



MFEC Mini Grants

The MFEC expanded its mini-grant program through the generosity of our partners. The MFEC awarded five mini-grants in 2019 totaling nearly \$3,500 in support of projects serving a broad range of populations across Montana. These projects included:

YouthBuild – Helena - YouthBuild Helena is an employability program dedicated to helping young adults achieve their high school equivalency, attain pre-apprenticeship certificates, serve the Helena Community, and build life skills. The grant funds were used on books to implement a concrete financial education curriculum.

MSU-Extension – Hill County – The MSU Extension hosted a summer reading club of the book *The Total Money Makeover* by Dave Ramsey in July/August in Havre. Participants read the book, completed the workbook, and met four times to discuss skills they were learning. Grant funds were allocated for books/workbook, printing costs to promo the program, and incentives for participants to complete the book club.

NACDC Financial Services – Browning - NACDCFS administers a youth savings program in Browning schools and compliments this with financial literacy training whenever possible. This year, an NACDCFS trainer taught a one-day class on budgeting and other financial skills that was required for all graduating seniors. The grant funds were used for speaker honorariums and lunch for the event.

Rural Dynamics, Inc. - Tax Help Montana is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly program made up of a coalition of community partners that provide free tax preparation for around 5,000 low- to-moderate income and elderly individuals and families in at least 15 Montana counties as well as two Native American Reservations. The grant supported the training of their volunteers on educating the taxpayers about financial resources available and the appropriate agencies to refer them. Grant funds were used in part to cover a portion of supplies, technology, equipment, training personnel, and office space.

Personal Finance Challenge

The MFEC participated as a sponsor in the 2nd annual Montana Personal Finance Challenge. The state competition was hosted by the Federal Reserve Branch Bank in Helena on April 15th. Along with the Montana Council on Economic Education, MFEC sponsorship helped send the winning team from Hellgate High School to the national competition in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Jump\$tart President and CEO Laura Levine Visits Montana

In September, Jump\$tart President and CEO Laura Levine visited Montana to participate in meetings with the MFEC's executive leadership and board. As Montana's Jump\$tart affiliate, the MFEC is grateful for Laura's leadership and vision in promoting financial education for all.

MFEC Board Members Present at Governor's Conference on Aging
Members of the MFEC attended the 51st Annual Governor's Conference on Aging in Billings. Several MFEC Board members participated in a keynote presentation titled "Elder Fraud and Exploitation Prevention Measures and Success through Networking." The efforts by these stakeholders are proof that collaboration, communication and commitment can make a difference. Financial literacy is a valuable tool in the fight against elder fraud and exploitation. For that reason, the MFEC supports a cradle to grave approach to financial education.

Save
the
Date!



**MFEC
Conference
2/25/2020**

Jump\$tart's National Educator Conference

In November, the MFEC sent four teachers to the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference which is the nation's premier professional development event for pre-K through 12th grade teachers, dedicated to financial education in the classroom. The MFEC was able to double the number of scholarships offered through the generosity of the First Interstate Bank Foundation and Jump\$tart and their national partners. The scholarship recipients were:

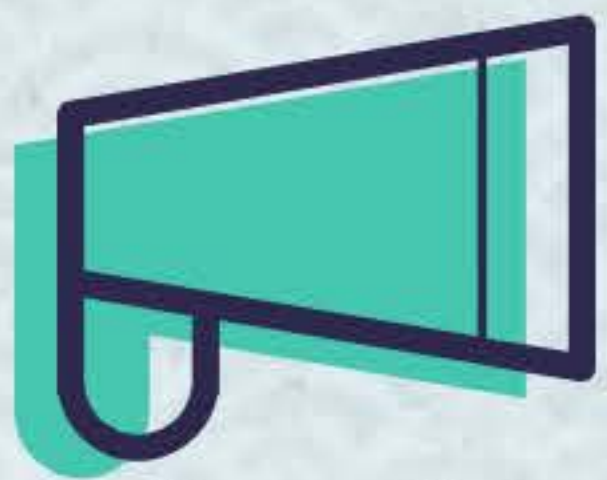
- Janelle Berry, a business teacher at Skyview High School in Billings with 33 years of teaching experience.
- Jordan Harler, a FCCLA advisor who teaches Family and Consumer Science at Manhattan High School.
- Steven Klimkiewicz, a teacher at Hellgate High School in Missoula, whose courses include personal finance, advanced finance, 21st century career essentials, and economics.
- Jill Page, an educator at Glasgow High School, with 17 years of experience.

Project Groundswell

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy has set a new goal to increase financial education in our nation's classrooms 25 percent by the end of 2025. This exciting new initiative dubbed "Project Groundswell" plans to enlist the help of parents, family members, educators, volunteers and Jump\$tart's nationwide network of state affiliates. The focus of Project Groundswell is on getting financial education into more classrooms, regardless of state or local mandates, and at all levels, beginning in elementary school.



Jump\$tart has created a virtual toolkit at CheckYourSchool.org for those who want to take part in the effort, including links to research that will help make the case for financial education in schools. Jump\$tart's online clearinghouse will help schools new to financial education find vetted resources from hundreds of providers, as well as the National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education and professional development opportunities for classroom teachers.



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The Board offers this report of its initiatives and accomplishments in 2019.

Nothing would be accomplished without the statewide network of partners dedicated to advancing financial education across Montana.

THANK YOU!