

Minnesota Council on Economic Education

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2003 FORTY-TWO YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC EDUCATION

KEY TO STUDENT SUCCESS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

In 2003, the Minnesota Council concentrated on preparing teachers to enhance student understanding of economics and personal finance. Professional development opportunities were provided to more than 750 Minnesota K-12 teachers and 100 North Dakota K-12 teachers.

► A major focus was to assist teachers in implementing economics and personal finance academic standards. Educators participating in week-long professional development courses achieved remarkable increases in their economic understanding; among those who scored less than 50% correct on a pre-test of college-level economics, there was an average increase of 30% on the post-test.

► A second focus was to integrate economics and personal finance into social studies and mathematics curricula. To date the Council has trained more than 300 mathematics teachers and 300 personal finance teachers in curricula that integrate economics into these content areas.

► The first *Environmental Economics Camp* in Duluth was an exciting success. Classroom activities were combined with on-site visits to enhance understanding of the economics of environmental issues. Participants achieved a 33% increase in cognitive knowledge from pre- to post-test (and had fun doing it!).



ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP

STUDENT AND TEACHER EXCELLENCE

► *Economics Challenge* teams from Brainerd High School took top state honors in both divisions. Both teams performed admirably at regional playoffs, winning second place in their divisions and just missing a trip to the “Final Four” national championships. Over 400 Minnesota students take part in *Economics Challenge* each year, with many more participating in classroom competitions to determine the school team.



BRAINERD TEAMS

► Economic education awards for excellence and innovation were presented to four Minnesota teachers for 2003. In addition, four Minnesota educators were selected to participate in National Council on Economic Education study tours to Russia.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2004

CENTER FOR PERSONAL AND FAMILY FINANCIAL EDUCATION

In conjunction with the Minnesota Extension Service, the Council has recently established a center devoted to financial education for low- and moderate-income adults and families. The Center will prepare community educators to deliver effective financial education to their clientele.

MORE →

NEW INITIATIVES CONTINUED

CARGILL GLOBAL FOOD CHALLENGE

This new student program will increase student understanding of basic economic principles and world food system issues. Beginning in 2004, hundreds of Minnesota students will benefit from this exciting learning opportunity.

ON-LINE STUDENT TESTING

The Council has developed on-line testing capability for the *Test of Economic Literacy*. Teachers will be able to pre-test students to highlight areas of highest need and post-test to determine achievement. The Council will use testing data to research factors affecting student outcomes.

FINANCIAL FITNESS FOR CREDIT

Together with the Credit Card Project of The Saint Paul Foundation, the Council will pilot teacher workshops integrating personal finance lessons with a case study examining ethical issues in marketing credit cards. The goal is to prepare youth for responsible credit use.

HONORS FOR MINNESOTA COUNCIL FACULTY

- ▶ Rich MacDonald, SCSU Center Director, leads the national evaluation of the National Council's *Capstone* curriculum. He also serves on the Boards of Directors of the National Council and the National Association of Economic Educators.
- ▶ Ken Rebeck, Faculty Associate, Minnesota Council Network, heads the national evaluation of *Financial Fitness for Life* and was also named the National Council's "Rookie of the Year."
- ▶ Claudia Parliament was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Economic Educators.
- ▶ The Minnesota Council's *Economic Systems* course was selected as the national model for training beginning and under-trained economics teachers. The course syllabus will be provided to the National Council network.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDING

EDUCATORS — THE KEY TO ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL UNDERSTANDING

Research shows that professional development of teachers is the most effective way to introduce and maintain economics in the K-12 curriculum. The Minnesota Council is the only organization oriented primarily to improving teacher understanding of economic and personal finance concepts. Community educators are also trained and supported by the Council's new Center for Personal and Family Financial Education.

COUNCIL PROGRAMS, TRAINING, AND MATERIALS ALL FEATURE:

- ▶ A thorough understanding of economic and personal finance concepts.
- ▶ Standards of performance.
- ▶ Nationally normed tests and assessment tools.
- ▶ Support for classroom implementation.
- ▶ Recognition of success for both educators and students.

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS PROVIDE THE TRAINING

University professors in the Council's network of Centers for Economic Education deliver programs to teachers, community educators, and students. Centers are located at:

University of Minnesota — Twin Cities
St. Cloud State University — St. Cloud
Minnesota State University — Moorhead

University of Minnesota — Duluth
Minnesota State University — Mankato
University of St. Thomas — St. Paul