corner of Montana as well as celebrating the success of student leaders who excelled in the classroom simulations and student competitions.

The board of directors share in our passion to do even more as the leading non-profit organization with a focus on economic literacy for Montana's youth and invite you to join in our mission. We are actively seeking new teachers, new schools and classrooms to provide personal finance and economics education support, please reach out to learn more. If your company or organization wants to get involved in volunteering or financially supporting programs in the classroom, we'd love to hear from you.

As you read the report, we are grateful of the partners who make this work possible and look forward to inviting new partners aboard our journey as the impact we make today will shape the future success for tomorrow.

**Dax Schieffer, Executive Director**



80

Participating schools



3,690

Students served



5

Annual programs



94

Teacher partnerships





**IMPACT**  
**1087 participants**  
**54 classrooms**



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).

With 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 2022 - 1st Place**

Kassadee Olson  
Sidney High



**Spring 2023 - 1st Place**

Michael Miller  
Elijah Scribner  
Sunburst High







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**

**2266 participants**  
**77 classrooms**

**Fall 2022 1st Place Hellgate High (no photo)**  
**Spring 2023 1st Place Frenchtown High**



Frenchtown High School coached by Ryan Goris, (second from left) took first place at the high school division. First Security Bank Missoula Community Relations Officer Bill Johnston (left) and President Scott Burke (right) joined the winning students from Frenchtown High School to celebrate their success.



This year we offered a Junior High Division in the spring. The winning team was from **Washington Middle School in Glendive** pictured with their teacher Lisa Stickle.

Fall 2022 Junior High Division Winner was from **Dillon Middle School**, no photo available.

“My students had so much fun with this project and they learned a ton of things along the way. We all appreciate the chance to watch our students gain skills and confidence in this area, so thank you for this opportunity to play in a real-world setting. I must share that I have several students who come from lower socio-economic home lives, and so they were especially empowered to learn how easy it is to invest and that they do not need to be a financial genius to do so. The impact of that alone has been the best part of the whole experience.” - **Pam Beach, Baker**





# 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.



This year, congratulations to Park County High School in Livingston for First Place in the David Ricardo Division and Hellgate High School in Missoula for sweeping the top three spots in the Adam Smith Division for the 2023 Montana Economics Challenge. Other honors go to students in Frenchtown and Flathead High in Kalispell for second and third place in the David Ricardo Division, respectively.

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.



Park High students were celebrated with their first place finish in the David Ricardo division coached by teacher, Joey Lane (second from left). Sponsors of the event pictured include Ryan Anderson with First Interstate Bank (left), Matt Jones with BNSF (second from right) and MCEE Board Member, Commissioner Troy Downing (right).

Students from Hellgate High School were presented certificates and cash prizes for first place in the Adam Smith Division from sponsors Matt Jones with BNSF and Tom Severson with First Interstate Bank



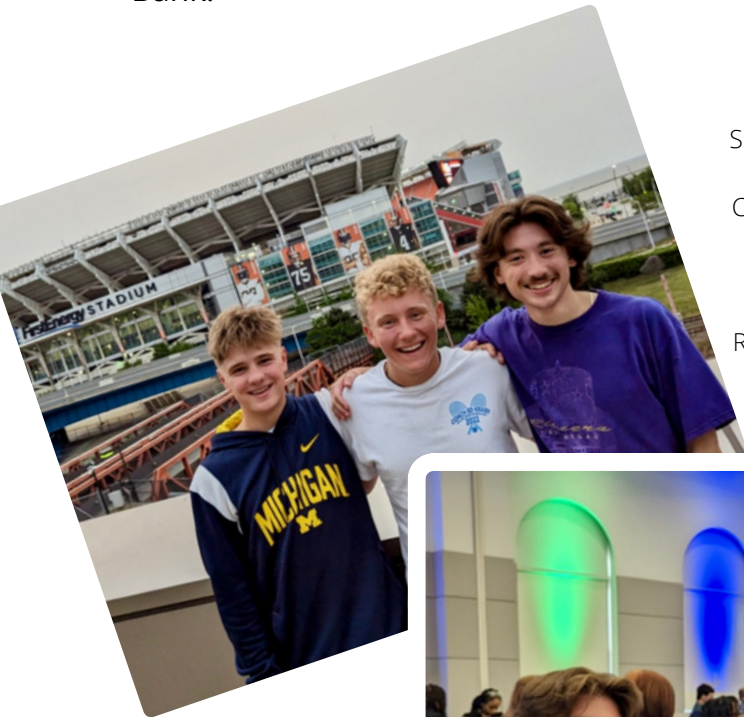
**IMPACT:**  
103 participants  
9 classrooms

# 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 represented Skyview High School in Billings with second place from Twin Bridges and third place from Columbia Falls. The winning team from every state is invited to compete at the National Personal Finance Challenge which was held in June in Cleveland at the Federal Reserve Bank.



Winning students from Skyview High School had a chance to explore Cleveland for the National Personal Finance Challenge with sight seeing to the Federal Reserve Bank, Rock & Roll Museum and other attractions.



**IMPACT:**  
234 participants  
15 classrooms



# TEACHER TRAINING

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 July 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 MSU, including Dr. Joe Atwood and Dr. Myles Watts. 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, 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 its 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 in working with teacher training with the help of Montana State University.

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.

Class of 23, teachers and MCEE board members gathered on the steps of Linfield Hall for the Summer Professional Development Course hosted at MSU.



**IMPACT:**  
34 participants

# OUR SUPPORTERS

\$10,000 - \$20,000



\$5,000 - \$9,000

DENNIS & PHYLLIS  
WASHINGTON  
FOUNDATION



D|A|DAVIDSON



\$2,000 - \$4,000



\$500 - \$1,500



\$500 and above

Kenneth R. Laddusaw  
Sean Sturges  
Troy Downing

up to \$500

Dax & Chantel Schieffer  
Barbara Wagner  
Danielle Coffman



# OUR BOARD

## Executive Committee

Sean Sturges – D.A. Davidson – President  
Ken Laddusaw – PayneWest CFO (ret) – Secretary/Treasurer  
Koy Hoover – Stifel  
Myles Watts – MSU Economics Professor Emeritus  
Eric Swenson – Montana Office of Public Instruction  
Rhonda Krieger – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Helena Branch

## Board of Directors

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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.

