

## 3M Economic Education Awards And the winners are...

It's always inspiring to see the creativity and dedication Minnesota's teachers bring to economic education. Thanks to the work of this year's 3M Economic Education Award winners and other outstanding educators throughout the state, students are acquiring knowledge, skills, and habits of thinking that will make a difference in their lives long after they've graduated.

### Economic Educator Excellence Award: Loren Dunham, Fairmont High School



Loren Dunham

"Today the NCEE is pushing for increased awareness and understanding of economics in America's schools. Nowhere in the country has this been accomplished more so than in Fairmont, thanks to Mr. Dunham's efforts."

—Christopher Walker, Fairmont High School Class of 2002  
Economics major, University of Chicago

What better way to sum up Loren Dunham's achievements than in the words of one of the many students he has influenced and inspired. Teaching economics at Fairmont High since 1968, Loren's accomplishments include coaching *Economics Challenge* teams that have reached State three out of ten years, and leading a team to a national championship in 2002. He has also helped pioneer the development of computer simulations for economics lessons and been instrumental in involving members of the business community in the classroom.

Economic Education Awards, continued on page 2

## Save this date! EconFest is October 21st

Be sure to mark your calendars right away for this year's *EconFest* celebration. Our annual event celebrating excellence in economic education now offers an added attraction—mini-seminars to give you new ideas for the classroom. These free seminars include:

**Bringing Russia Home to the Classroom:** Ethan Cherin (St. Paul Central) and Brian Trusinsky (Bloomington Jefferson), participants in the NCEE 2003 study tour in Russia, will discuss how they have integrated their knowledge and experiences from the Russian trip in their Minnesota classrooms.

**3M Award Winning Lessons:** This year's top Innovative Economic Educator awardees present their winning lessons. Scott Wolla (Hibbing High School) will talk about his lesson on the minimum wage, a topic he calls "near and dear to the hearts of teenagers." Cynthia Truda (Hopkins West Jr. High) will share her lesson exploring the economic issues of westward expansion on the Oregon Trail.

**New Graduation Standards in Economics:** Three members of the Minnesota Department of Education's Social Studies Standards Committee (David Stark, Brainerd High; Paul Seeba, White Bear Lake High; and Mary Tacheny, Franklin Magnet School) will explain how the new standards were determined, and share insights on implementation.

As always, we will honor the year's Economic Education Award winners. To cap off the evening, we will hear from featured speaker **Chris Farrell**, economics editor at Minnesota Public Radio, regular contributor to the *Sound Money* radio program, and host of public television's personal finance show, *Right on the Money*.



Chris Farrell

If you would like to attend and haven't received an invitation, please call the Council at 612-625-3727 so we can reserve your place!

<http://mcee.umn.edu>



**Economics Student  
of the Year  
Quingshou Wang,  
Edina High School**

## Calendar of Events

Workshops are free, but limited in capacity. Register online at [mcee.umn.edu](http://mcee.umn.edu) or call 612-625-3727.

**October 21** *EconFest*, annual teacher recognition event, including mini-seminars for teachers. Speaker: Chris Farrell, MN Public Radio and TPT. Tartan Park, Lake Elmo.

**November 1** *Technological Resources for Teaching Economics* Workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

**November 1** Follow-up session, July 2003 *Economic Systems* graduate course.

**November 15** *Wide World of Trade* workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

**November 22** *Financial Fitness for Credit* (9-12) Workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

**December 6** *Financial Fitness for Life* (6-8) Workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

**February 28** Follow-up session, *Enhancing the Social Studies Curricula with Economics* graduate course.

**March 6** Follow-up session, July 2003 *Economic Systems* graduate course.

**April 1** *Lake Superior Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota-Duluth. Call 218-726-7568 for information.

**April 2** *Southern Minnesota Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Mankato. Call 507-389-5329 for information.

**April 3** *Metro Economics Challenge*, University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5177 for information.

