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Farmington Teacher Paulette Roodra Receives Personal Finance Educator Award
1st Place award for outstanding teaching of personal finance to elementary students.

Minneapolis, Minn. Farmington Middle School teacher Paulette Roodra was recognized for her outstanding teaching and learning activities by the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. Roodra, who teaches Family and Consumer Science, received the first place Thrivent Financial Foundation Personal Finance Educator award.

There is an increasing national awareness of the importance of teaching personal financial skills. Financial advisers and credit counselors often see people in difficult personal financial straits because they do not have a good understanding of personal finance and how our economic system works. It's never too early to start teaching life-long skills.

Roodra uses children's literature to help her students learn basic personal financial concepts. Roodra developed a learning activity that introduces the concepts of value, price and voluntary exchange through the book "Robert and the Instant Millionaire Show" by Barbara Seuling. The book tells the story of a boy who wishes he could be on a game show and win a million dollars. Roodra uses engaging activities such as a gameshow-like classroom auction to bring the concepts to life with her students.

To encourage teachers to teach personal finance, the Minnesota Council works with the Thrivent Financial Foundation to sponsor the Personal Finance Educator Award for elementary and high school teachers who develop innovative learning activities. Roodra received the award at the Minnesota Council's *EconFest* ceremony this week at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

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