



# The Leading Minnesota Council on Economic Education INDICATOR

Building Economic and Financial Understanding for Life

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Outstanding Summer Programs**  
Opportunities at every grade level

**Houck Scholarships**  
Increase your economic understanding

**Teachers Collaborate**  
Students benefit

### **NEW!** Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance K-12 University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Gear up for the 2008-2009 school year by exploring best practices in the teaching of economics and personal finance at this exciting new conference. Share effective learning activities, teaching methods, and curricula, and become more familiar with organizations that can provide relevant resources and professional development support.

If you are a K-12 teacher of economics, personal finance, business, agriculture, family and consumer science, or social studies, there are sessions for you. Sessions will be offered by Center for Economic Education directors, talented and experienced K-12 educators, and conference partners, including BestPrep, Junior Achievement, U of M Extension, U of M Curriculum and Instruction, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

If you live outside the Twin Cities, plan to come to the conference and bring your family! A block of rooms will be available at the Days Inn Roseville for a conference rate of \$53/night plus tax. This is a ROOM RATE, so family members can enjoy metro area activities while you attend the conference, or you can share a room with a colleague to reduce your cost. Register by July 10 for the early registration fee of \$35. Registration after July 10 will be \$70. The conference includes lunches, lesson materials, and a networking reception.

- PLANNED WORKSHOP SESSIONS INCLUDE:**
- Understanding the Politics of Economic Decision-making
  - Economics of Non-Renewable Energy
  - Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics
  - Success with the Stock Market Game
  - Economics of the Great Depression
  - Math and Economics
  - Investment Decision-Making
  - Biz Kid\$



### **IT'S EASY!** Nominate Yourself or a Colleague for an Educator Award

Each year, the Minnesota Council recognizes teachers who make a difference in economic education. Read inside to learn about these awards and how to apply.

*Award winners will be honored at the Council's fall recognition event, EconFest.*

*Funding for the conference is provided by 3M and the National Council on Economic Education through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement*

For more information, visit our website at [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu).

# TEACHER COLLABORATION = STUDENT SUCCESS IN ECONOMICS

**Gail Colbert** is no stranger to teacher collaboration. Since 2003, Gail and the two other economics teachers at Tartan High School, **Roy Erickson** and **Mark Junod**, have participated in a Professional Learning Community (PLC), working together to integrate research-based practices into their classrooms and increase student achievement in economics.

The team meets every Wednesday morning to share curriculum, learning activities and student assessment tools and make sure the material they are teaching is consistent from classroom to classroom. “Being a part of this Professional Learning

**“Being a part of this Professional Learning Community has had a huge impact on what my students are learning. I never used to be able to cover all the economics units—I always ran out of time before getting to international trade. But one of our goals in the PLC was to streamline the material so we could cover all of it.”**

**—Gail Colbert, Teacher**

Community has had a huge impact on what my students are learning,” said Colbert. “I never used to be able to cover all the economics units—I always ran out of time before getting to international trade. But one of our goals in the PLC was to streamline the material so we could cover all of it.”

The team developed an integrated program for enhancing student economic achievement through web-based classroom intervention, which includes online practice quizzes, unit exams, and flash cards for vocabulary development.

While each of the teachers has a unique way of presenting a course, all three have agreed to use the same final exam and five unit exams. Their collective goal is having students pass the final with at least 60% correct using NCEE's *Test for Economic Literacy*.

“The process is student-focused,” said Colbert. “We look at scores and unit tests and make sure that we each cover the basic core concepts and that students are really learning these concepts. Our assessment is based on results rather than intention.”

The wonderful thing about a Professional Learning Community is that it's non-threatening. “It's a true collaboration,” said Colbert. “We each have our own approach to teaching, our own style, and we don't always agree with each other, but we have the space and time to talk things through until we can come to an agreement or

compromise. Through this process we have raised our teaching standards, increased consistency across classrooms, and increased student achievement!”

You can learn more about the intervention strategies and materials that Colbert and her colleagues use at [www.tartanhighschool.org](http://www.tartanhighschool.org). Click on “academics,” scroll to “social studies,” and select the name of one of these exceptional educators.

“Participating in this process has affected my teaching more than anything else I've done in 30 years as a teacher,” said Colbert. “Meeting weekly allows us to really explore new ideas and best practices, and this constant evaluation has made me a better teacher and has had a real impact on my students' learning.”

Collaborate with fellow economics and personal finance teachers! Invite colleagues to join you on August 11-12 for the *Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance: K-12*. Share effective learning activities, teaching methods, curricula, and evaluation tools, and become a part of a state-wide collaborative community of economics and personal finance teachers. Start with this conference to create a Professional Learning Community in your school.



