

From Beth Schule, FCS Teacher, Kalispell Middle School:

I had the amazing privilege to attend the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference in Cleveland, OH in early November. This conference was an eye-opening experience about what is going on around the nation with financial education. There were over 350 educators from all over the nation and all aspects of personal finance. There were workshops and speakers covering a wealth of topics and providing endless ideas about how to incorporate real life personal finance skills into many curricular areas and the entire conference was underwritten by the Wells Fargo Foundation and Experian, making it free to all in attendance. As a middle school Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, I was really looking for something that I could implement into my already full curriculum. Boulay Bank was just the resource I needed!

Created by a teacher in Denver, CO, Boulay Bank is a free virtual platform to create and manage a classroom economy! It is simple to create an account for your classroom and personalize how the economy should work. Students are able to make deposits to their accounts, pay bills, create checking and saving accounts, and much more. This platform serves as a classroom management technique by attaching value to desired behaviors and having students “purchase” classroom items and privileges, all the while teaching skills about how to manage personal finances. The website to create your own account and look further at what this resource has to offer is www.boulaybank.com.

I would like to thank the Montana Financial Education Coalition for the scholarship that sponsored my travel and attendance. The opportunity to attend a national conference of this caliber was unforgettable, and I have many new ideas to integrate into my classroom!

