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*Cloquet Teacher Tim Prosen Receives 1<sup>st</sup> Place Personal Finance Educator Award  
1<sup>st</sup> Place award for outstanding teaching of personal finance to high school students*

Minneapolis, Minn. Cloquet High School teacher Tim Prosen was recognized for his outstanding teaching and the development of learning activities by the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. Prosen, who teaches Social Studies, 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 these life-long skills.

Prosen developed a mini-economy in his classroom that helps students learn personal finance and economic concepts by earning Prosen dollars. They make their own decisions on wages, consumption, investment and learn about the role of the banking system. Prosen also organizes the Cloquet High School Economics Challenge team. In 2006 the Cloquet team advanced from the regional competition to state.

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 for teaching personal finance. Prosen received the award at the Minnesota Council's *EconFest* ceremony this week at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

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