

The Leading INDICATOR

Minnesota Council on
Economic Education

Building Economic and Financial Understanding for Life

INSIDE READY... SET... GROW!

Summer Workshops

Yes, it is that time again—time to fast forward a few pages in your calendar and start making plans for your professional growth this summer. As always, the Minnesota Council is offering an outstanding lineup of workshops for teachers at every grade level, and every level of experience—even if you have never taught an economics lesson before. Professional development in economics is more important than ever with the prominence of economics in the new academic social studies standards.

All our workshops are led by educators and economists with a passion for their subject and exceptional enthusiasm for teaching. You will take away new competence, confidence, and commitment to building economic literacy in your classroom.

Register online
mcee.umn.edu
or call
612-625-3727

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CALL FOR ENTRIES 3M Economic Education Awards

And now, the winner for a starring role in the economics classroom is

Okay, so we do not have the paparazzi or the red carpet. However, we do have stars in economic education AND we have our own annual awards—the 3M *Economic Education Awards*.

Now all we need is you! You—or one of your colleagues—may be one of the next teachers to be honored with an Economic Education Award. The **Innovative Educator Award** recognizes fresh, creative approaches to teaching economic concepts, and is awarded at the K-8 and 9-12 grade levels. First prize winners take home \$1000 plus curriculum materials, and second prize winners receive \$500.

The prestigious **Economic Educator Excellence Award** recognizes long-term commitment, leadership and achievement in economic education. The winning teacher receives \$1000, in addition to curriculum materials. This year's *Economic Education Award* winners will also be honored at our annual EconFest event in October.

You can't win if you do not submit an entry. Send in your entry! Who knows how far it may take you? **Scott Wolla** of **Hibbing High School**, who won the secondary level

Innovative Educator Award in 2003, has been selected as a regional finalist in the National Council's 2005 NASDAQ national teaching awards program. *For being a finalist, he won \$10,000—and now competes with four other regional winners for the top national prize and an additional \$15,000. The winner will be announced in New York in April. Good luck, Scott!*



Scott Wolla of Hibbing High School, regional finalist in the 2005 NASDAQ national teaching awards program.

To nominate yourself or another teacher, please contact us online or by phone. We'll send you submission guidelines and entry forms. Nominations are due by June 1 and submissions must be postmarked by July 15.

Introducing the Community Educator Mentorship Program



trains community educator teams to teach an economics-based personal finance curriculum, with special focus on the needs of adult, ethnic and immigrant learners.

We are eager to work with this new audience—people who can immediately and directly benefit from economic education. We look forward to evaluating the results of the program, and developing future initiatives for this audience.

In response to the growing numbers of Minnesotans who are struggling financially, the Minnesota Council is partnering with University of Minnesota Extension Service and community organizations to teach personal finance to low-income families statewide.

Funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, the Community Educator Mentorship Program

Thanks to Jim Minder, Hastings High School, for the suggestion of the title for our newsletter.

*Attention
Elementary
Teachers!*

Resources Just for You

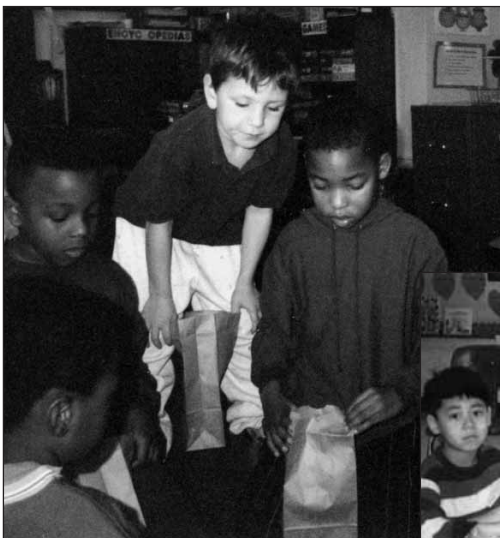
Do your kindergartners know how the relationship

between producers and

consumers affects goods and services? Are your fourth graders familiar with the concepts of markets and prices?

New state academic standards say they should be familiar with these concepts. In 2004, the Minnesota Legislature adopted standards that include economics and personal finance for students at all grade levels, K-12. That means a new learning experience for many teachers, especially at the early grades.

Fortunately, the Minnesota Council has a variety of excellent resources to help you and your students.



Master Curriculum Guides in Economics: Teaching Strategies K-6

These curriculum guides build on familiar, real world situations to teach children such concepts as the role of money, scarcity, decision making, goods and services, productivity and entrepreneurship. In addition to reading, writing and discussions, students learn through simulations and other hands-on activities.