**April 16** *State Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Call 612-625-3727 for information.

**April 17** Follow-up session, Aug. 2003 *Economic Systems* graduate course.

## Winning Students Meet the Challenge

In the 2003 *Economics Challenge*, Minnesota high school students once again rose to the occasion with stellar performances. As this extremely rewarding event grows in popularity, we continue to be amazed at the depth and breadth of knowledge students demonstrate. Congratulations to all the students who participated, and to their coaches — keep up the great work!

### 2003 Economics Challenge State Competition Winners

**Adam Smith Division** (Advanced Placement)  
1st: Brainerd High School  
2nd: Edina High School

**David Ricardo Division** (Large School)  
1st: Brainerd High School  
2nd: Fairmont High School

**Joan Robinson Division** (Small School)  
1st: Minnewaska Area High School  
2nd: Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School

**Economics Student of the Year**  
Qingshou Wang, Edina High School

## Hot Commodities

Markets may rise and fall, but futures look bright for all the students who did such a fabulous job with *Commodity Challenge*. Congratulations, kids, and when you've made it big, don't forget who got you started with pork bellies!

**First place:** Mark Peterson, Maple Grove Senior High. Commodity: crude oil. Teacher: Pat Sheehan.

**Second:** Michael Hielscher, Maple Grove Senior High. Commodity: gold. Teacher: Pat Sheehan.

**Third:** Alicia Pearson, Delano High School. Commodity: corn. Teacher: Marcie Greenwaldt.

**Fourth:** Lindsay Bergh, Kittson Central High School, Hallock. Commodity: coffee. Teacher: Jeffrey Hart.

**Attention teachers:** If you have never worked with students on *Commodity Challenge*, we'll send you student workbooks *free!* To get a copy for each student, just register your students online, or by calling the Council.



**First and Second place winners Mark Peterson, teacher Pat Sheehan, and Michael Hielscher.**

## Economic Education Awards, *continued from page 1*

### Innovative Economic Educator, High School — First Place: Scott Wolla, Hibbing High School

Scott Wolla's prizewinning lesson focuses on a subject close to the hearts of many of his students — the minimum wage. One of Scott's goals was to help students see the complexities of what seems to be a simple issue. As he says, "Many impulsively cheer for a raise in the minimum wage without considering the actual costs and benefits of such an action. After researching and debating the topic, students come away with a deeper understanding of economic concepts and an appreciation for the value to their lives as young adults."

Second prize in the high school division went to Chris Milinovich, Burnsville High School, for his lesson on *Social Darwinism and the American Dream*, in which students examine the question, "Can a poor person become a millionaire in today's world?"

### Innovative Educator Award, Middle School — First Place: Cindy Truda, Hopkins West Junior High

Cindy Truda's project, focusing on opportunity costs and trade-offs on the Oregon Trail, has special importance for her target audience — students in an Alternative Learning Center. Many of these students have trouble with impulsive behavior and fail to recognize the consequences of their actions. Using the historical setting of the Oregon Trail, Cindy's lesson demonstrates the value of weighing alternatives and calculating the costs and benefits of a decision.

Sarah Sampson of Hopkins North Junior High was awarded second prize for *Living on a Reasonable Income*, a lesson in microeconomics and personal finance for ninth grade students.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the teachers who entered projects in this year's competition. Your work changes lives!

## Sign up now Fall Workshops

### Financial Fitness for Credit, 9-12

November 22, 2003

9:00 – 4:00

University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Stipend: \$30

Participants receive: Curriculum lessons, video, case study, lunch and refreshments

Maximum participants: 25

Register: Online or by phone: 612-625-3727

With increasing numbers of young people getting into trouble with credit card debt, understanding the use and abuse of credit is more important than ever. This session focuses on credit management lessons for high school students from *Financial Fitness for Life*, the widely acclaimed personal finance curriculum from NCEE. In addition to the curriculum, the workshop includes a case study developed by Ken Goodpaster, Professor of Ethics at the University of St. Thomas, examining the ethical dilemmas in marketing credit cards to students. This workshop is made possible by a grant from Marquette Financial Companies.