**“Economic and financial literacy is not intuitive. It is learned.”**

**— Robert Duvall,  
President and CEO of  
the NCEE**

**Across the nation, the majority of high school students do not understand basic economic and personal finance concepts. This lack of knowledge affects young people's ability to manage their personal finances and function well in today's economy.**

**A proven way to continue to increase student economic achievement is through teachers' professional development. Don't miss the opportunity to increase your students' economic understanding. Sign up for a summer Council workshop today!**



Are you looking for a great course — one that will give you a handle on teaching macroeconomics?

Apply for a Houck Scholarship to help pay for it!

### ApEc 5991: Applied Macroeconomics: Government and the Economy

June 16 – July 25 9:00 – 11:15 MWF  
University of MN, St. Paul Campus

Instructor: Claudia Parliament

Cost: \$1,165 plus fees for three semester graduate credits

For more information about the Houck Scholarship, visit our website at [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu) or call (612) 625-3727.

The James P. Houck Memorial Scholarship will award \$1,000 scholarships to high school educators who take *Applied Macroeconomics: Government and the Economy*, an intermediate-level economics course that addresses the effects of government regulation on the economy.

Applying for a Houck Scholarship is easy! The scholarship application includes two personal statements, one about your expected classroom teaching responsibilities for 2008-2009 and one outlining your reasons to pursue additional education in economics. Apply online or download an application form and mail it to the MN Council by May 16. Recipients of the scholarships will be notified by June 1.

## Economic and Personal Finance Educator Awards

Continued from cover

### 3M Innovative Educator Award

This award recognizes teachers who create and implement innovative projects to increase K-12 economic understanding. First- and second-place awards are given in two categories: K-8 and 9-12. First place winners receive \$1,500; second place winners receive \$500.

### 3M Economic Educator Excellence Award

This Excellence Award recognizes educators who have a sustained history of contribution and commitment to student achievement in economics. The award winner receives \$1,500.

### Thrivent Financial Foundation Personal Finance Educator Award

This award recognizes K-12 teachers who develop creative learning activities that increase personal finance understanding. First- and second-place prizes are awarded in each of the two categories: K-8 and 9-12. First-place winners receive \$1,500 and second-place winners receive \$500.

Teachers may nominate themselves or be nominated by a peer, school administrator, curriculum specialist, director of a center for economic education, or community or business representative. Nominations must be received by June 1. Please send the nominee's name and

contact information to the Minnesota Council via the online nomination form at [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu). The Minnesota Council on Economic Education will send each nominee an entry packet to complete and return by July 15.

The entry packet for Innovative Educator and Personal Finance Educator Awards consists of the following:

- A brief activity description
- A list of concepts addressed
- The learning objectives
- The procedures followed and a list of required materials
- A description of the assessment used to measure student learning
- Documentation or evidence of student learning

The Educator Excellence Award entry form consists of letters of support and a personal statement describing your professional growth, student achievement, and leadership in economic education.



## Announcing 2008 Summer Courses and Workshops

FREE graduate credit for week-long classes.  
FREE CEUs for shorter workshops.

### ■ HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

#### Economic Systems

July 7-11, 2008 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Students learn more effectively when teachers have a solid understanding of the material they are presenting. Join us for this free week-long graduate course at the University of Minnesota and increase your understanding of and comfort with teaching micro, macro, and international economics. You will acquire new assessment tools and resources to augment interactive learning, and at the end of the course you will be prepared to help your students meet state academic standards in economics.

A \$100 stipend will be paid for the week-long course, plus \$20 for each follow-up Saturday during the academic year. Eighteen travel stipends are available for those living outside the seven-county metropolitan area, which include \$215 for the course and \$35 for each follow-up Saturday session.

*This project is funded by the Federal Improving Teacher Quality Program of the No Child Left Behind Act administered by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.*

### ■ MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

#### Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics

July 28 - August 1, 2008 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Help give your students the foundation they need for a lifetime of learning and sound financial decision-making. Economics affects all aspects of our society, and in this week-long graduate-level course, you will learn how to incorporate economic principles into history, civics, and geography—subjects you are already teaching. Lessons align with state academic standards in social studies.

A \$100 stipend will be paid for the week-long course, plus \$20 for each follow-up Saturday during the academic year. Ten travel stipends are available for those living outside the seven-county metropolitan area, which include \$215 for the course and \$35 for each follow-up Saturday session.

*This project is funded by the Federal Improving Teacher Quality Program of the No Child Left Behind Act administered by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.*

### ■ MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

#### Personal Finance Camp

June 23-26, 2008 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
University of Minnesota, Duluth

Help your students learn the personal finance skills they need to make intelligent choices about managing money, making financial decisions, and investing in themselves in this four-day workshop led by Professor Curt Anderson from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

The curricula provided at the workshop include *Financial Fitness for Life*, *Risky Business* and *Financing Your Future* from the National Council on Economic Education; and *High School Financial Planning Program* from the National Endowment for Financial Education.