Financial Fitness for Life: Steps to Financial Fitness

In 15 engaging lessons tied to state standards for personal finance, economics, literature and math, students learn about income, advertising, spending and saving, using credit and budgeting, and many other topics. A Student Workbook highlights subjects covered in each lesson and a Parent's Guide helps families reinforce learning at home.

Summer Workshops – Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics and Economics and the Environment Camp

See items in this newsletter and our website for details about these exciting professional development opportunities for elementary and middle school teachers.

Math and Economics, Grades 3-5 *Coming Soon*

The National Council is currently developing this promising curriculum, which will be available during the 2005-06 academic year. The lessons will show how mathematical processes and concepts can be used in "real world" situations through the use of economic and personal finance applications.

We are glad that state standards now recognize the importance of economic and personal finance literacy in the lives of today's students. Understanding these concepts will make a real difference in young people's future success. In the meantime, we are here to help you work with the standards to fit your students' and teaching goals. Questions, ideas, suggestions, problems? Email or call us—we look forward to hearing from you.

Top 10 Reasons to Sign Up for an Econ Ed Summer Workshop

10. The workshop is free and you receive curricula and attendance stipend.
9. You are teaching economics next year for the first time, and you are not sure you would pass a pop quiz on the subject.
8. You want assistance in integrating economics academic standards in your curriculum.
7. You are an experienced economics teacher and you are ready to develop as a leader and mentor in the field.
6. You are looking for inspiration and new ideas for your classroom.
5. You want to interact with other committed educators to exchange creative teaching ideas and best practices.
4. You suspect many of your students do not know the difference between a credit card and a cash card.
3. You think students should understand how the world really works—and that means understanding economics.
2. You want professional development with proven results for your students.
1. You care about your students' future ... and yours.

Don't know which workshop is right for you? Please contact us and we will help you with your selection.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Early Free Graduate Credit!

Economic Systems

Who: High school economics teachers*

What: Five-day overview course covering key micro, macro and international economic concepts, including instructional materials, lesson plans and assessment tasks. Two follow-up Saturday sessions will be scheduled during the school year.

Where: University of Minnesota, St. Paul

When: July 11–15, 8:00–4:00

Thank you: Funds for this course were provided by a \$48,000 grant from the Federal Improving Teacher Quality Program of the No Child Left Behind Act, administered by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office.

**This course is exclusively for teachers who have not attended Economic Systems or Economic Systems Content Standard courses in the last five years.*

Summer Economics Institute

Who: Experienced high school economics teachers, teachers who have completed the Economic Systems course, and teachers of AP, IB, and CIS economics.

What: Two-day workshop on economic analysis of current issues, from income distribution and tax policy to globalization and clean air. The workshop is designed to promote community and the exchange of knowledge among economics educators.

Where: University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus

When: August 3–4, 8:30–3:30

Thank you: This program is made possible by the RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the National Council on Economic Education through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Education, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State.

Register at
mcee.umn.edu or call
612.625.3727

There is NO FEE to participate in Minnesota Council classes.

Visit our web site for stipend information and registration deadlines.

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Economics and the Environment Camp at UMD

Who: Social studies and science teachers, grades 6–12

What: Four-day environmental and economics decision-making workshop that combines classroom instruction with site visits to hydroelectric plants, taconite mines and paper manufacturers. Curriculum materials include the widely acclaimed *Seas, Trees and Economies* and *Economics and the Environment*.

When: July 25–28, 8:00–4:00

This is a unique learning experience and an outstanding professional development opportunity.

Thank you: This program is made possible with support from Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, 3M Foundation, and Flint Hills Resources. Additional support was provided by the National

“The teaching was outstanding as were the materials. Dr. Anderson had a brilliant ability to bring complex issues to an easy level of understanding.”

Council on Economic Education through funding from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement.

—Economics and the Environment Camp participant

Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics

Early Free Graduate Credit!

Who: Middle- and high-school social studies teachers. *Attention middle school teachers: this course is designed to be especially helpful to you!*

What: Five-day workshop on integrating economics into your history, civics and geography classes. Economic concepts are presented in lessons that are keyed to state standards. Two follow-up Saturday sessions will be scheduled during the school year.

Where: University of Minnesota, St. Paul

When: August 8–12, 8:00–4:00

Thank you: This project is made possible by a \$36,000 grant from the Federal Improving Teacher Quality Program of the No Child Left Behind Act, administered by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office.



Learning, Earning and Investing Workshop

Who: High school and middle school personal finance teachers

What: One-day workshop on *Learning, Earning and Investing*, a curriculum that introduces students to investing, its benefits and risks, and the role it plays in fostering capital formation and job creation.

