

Newsletter - May 2024

Youth Win \$40,000 in Awards through The Prospects Program

[Montana Chamber Foundation](#), a member of the Work-based Learning Collaborative, facilitates The [Prospects](#) program in partnership with schools across Montana. The Prospects encompasses a virtual statewide entrepreneurship competition with scholarships and cash prizes for high school and middle school students. Students are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas for new products or services, or submit their existing businesses.

This competition is designed to find, celebrate, and reward promising students by providing them with opportunities to show off their entrepreneurial mindset and ability to solve problems for the real world. Montana Chamber Foundation is connecting students and business leaders from around the state.

You can view the list of [2024 youth winners](#). Good luck to those competing in the Grand Champion Competition at Jake Jobs College of Business & Entrepreneurship at Montana State University in Bozeman on May 20!



It is Youth Apprenticeship Week!



Youth apprenticeships offer a powerful "learn and earn" approach where students gain valuable on-the-job experience and earn wages, and, in many cases, college credit. Youth apprenticeship not only prepares participants for immediate employment but also sets a strong foundation for lifelong career success.

"It's more than just job training. These programs are about opening doors to quality jobs for all young people, especially those from communities often underrepresented in quality jobs. They're about creating a skilled workforce that reflects the diversity and dynamism of our society" (JFF).

Jobs for the Future (JFF) is working to ensure the U.S. education and workforce systems allow everyone to achieve equitable economic advancement. [Read more](#) about promising strategies for connecting Opportunity Youth to apprenticeships.

Next Week - Workshop to Help You Build and Maximize Your Internships!

InternBridge will present the Total Internship Management Workshop in **Bozeman on May 14**. Learn more and register [here](#). This full-day highly interactive workshop is perfect for anyone coordinating internships or anyone interested in improving their organization's talent pipeline! The workshop discusses strategies for maximizing the experience for both interns and business, and the material is relevant to onboarding and supporting any new employee.



The Work-based Learning Collaborative has limited 50% scholarships for WBLC members to help cover the cost of this incredibly valuable workshop. Please reach out to Gabrielle at growley@reachhighermontana.org for more information.



Two Organizations Win Drawing for Promoting Employer Survey

Thank you to the 30+ organizations that helped us distribute and promote the [Work-based Learning Collaborative Employer Satisfaction Survey](#) earlier this spring! Each time an organization was recognized under "how did you hear of this survey," they were entered into a drawing to win \$500 (more referrals equals more entries). We randomly selected two winners earlier this month. Congratulations to the **Montana Hospital Association** and the **Montana Chamber of Commerce** for winning the prizes!

Survey results will be shared next month!

Did You Know You Can Use Your Industry Experience to Obtain an Educator License?

Do you want to impact the next generation? "Class 4 Career and Technical" teaching licenses are issued to those who have industry experience and wish to teach skills within those industries. Visit the Montana Office of Public Instruction website to learn more about Montana Class 4 Educator Licensure: [Educator Licenses \(mt.gov\)](https://opi.mt.gov/educator-licenses)



See the subject areas of endorsement available for [Class 4 Teaching Licenses](#).



News You Can Use:

Building Robust District Work-Based Learning Data Collection Systems

Check out some work-based learning data collection systems and promising practices. To inform and encourage expanded work-based learning data collection, the Career and Technical Education Research Network examined six school districts across the country to find out what data is being collected and how. These districts have gone beyond typical data collection

and use. [Read the full report.](#)

How Much Money Does a Family of Four in Montana Need in Order To Live Comfortably?

More than you might expect! This [income data illustrates](#) the need for young people to gain essential skills so they are prepared to earn a living wage as adults. Work-based learning can help youth ages 16-24 build skills and develop social capital, leading to a more secure future.



Upcoming Meetings:

Quarterly Meeting (Virtual)

June 4, 11 am - 1 pm

Annual Retreat

August 12-15, Helena

Questions? Contact:

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WBL Collaborative Director

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or visit wblmt.org.

Work That Matters

Work-based learning (WBL) opportunities span a continuum from workplace tours to apprenticeships (and many models in between).

In addition to building employability skills, WBL experiences help students develop **meaning** from their classroom learning and explore **purposeful** career opportunities. Employers who intentionally cultivate **belonging** in the workplace for young workers can gain access to future workforce talent. The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative works to promote belonging, meaning, well-being, and purpose for all young Montanans by building capacity for high-quality WBL experiences.

There are components of work-based learning in the K-12 education system, the postsecondary education system, and the public workforce system – but no single entry point for students or employers to access them. Our work to improve coordination among agencies and WBL partners benefits Montana’s emerging workforce and Montana’s businesses.

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