Workshop participants will receive curricula, lunches and refreshments. Dorm lodging is available to the first 20 participants to register and attend who reside more than 75 miles from Duluth.

*This camp is made possible by funding from the ING Foundation, the Warren Silver Consumer Credit Foundation, and the University of Minnesota, Duluth.*

Register for all workshops online  
[www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu) or  
call 612-625-3727

Registration is not complete until we receive your refundable deposit. Read details when you register.

Half of registrations in classes supported by the MN Office of Higher Education are reserved for teachers in high-need districts. High need is characterized by the percentage of school children coming from families with incomes below the poverty line determined by U.S. Census Bureau data. A complete list of high-need districts is on our web site at [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu).



## ■ MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

### Economics of Energy and the Environment Camp

August 4-7, 2008  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

You can bring economics to life for your students in the context of Minnesota's resources and help them understand the relationship between the environment and the economy by participating in this four-day workshop. The course combines classroom instruction with site visits to local industries and will help you teach your students about the economic issues of energy and the environment. Help create a sustainable future for our communities and invite your colleagues in the sciences to also attend this workshop!

The program begins with lunch on Monday, August 4 and ends at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 7. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided each day. Travel stipends of \$300 are available for the first 13 teachers from outside the seven-county metropolitan area who register and attend.

*This program is made possible by funding from Xcel Energy.*

## ■ ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

### Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics and Personal Finance

July 21-25, 2008 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

It is never too early to introduce economic concepts to your students. One way to do this is by weaving economic concepts into the curriculum you are already using in your classroom. In this week-long graduate-level course, you will acquire skills and knowledge of basic economic and personal finance concepts, and learn how to integrate them in your classroom using children's literature and non-fiction.

A \$100 stipend will be paid for the week-long course, plus \$20 for each follow-up Saturday during the academic year. Twelve travel stipends are available for those living outside the seven-county metropolitan area, which include \$215 for the course and \$35 for each of the follow-up Saturday sessions.

*This project is funded by the Federal Improving Teacher Quality Program of the No Child Left Behind Act administered by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.*

## ■ ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

### Seas, Trees and Economies Workshop

For teachers of grades 3-6

August 8, 2008 8:30 am – 3:30 pm  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

What is the value of the gas your car uses on its way to the annual family camping trip? How much would you pay for a bottle of water after a difficult hike? What about the opportunity to swim and fish in sparkling rivers? With the growing popularity of the green movement, there has never been a better time to teach your class about the relationship between our environment, our lives, and our economy. This summer, discover new ways to help your students learn important decision-making skills about production, consumption, and natural resources in this one-day workshop.

Join UMD Professor Curt Anderson in exploring how the natural environment and the economy interact to provide us with valuable goods and services. *The Seas, Trees, and Economies* curriculum illustrates concepts like resources, scarcity, trade-offs, value, price, and incentives through an entertaining combination of simulations and hands-on activities. Financial incentives are available to those who pre and post-test their students while using the curriculum. Participants receive free curriculum materials, morning refreshments, and lunch.

*This program is supported by Toro Foundation.*

## FOR ALL TEACHERS

### Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance: K-12

Monday – Tuesday, August 11-12, 2008  
Continuing Education and Conference Center  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Join your colleagues to learn about best practices in economics and personal finance education, and share effective learning activities, teaching methods, and curricula at this new two-day conference.

A \$35 registration fee covers morning refreshments, lunches, networking reception, and materials. Ask for the \$53 conference room rate at the Days Inn Roseville. Register before July 10 for the reduced registration fee.

*Funding for the conference provided by 3M and the National Council on Economic Education through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement.*

# Minnesota Council on Economic Education

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*Building Economic and Financial Understanding for Life*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 16 Houck Scholarship deadline
- May 23 *Global Food Challenge* student entries deadline
- June 23–26 *Personal Finance Camp*, U of M, Duluth
- July 7–11 *Economic Systems*, U of M, St. Paul
- July 21–25 *Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics and Personal Finance*, U of M, St. Paul
- July 28–  
August 1 *Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics*, U of M, St. Paul
- August 4–7 *Economics of Energy and the Environment Camp*, U of M, St. Paul
- August 8 *Seas, Trees and Economies Workshop*, U of M, St. Paul
- August 11–12 *Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance: K–12, Continuing Education and Conference Center*, U of M, St. Paul

**Sign up now to receive e-mail updates from the MN Council and make sure you do not miss out on exciting opportunities. Send your e-mail address to [mcee@umn.edu](mailto:mcee@umn.edu) to be added to our distribution list.**

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