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Carolyn Serrano, Northrop Urban Environmental School Teacher, to Receive Innovative Educator Award on October 29, 2008

September 16, St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota Council on Economic Education will honor Ms. Carolyn Serrano at its annual *EconFest* celebration on October 29, 2008, at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. Ms. Serrano will receive the *3M Innovative Educator Award* which recognizes educators who approach the teaching of economics with creativity at the elementary and secondary levels. In selecting the winning teachers, judges considered innovation in approach, emphasis on basic economic concepts, ease of replication, and assessment of student learning.

Serrano developed a lesson for her third grade students using the book *The Most Beautiful Place in the World*, by Ann Cameron. Students examined their needs and wants as they relate to scarce resources through lessons utilizing teaching methods such as Think, Pair, Share, Double Bubble mapping, and class discussion. The lesson also stressed the importance of education as a means of building human capital. Serrano’s students learned the concepts of scarcity, human capital, goods, services, wants, needs, and poverty.

“One of the most effective ways to increase student understanding of economic principles is to make economics and personal financial decision-making skills come alive in the classroom,” said Minnesota Council Executive Director Claudia Parliament. “Every year, hundreds of Minnesota educators are doing just that. We look forward to recognizing their achievements and the outstanding work of Ms. Serrano and other award winners at our event on October 29.”

The Minnesota Council on Economic Education is a 47-year-old partnership of business, labor and education dedicated to improving economic and personal finance understanding and preparing K-12 students to participate in a complex, global economy. 3M has sponsored the Awards Program for the past 22 years.

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