

## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2000

### MAJOR FOCUS

Successfully completed teacher in-service training under a major grant from the Minnesota Legislature to implement the economics portion of graduation requirements. Three hundred high school teachers are now better prepared to help their students, with increased economic understanding and an arsenal of tools and techniques to make economics come alive in the classroom.

### EDUCATOR PROGRAMS AND MATERIALS

Offered a full complement of teacher workshops in the use of economics curriculum materials, attracting over 1,000 teachers. Almost 5,000 teachers were served through printed information and the Council's website. New curricula and publications prepared by Council personnel included:

- implementation guide for the Economic Systems standard of the graduation requirements
- lessons for *EconEdLink*, the premier economic education website
- *Celebrate and Create with Minnesota Artists*, integrating arts and economics.

Students in grades K-12 will benefit from their teachers' enhanced ability to impart crucial economic concepts.

### STUDENT PROGRAMS

- Almost 4,000 students participated in the *Commodity Challenge*, a high school learning activity that illustrates the ties between commodity markets and current events.
- Five regional *Economics Challenge* contests sent winners to the Ninth Federal Reserve District play-off. Four hundred students participated at the state level, with thousands more active in classroom preparatory activities. This Minnesota program has been adopted by the National Council on Economic Education as a national competition starting in 2001.
- *Econhostel*, an intensive college-level economics course for high school students, was held in June, 2000, to rave reviews from its participants.

### INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Active in international economic education, hosting visitors from Russia and serving as faculty in Russia and central Asia to "train the trainers." Two Minnesota high school teachers participated in National Council on Economic Education programs in Ukraine and Czech Republic. These programs bring the Council model of economic education delivery to emerging economies.

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- 25th annual *teacher business internships*, acquainting teachers with the business world and preparing them to carry lessons back to the classroom
- 38th annual *Winter Institute* in St. Cloud, a community economic education event
- *Education Summit* in Fargo-Moorhead, featuring economic education
- *Economics Day at the State Fair*, in cooperation with Education Minnesota

# WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT MINNESOTA COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

## From “Economic Systems Content Standard,” 1999-2000

*This was the best workshop I have attended in five years. Extremely informative — loved the wealth of content. The instructors’ excitement was very contagious!*

*I will be a first year teacher and I have benefitted more from these four days than from any economics class I had in college!*

*Had I had an opportunity to take economics in college from **these** instructors, I would have loved the subject!*

*In this one week-long course, I gained enough information, activities, techniques, and strategies to effectively select a textbook, write curriculum for my classes, and implement an economics curriculum throughout our whole district.*

*I was amazed at what I learned and cannot wait to implement the tools and lessons in my own classroom!*

*This course should be taken by all economic educators in Minnesota.*

## From “Choices and Changes,” December, 1999

*Inspirational classroom ideas.*

*Activities were fun and engaging. As a teacher I know I can recreate this situation.*

*Everything was presented so implementation will be a breeze! Thank you.*

## From “Technological Resources for Teaching Economics,” November, 1999

*The hands-on experience teamed with the materials is marvelous. The humor and insights of the instructors made the time fly.*

*Thanks for the wonderful resources that were provided free of charge and the “hands-on” learning activities.*

## From “Mini-Society,” 1999-2000

*Incredible workshop — understanding the economics will make this so much easier to present to students.*

*I liked all the materials. The workshop was very hands-on and it made concepts that were once very difficult and uninteresting to me, very appealing and fun.*

*I am excited about trying Mini-Society.*

## From “Agricultural Economics for Social Studies Teachers,” July, 2000

*This was among the very best workshops I have ever attended. I learned so much.*

*Fantastic week! Stimulating intellectually.*

*Once again a great experience — I look forward to these workshops. Thanks.*