Where: Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet

When: July 12, 9:00–2:00

Thank you: This workshop is made possible by the NCEE through funding from The Moody's Foundation. Additional funding is provided by Thrivent for Lutherans, the Steve Leuthold Family Foundation, and the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Personal Finance Workshop

Who: High school and middle school personal finance teachers

What: One-day workshop on *Learning, Earning and Investing* and *Financial Fitness for Life*, curricula designed to help students apply economics and decision-making skills to the real world of earning, spending and saving.

Where: Minnesota State University, Mankato

When: June 16, 9:00–3:00

OR

Where: University of Minnesota, St. Paul

When: August 2, 9:00–3:00

Thank you: This workshop is made possible by the NCEE through funding from The Moody's Foundation. Additional funding is provided by Thrivent for Lutherans and the Steve Leuthold Family Foundation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

“Wow! What a thorough and comprehensive overview of economics. I feel much more confident about introducing economic concepts in my classes after this training.”

“The presentations were easy to follow, the activities were fun and the energy of the instructors kept the atmosphere light and interesting. The resources we received are very valuable.”

—Using Children’s Literature to Teach Economics participants

Using Children’s Literature to Teach Economics

*Early Free
Graduate Credit!*

Who: Elementary and middle school teachers grades 3-8

What: Five-day workshop on integrating economic concepts into reading and writing lessons based on children’s literature. The course includes two follow-up Saturday sessions for building skills, exchanging implementation experiences and sharing results.

Where: University of Minnesota, St. Paul

When: July 18–22, 8:00–4:00

Thank you: Funds for this project were provided by a \$34,250 grant from the Federal Improving Teacher Quality Program of the No Child Left Behind Act, administered by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office. Additional funds have been provided by the National Council on Economic Education, with support from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement.

*Need financial help to take
this professional course?
Apply for a \$1,000
Houck Scholarship.*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Applied Microeconomics: Consumers, Producers and Markets for Teachers

Who: High school economics teachers

What: Intermediate level economics course for professional development credit designed specifically for high school teachers wanting to significantly increase their understanding of microeconomics. Three or four semester professional credits will be awarded based on the assignments the high school educator agrees to complete.

Where: University of Minnesota, St. Paul (Department of Applied Economics)

When: June 13–July 22, M,W, F, 8:30–11:00

Registration: Visit our web site to register.

Cost: \$326 dollars per credit plus fees of \$235.

APPLY NOW FOR HOUCK SCHOLARSHIPS

If you’re a Minnesota K-12 classroom teacher and you want to increase your understanding of microeconomics, we can help. The James P. Houck Memorial Scholarship Fund will award two \$1,000 scholarships to teachers taking the *Applied Microeconomics: Consumers, Producers and Markets for Teachers* course for academic credit.

Complete an application online, or download the application form and send it to the Minnesota Council no later than May 23, 2005. Call the Council, 612-625-3727, or visit us online for more information.



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Building Economic and Financial Understanding for Life

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Year-at-a-Glance

2004 Highlights in Economic Education

Social Studies Standards: In 2004, the Minnesota Legislature adopted state academic standards that include economics and personal finance for all grade levels, K–12. Thanks to our legislators, Department of Education leadership, classroom teachers, and the Council network, Minnesota students will continue to gain economic and personal finance literacy.

Teacher Development: In 2004, the Council provided professional development courses to over 600 teachers. Through these opportunities, teachers of social studies, family and consumer science, business, and science have made important strides in integrating economic and personal finance in their classrooms.

New Research Results: Research conducted in 2004 confirms that Minnesota Council programs work. Students whose teachers have participated in Council courses score significantly higher on a standardized test of high school economics than do students whose teachers have not had such professional development.

Student and Teacher Excellence: Minnesota students once again placed first in the nation in *Economics Challenge*. Moorhead High School won the National Championship in the advanced division, while Hibbing High School placed third nationally in the fundamentals division.

Calendar of Events

- May 20** Entry Deadline for Cargill *Global Food Challenge*.
Call 612-625-3727 for more information.
- May 21-22** *National Economics Challenge Competition*, New York, NY.
- June 7** *Global Food Challenge Celebration*, Cargill Headquarters, Minnetonka.
- June 13–July 22** *Intermediate Microeconomics*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- June 16** *Personal Finance Workshop*, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- July 11–15** *Economic Systems*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- July 12** *Learning, Earning, and Investing Workshop*, Cloquet Forestry Center.
- July 18–22** *Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- July 25–28** *Economics and the Environment Camp*, Duluth, MN.
- August 2** *Personal Finance Workshop*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- August 3–4** *Summer Economics Institute*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- August 8–12** *Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.