

September 16, 2008
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Contact:
Laura Newton
Program Coordinator
Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Tel: 612-625-3727
Fax: 612-625-3186
Email: lnewt@umn.edu
URL: <http://www.mcee.umn.edu/>

Lori Urke, Northfield School of Arts and Technology Teacher, to Receive Innovative Educator Award on October 29, 2008

September 16, St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota Council on Economic Education will honor Ms. Lori Urke at its annual *EconFest* celebration on October 29, 2008, at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. Ms. Urke 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.

Lori Urke’s sixth grade students learned about goods, services, and productive resources in the social studies lesson Urke developed using the book *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, by Judi Barrett. Through the story of a small town where food falls from the sky, her students were able to understand the relationship between producers and consumers in regards to goods and services.

“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. Urke 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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