### Financial Fitness for Life 6-8

December 6, 2003

9:00 – 3:00

University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Stipend: \$30

Participants receive: Free curriculum materials, CD, lunch and refreshments

Maximum participants: 30

Register: Online or by phone: 612-625-3727

As students move into the early teen years, they are eager to make the transition from the world of school to the world outside. *Financial Fitness for Life: Shaping Up Your Financial Future* teaches the financial knowledge and skills middle school students need to become more competent and independent in the years ahead. This is one course where nobody will ask you "Why do I have to know this?" Your instructor for the workshop is Dr. Ken Rebeck of St. Cloud University. This workshop is made possible by a grant from Marquette Financial Companies.

### Technological Resources for Teaching Economics

November 1, 2003

9:00 – 4:00

University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Participants receive: Virtual Economics CD, lunch and refreshments

Maximum participants: 30

Register: Online or by phone: 612-625-3727

In this workshop, you'll explore a range of Internet resources for teaching economics and integrating economic content into other subject areas. You'll also look at strategies for using *Virtual Economics*, a CD toolkit with background information, professional references, data sets, and a complete economics curriculum with printable lesson plans and reference materials. Your instructor for this invaluable session is Dr. Ashok Chowdhury, Director, Center for Economic Education, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

[mcee.umn.edu](http://mcee.umn.edu)

## 2003 New and Revised NCEE High School Curriculum Materials

### Focus: Institutions and Markets

New publication provides insightful look at the roles markets, government, and institutions play in developing a market system. Lessons combine civics, history, and economics.

### AP Economics

New edition contains updated and revised lessons.

### Capstone

New edition provides 45 exemplary learning activities for a complete high school economics course.

Visit the National Council's website at [www.ncee.net](http://www.ncee.net) to learn more about these publications.

## Free Trial Membership in New Professional Association

To provide a new source of support, information and career advancement for economics educators, the National Council on Economic Education has founded GATE, the Global Association of Teachers of Economics.

Meeting the needs of K-12 teachers and others interested in economic and financial education, GATE membership offers a number of benefits:

- Exclusive newsletter covering economics issues, workshops, conferences, and opportunities for professional advancement
- Online access to economics educators worldwide
- Discounts on award-winning economic and financial education packages
- Opportunities to network and meet your colleagues across the nation

If you haven't already joined, now is the time, because the first-year fee of \$30 will be waived. To sign up, go to the National Council's website at [www.ncee.net/gate](http://www.ncee.net/gate).

## FYI: TEL Online

The Minnesota Council is developing an Internet site where teachers will be able to administer the Test of Economic Literacy (TEL) online. The TEL, which correlates to national economic standards, can be used as a pre- and post test. Currently in the pilot stages, the site will eventually be available to teachers statewide. Watch our website and newsletters for updates!

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## NEW for middle school students The Wide World of Trade



When they enter the world of work in a few years, middle school students will be producing, consuming, and competing in a global economy. Yet, even as countries around the world become ever more interdependent economically, most people understand international trade even less than other economic concepts. *The Wide World of Trade* was created to address this need, with lessons designed specifically for middle school students and teachers.

*The Wide World of Trade* features a variety of hands-on learning activities. For instance, students play "Mystery Almanac" to learn about the relationships between countries' natural resources, human resources, productive resources, and standard of living. To understand currency exchange rates, students buy lunch at "The Wide World of Taste," paying for their tacos, brats, and Szechwan spicy shrimp in pesos, euros, and yuan.

Each lesson in *The Wide World of Trade* is designed as a stand-alone unit, so you can pick and choose the ones that work best for your students.

Want to find out more? Come to a free workshop on November 15, and you'll get your own copy of this great teaching tool. Or if you'd like one right away, you can order by calling NCEE at 1-800-338-1192. Or order online at [www.ncee.net](http://www.ncee.net).

### Free Workshop for Middle School Teachers

#### Wide World of Trade

November 15, 2003  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul  
9:00 – 3:00  
Maximum participants: 20

Instructor: Dr. Curt Anderson, Director, Center of Economic Education, University of Minnesota, Duluth. This workshop is made possible by a grant from the National Council on Economic Education.