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**Anne Simmons, St. Mary's High School Teacher, to Receive Innovative Educator Award on October 29, 2008**

*September 16, St. Paul, Minn.* – The Minnesota Council on Economic Education will honor Ms. Anne Simmons at its annual *EconFest* celebration on October 29, 2008, at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. Ms. Simmons will receive the *3M Innovative Educator Award* which recognizes educators who approach the teaching of economics with creativity at the elementary and secondary levels. In selecting the winning teachers, judges considered innovation in approach, emphasis on basic economic concepts, ease of replication, and assessment of student learning.

Simmons created five workstations in her room to help students explore economic problems that occurred in American life post World War II. Simmons' activities reinforced her students' understanding of market, price, scarcity of resources, specialization, distribution of resources, and inflation.

“One of the most effective ways to increase student understanding of economic principles is to make economics and personal financial decision-making skills come alive in the classroom,” said Minnesota Council Executive Director Claudia Parliament. “Every year, hundreds of Minnesota educators are doing just that. We look forward to recognizing their achievements and the outstanding work of Ms. Simmons and other award winners at our event on October 29.”

The Minnesota Council on Economic Education is a 47-year-old partnership of business, labor and education dedicated to improving economic and personal finance understanding and preparing K-12 students to participate in a complex, global economy. 3M has sponsored the Awards Program for the past 22 years.

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