

Congratulations, Economic Education Award winners!

With the challenges facing schools getting tougher all the time, it's inspiring to see resourceful teachers step up to the task of preparing students to succeed. The winners of this year's 3M Economic Education Awards are a case in point. Their creativity and dedication to excellence are giving students a better understanding of economics.

Economic Educator Excellence Award: Gail Colbert, Tartan High School, Oakdale

"Before I had an economics course with Ms. Colbert, I despised anything related to economics ... Ms. Colbert saw potential in me, however, and convinced me to take AP Macroeconomics. Within a short time I began to enjoy the course. For the first time, I was able to understand economics, due to her creative ways of conveying difficult information. I have yet to see a teacher so dedicated in helping students learn and succeed."

– Kathleen Anne Barrett

Economics minor, University of Wisconsin



Gail Colbert's career as an economic educator began in Delaware, where her activities with the Delaware Center for Economic Education included developing curricula – among them the award-winning Delaware Stock Market Game – and serving as

Program Coordinator. Since moving to Minnesota in 1996, Gail has continued her dedication to economic

education, conducting workshops, judging competitions, and developing assessment models. She has been tireless in her pursuit of student achievement at Tartan High, with tactics ranging from web-based assessments and after-school review sessions, to implementing a Professional Learning Community model and incorporating a rich variety of supplemental activities in her classroom. A colleague in the Tartan social studies department said, "When one thinks of economic education...Gail Colbert represents the absolute, very best we have to offer."

Innovative Economic Educator Award, K-8 First place: Jennifer Carlson, Fridley Middle School

Seventh grade World Studies teacher Jennifer Carlson felt unprepared to teach economics, but she knew it was an important part of what students should learn to understand different cultures. So she took part in the MN Council's *Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics* course, and came back ready to tackle the challenge. Convinced that kids would grasp economic concepts best through hands-on experience, Jennifer created a series of lessons based on a simulation where students created a product made from newspapers, produced it, "sold" it, and dealt with issues of scarcity. Using guidelines based on different economic systems, students learned

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Mark your calendars EconFest is October 26th

Save that Tuesday for our annual celebration of Excellence in economic education. Mini-seminars will be offered again this year. You won't want to miss:

- > **3M Award Winning Lessons**, featuring Jennifer Carlson, Fridley Middle School, and Mark Junod, Tartan High School.
- > **Bringing Russia Home to the Classroom: International Opportunities for Teachers.** Scott Wolla, Hibbing, and Glen Matthews, Hutchinson, will share their study tour experiences in Russia. Rob Bahr, Melrose, will talk about his writers' program experience in St. Petersburg.
- > **Cargill Global Food Challenge: Curricula and Student Competition.** Learn about the two new units available this fall: *Basic Economics of Food Markets* and *Economics of Food Security: Policies to Address Famine, Hunger and Malnutrition*. Amy

Childers, Hastings, and Sandy Rubenstein, St. Paul, will describe their experiences in piloting the curricula and entering student projects in the *Global Food Challenge*.

- > **Economics Challenge: Winning Strategies.** Doug Johnson, Moorhead, and coach of the national winning team, will share his team's New York experience. Dan Goodrich, Wayzata, first-time coach in 2004, will present his strategy that took his team to the State competition.

The featured speaker at *EconFest* is C. Ford Runge, Professor in the Univ. of MN Dept. of Applied Economics. He is co-author of *Ending Hunger in Our Lifetime: Food Security and Globalization*, an award winning publication.

If you want to attend *EconFest* and haven't received an invitation, call 612-625-3727 before October 18th!

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how traditional, command and market economies work, and how those systems help shape a culture.

Innovative Educator Award, Secondary **First place: Mark Junod, Tartan High School, Oakdale**



A third-year teacher, **Mark Junod**, had the challenge of teaching a complex subject to high school seniors with a broad range of abilities, from National Honor Society to special education students. In his lesson, *Traditional Government Intervention in Agricultural Commodity Markets: Subsidies, Price Floors and Consequences*, Mark

demonstrated creativity in design and rigor in assessment. Using readings, discussion and group activities, he raised students' awareness and understanding of how government farm policies affect people in the grocery store, on the farm down the road, and in markets overseas.

Innovative Educator Award, secondary **Second place (tie):**

Dan Goodrich, Wayzata High School and **Mary Jo Myers, Hastings High School**



Dan Goodrich appealed to kinesthetic learners and helped build teamwork in his class in his prize-winning lesson. To teach the concept of demand, he followed up an in-class auction activity by having students form

a life-sized demand curve on the football field.

