

MCEE Celebrates Success of First Annual *Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance: K-12* and Looks to Future

August 15, St. Paul -- Enthusiastic teachers, award-winning presenters, workshops, and presentations made last week's *Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance* a gleaming success. More than 100 people attended the two-day conference, which took place on August 11-12 at the Continuing Education Conference Center on the University of Minnesota campus, St. Paul. Kent Pekel, Director of College Readiness Consortium, University of Minnesota, opened the conference on Monday the 11th with a talk emphasizing the importance of college readiness for all Minnesota students. Participants at the Conference also networked, learned about local resources, and attended workshops on issues ranging from understanding the politics of economics, to enhancing student achievement using web-based interventions, to how to effectively integrate interactive games and simulations into the classroom to enhance student learning, and other great activities that improve student learning.

Participant feedback from the conference was resoundingly positive. Conference-goers said their highlights included the plenary session, learning practical ideas to implement in their own classrooms, hearing different perspectives on teaching economics from fellow teachers, the opportunity to network with area organizations and other teachers in the state, the offering of tracks for elementary, middle, and secondary level teachers, and the wide variety of workshop topics.

Said one attendee, "It was excellent to have such a diverse number of presenters. I really enjoyed learning from both the university professors and the experienced classroom teachers."

From another conference-goer, "What I liked best about the Conference was the ability to network with other teachers in our state. I appreciated learning about other economic organizations [that are] teaching economics."

Claudia Parliament, Director of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education, says the Conference was the first of what the Council hopes will be an annual event, and the plans are to continue to present a superb collection of resources for teachers in Minnesota.

The Conference was organized by the Minnesota Council on Economic Education in collaboration with Junior Achievement, BestPrep, the University of Minnesota Extension, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Partial funding for the Conference was provided by 3M Foundation and the National Council on Economic Education through funding from the United States Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement.

###