



# HIGHLIGHTS 2006–2007 & INITIATIVES

## Expanding Programs for Economic Educators

■ **Over 600 K-12 educators** participated in 26 different professional development opportunities offered by the Minnesota Council in 2006.

Formats ranged from after school workshops to seven-day courses for graduate credit and were available to **teachers at all grade levels.**

Teacher participation at workshops and courses lasting at least one full day increased by 28% from 2005 to 2006.

Teachers participating in Council programs represented **48% of the state's public school districts.**

■ Workshops were offered in **eight statewide locations** including: St. Olaf College, St. Cloud State University, University of Minnesota – Duluth, University of St. Thomas, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Marshall High School, and University Center in Rochester.

“If someone had told me I would be teaching economics to my third graders, I'd have thought him or her out of touch... But after *Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics* my students could be poster children for early economic education.”  
— Course participant

■ Twenty-three **on-site classroom visits** by faculty members of the Council network were conducted to encourage and support teachers' efforts to implement economics content in the classroom.

■ Thirty-one teams of educators from 18 states participated in a **national professional development program** on the *Seas, Trees, and Economies* curricula for elementary and middle school teachers. The program was organized by the Minnesota Council in collaboration with the Centers for Economic Education in Atlanta and St. Louis.

■ Forty-seven K-12 educators submitted **replicable, innovative economic and personal finance lesson plans** to the Council's 2006 *Teaching Awards* review panel. Ten outstanding educators were honored for their excellence and innovation at the Council's annual *EconFest* and 45th Anniversary celebration in October 2006.

■ Three teachers received **James P. Houck Memorial Scholarships** to complete an intermediate-level microeconomics course at the University of Minnesota.

“Simply put, I am convinced that I am a better teacher for having participated in the summer workshop.”

— *Economics Systems* course participant

### Sample Workshops and Courses for K-12 Educators

Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics and Personal Finance

Mathematics and Economics: Connections for Life, grades 3-5

Hands on Banking®

Economics of World Food Trade

Personal Finance Summer Camp  
Enhancing Social Studies with Economics

Economics and the Environment Summer Camp

Learning, Earning and Investing Economic Systems

■ Twenty staff members from 12 community agencies around the state were trained in 2006 to provide personal finance education to **low-income, immigrant, and other underserved adults, youth and families.** This is the second year that the Minnesota Council, it's affiliated Center for Family and Personal Finance Education, and the University of Minnesota's Extension Service have collaborated with community-based organizations to deliver personal finance education.

(More highlights on reverse.)

**Minnesota Council on  
Economic Education**

*Building Economic and  
Financial Understanding for Life*



## Increasing Student Understanding

“Taking economics has changed my world view. I learned about how tradeoffs impact all of us every day, in ways I hadn’t imagined”

—Economics Student

■ Four hundred and twelve Minnesota and North Dakota high school students competed in the *Economics Challenge*, a **national economics competition**. Fifty-two teachers from both states — a 22% increase from 2005 — coached 95 teams.

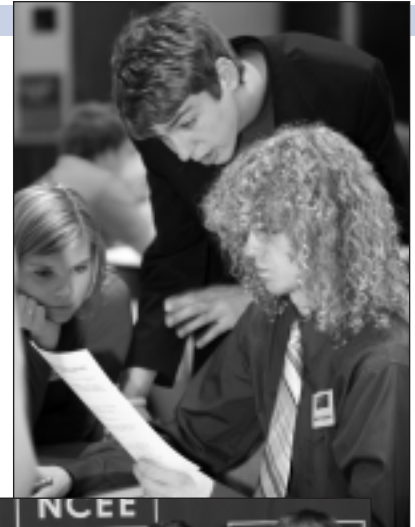
A team from Hibbing High School placed first in the 2006 national *Economics Challenge*— **the first all female team to win the championship**. Hibbing is Minnesota’s third *Economics Challenge* national champion in five years following wins by Moorhead High School (2004) and Fairmont High School (2002). Minnesota leads the nation in the number of appearances and first-place finishes at that national competition.

■ Nearly 3,000 copies of the Minnesota Council’s *Global Food Challenge* curricula units were distributed to educators in 2006,

a 69% increase from the previous program year. Twenty-six high school students submitted entries for the annual competition based on these units.

■ More than 130 high school students participated in *Economic Congress*, a student debate contest for teams from seven Minneapolis high schools. The contest is conducted by the Minneapolis Public Schools with support provided by the Minnesota Council.

■ Over 150 students participated in the 2006 *College in the Schools Economics Field Day*, a “teach-in” for high school students on a selected topic. The Minnesota Council helped facilitate the event coordinating presentations by University faculty and elected officials.



“My experiences in the National *Economics Challenge* were definitely a highlight of my high school career.”

—Challenge participant

To learn more about Council programs, visit [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu).

Questions?  
Call 612.625.3727

## Creating Partnerships at Home and Abroad

■ **Four Minnesota teachers traveled to Eastern Europe in 2006** to participate in programs sponsored by the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE).

■ The Minnesota Council continues to collaborate with NCEE to support **teacher training efforts in South Africa**. In 2007, the Minnesota Council will host a delegation of South Africans planning to open a center for economic education at the University of the Free State. In 2006, the Minnesota Council hosted a similar delegation from Egypt whose members are working to establish a center at the University of Cairo.

■ **The Minnesota Council joins with other organizations** to promote and deliver economic and personal finance education around the state. These partners include: the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Minnesota Office of Higher Education, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Public Schools’ Learning Center for Economics, Minnesota Jump\$tart Coalition, University of Minnesota’s College in the Schools program, Minnesota Council for the Social Studies, Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Minnesota Business Educators, Inc., Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators, Junior Achievement, and Best Prep.