Mary Jo Myers created a simulation to teach her 11th grade U.S. History class about the Great Depression and economic decision making. Using role play, students developed personal budgets based on factors such as the Dust Bowl, unemployment, bank failures and family needs.

Congratulations to our winners, and to everyone who submitted entries in this year's competition. Your creative and dedicated professionalism makes a real difference.

Economics Challenge Minnesota Students are Number One Nationally

In a dramatic 15-14 finish, the Moorhead High School team took first place honors in the advanced placement division of the 2004 NCEE National *Economics Challenge*. Douglas Johnson coached the team.

Hibbing High School placed third nationally in the single-semester economics course division. Scott Wolla coached the team.

In the four years the national competition has existed, Minnesota has sent four teams to the finals, each from a different school. Two of these four teams have taken first place honors. That says a lot about the excellence and depth of economic education in Minnesota. *Economics Challenge* in Minnesota is sponsored by American Express.

State Economics Challenge Winners – 2004

Advanced Placement Division

1st: Moorhead High School 2nd: Edina High School

Large School Division

1st: Hibbing High School 2nd: Wayzata High School

Small School Division

1st: Barnesville High School 2nd: Proctor High School

Economics Student of the Year (tie)

Paul Christian, Grand Rapids High School

Alison Link, Edina High School

Economics Challenge Expands

Students who study economics this fall can participate in an *Economics Challenge* created just for them in January. St. Cloud State University will host a Challenge on Jan. 26 for small and large schools. The University of St. Thomas will also host a Challenge in January for large schools. Winning teams will advance to the April 15 Minnesota State Competition. Schools who compete in January can have students from other courses compete in a Center-based Challenge in April. A student can participate in only one Center-based contest. This Challenge expansion is made possible by a grant from American Express.

Workshop Roundup

Workshops are free. Register online at www.mcee.umn.edu. Deadline for registration is one week before workshop as long as space is available.

Financial Fitness for Life, Grades 6-8

Nov. 13 – St. Paul Feb. 23 – St. Cloud
Jan. 22 – Park Rapids March 19 – St. Paul

Shaping Up Your Financial Future Also includes the new *Learning, Earning and Investing* curriculum on wealth-building and long-term investing.

Middle school kids have more to spend than ever and thus are bombarded with advertising. But many don't have a clue about the basics of money management. This popular curriculum can make a difference. Participants receive a \$30 stipend and curricula.

Financial Fitness for Life, Grades 9-12

Nov. 13 – St. Paul Feb. 23 – St. Cloud
Jan. 22 – Park Rapids April 23 – St. Paul

Bringing Home the Gold Also includes the new *Learning,*

Earning and Investing curriculum.

High school students have a growing sense of autonomy that they need to balance with increased responsibility for their own lives. *Bringing Home the Gold* includes lessons on career choices, credit, and post-high school education. Participants receive a \$30 stipend and curricula.

Financial Fitness workshops are made possible by grants from the NCEE, TCF Financial Corporation, Thrivent for Lutherans, Marquette Financial Companies, Steve Leuthold Family Foundation, and Metris Companies.

Mathematics and Economics: Connections for Life 9-12

Nov. 20 – Univ. of MN, St. Paul

This curriculum makes real-life connections and reinforces math skills by using economic examples for whatever class you teach – general mathematics, algebra, or AP calculus. This workshop will provide lesson demonstrations by Rich MacDonald, Director, Center for Economic Education, St. Cloud State University, and author of the curriculum. The workshop is supported through a Medtronic Foundation grant. Participants receive a \$30 stipend and curriculum.

Exciting new Curriculum and Contest: *Global Food Challenge*

This new curriculum developed by the Minnesota Council in partnership with Cargill combines eco-



nomics and global food issues. Two of the planned four units in the curriculum have been piloted and are ready for implementation in the classroom this year. Teachers who piloted these units found them user-friendly and flexible. The units can be used in a variety of classes, including economics, civics, history, family and consumer science, agricultural education, and global foods.

Each unit in the series involves a written project that can be submitted to the Cargill Global Food Challenge to achieve recognition and earn financial awards (\$500 first place award for each unit).

Teachers of winning students receive cash awards as well.

Basic Economics of Food Markets

The new *Basic Economics of Food Markets* unit asks students to research a food of their choice and supports the teaching of supply and demand. The unit can be used to achieve the following new social studies content standards for grades 9-12:

Economics

Students will:

- > describe the determination of equilibrium market prices by applying principles of supply and demand to markets.
- > identify factors that lead to variation in market prices and quantities exchanged by changes in supply and/or demand.
- > know the factors involved in producing and distributing goods and services.
- > be able to apply critical thinking skills commonly used in economics.

Economics of Food Security

The new *Economics of Food Security: Policies to Address Famine, Hunger and Malnutrition* examines food policy both here and abroad in its applied policy analysis, and the unit includes the choice of an involvement in the community through collection of oral histories or visits to food shelf providers. The unit can be used to achieve the following new social studies content standards for grades 9-12:

Economics

Students will:

- > understand the role of government in the U.S. economy.
- > analyze public policy issues in their community, state, and nation.
- > analyze a significant national public policy issue and recommend a solution.
- > describe and analyze significant world economic issues.
- > apply economic theory and concepts to controversial public policy issues.
- > learn and be able to apply critical thinking skills commonly used in economics.

Historical Skills

Students will prepare for, conduct, and document an oral history.

Civics

Students will explain and evaluate international organizations.

Registration

Register online and attend one of the following workshops for teaching strategies, implementation suggestions, and a review of the economic concepts included in the units. Participants will receive a \$30 stipend, teacher guide, and student guides for their classroom(s). An additional travel stipend of \$20 is available if you live outside the seven-county metropolitan area for the metro workshops or more than 25 miles from the Moorhead workshop.

Basic Economics of Food Markets:	Nov. 6 – St. Paul
Economics of Food Security:	Nov. 13 – St. Paul
Workshop covering both curricula:	Nov. 20 – Moorhead

Wanted: Teachers to pilot new curriculum

What: The next two new *Global Food Challenge* units
The Economics of World Trade
The Economics of World Food Safety and Regulation

When: January 22 or 29, 2005, workshop
Implementation: before mid-May 2005

Stipend: \$200, if unit is piloted and projects are submitted, plus travel expenses (\$20 metro, \$40 out-state)

Help bring these unique and exciting new curricula to life by taking part in the pilot of one of the units. If you can attend the January workshop, implement the unit before mid May 2005, and teach it again in 2005-06, we'd like to hear from you. To apply call 612-625-3727.

1st Year Winners of Global Food Challenge

Basic Economics of Food Markets

- 1st: Amanda Bigaouette, Central High School, Norwood-Young America; Mark Lagergren, teacher
2nd: Nicole Flipp, Agricultural and Food Sciences Academy, Little Canada; Carl Aakre, teacher
3rd: Andrea Gilbert, Medford High School; Tim Larson, teacher

Economics of Food Security:

- 1st: Teresa Olbrich, Melrose High School; Rob Bahr, teacher
2nd: Nicole Kluempke, Melrose High School; Rob Bahr, teacher
3rd: Nicole Brenner, Albany Area Schools; Al Amdahl, teacher

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**Building Economic and Financial
Understanding for Life**

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Mo Selim Retires: UST Center Continues

Dr. Mohamed “Mo” Selim, director of the Center for Economic Education at the University of St. Thomas, retired in August. Once described as a “hyperkinetic guru of economic education,” Mo founded and directed the Center for Economic Education for nearly 40 years.

Mo earned the respect and gratitude of students and colleagues for his commitment to teaching and lifelong learning and growth. The MN Council thanks him for his tireless service and wishes him all the best in retirement.

The Council appreciates the commitment and dedication to economic education of Sister Marie Herbert Seiter, who served as associate director of the Center for 26 years. We congratulate her on her new position as director of the UST Center for Senior Citizens’ Education.

The St. Thomas Center for Economic Education will continue under the new directorship of Agapitos Papagapitos, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics.

Economics Challenge Calendar

- Jan. 26 Heartland *Economics Challenge*, St. Cloud State Univ.
[Large & small schools only.] Call 320-255-2157 for information.
- Jan. TBA Metro *Economics Challenge*, Univ. of St. Thomas.
[Large Schools only.] Call 651-962-5686 for information.
- April 1 Southern MN *Economics Challenge*, MN State Univ., Mankato.
Call 507-389-5329 for information.
- April 6 Lake Superior *Economics Challenge*, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth.
Call 218-726-7568 for information.
- April 7 Great Plains *Economics Challenge*, MN State Univ., Moorhead.
Call 218-236-4029 for information.
- April TBA Metro *Economics Challenge*, Univ. of St. Thomas.
Call 651-962-5686 for information.
- April 11 North Dakota *Economics Challenge*, MN State Univ., Moorhead.
Call 218-236-4029 for information.
- April 13 Heartland *Economics Challenge*, St. Cloud State Univ.
Call 320-308-2157 for information.
- April 15 MN State *Economics Challenge*, Univ. of MN, St. Paul.
- April 21-22 Multi-state Regional *Economics Challenge*. Twin Cities.
- May 21-22 National *Economics Challenge*, New York City .