

## Mark your calendar for Winter Institute

**A**lways a high point of the economic education year, the Winter Institute raises the bar again for 2003, with an outstanding program featuring the critically acclaimed PBS series *Commanding Heights*.

*Commanding Heights* will be the subject of a teacher workshop kicking off the 40th Annual Winter Institute, held this year on Thursday, February 20, and Friday, February 21, at St. Cloud State University. All participants will receive a copy of the series video, widely praised not only as an informative, insightful documentary, but as riveting viewing. The workshop, which is made possible by a grant from the National Council on Economic Education, will be followed by the annual Economic Outlook session, with a reception and banquet. The Economic Outlook session features Dan Laufenberg, Tom Stinson, and Mark Partridge.

Other Winter Institute highlights include presentations by Ben Bernanke, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, and Harold Hodgkinson, a nationally known demographer. A regional issues panel on workforce development will also be part of this program. A teacher workshop will be held on Friday afternoon.

Enrollment for this exciting event is limited, and we're expecting a large turnout this year. That means now is the time to register! Call Rich MacDonald at 320-255-2157 to reserve your place — and get ready for the best Winter Institute ever.

### 40th Annual Winter Institute

February 20-21, 2003  
St. Cloud State University

<http://mcee.umn.edu>

## Anoka teacher wins NASDAQ regional competition

**B**ill Mittlefehldt of Anoka High School has been named the Midwest regional winner in the National Council's Teaching Award competition sponsored by the NASDAQ Educational Foundation. A recipient of this year's 3M Innovative Educator Award from the Minnesota Council, Mr. Mittlefehldt and the four other NASDAQ regional winners will now compete for Grand National Winner honors.

Designed to promote economic literacy in high school students, the NASDAQ Awards recognize teachers in any subject area who have developed innovative ways to incorporate economic concepts in their classes. Mittlefehldt's project was about taking economics out of the classroom and into the real world — the State Capitol, to be exact. Having researched complex issues affecting the state's economy, Mittlefehldt's students worked with community partners to develop a series of policy recommendations. Then the Anoka High think tank presented their ideas to a panel of the governor's economic advisors, who were greatly impressed with the students' knowledge and insight.

Regional winners in the NASDAQ competition are awarded \$10,000, along with an all-expense paid trip to New York for the finals. The nation-



**Bill Mittlefehldt receives the Innovative Award from Barbara Kaufmann, 3M.**

al winner gets a grand total of \$25,000. Of course, some of the biggest winners in this competition won't be standing on the podium. Thanks to the hard work and creativity of teachers like Bill Mittlefehldt, students are gaining the economic literacy they need to succeed — and getting excited about it.

Call the Council or visit our website to learn more about our teaching awards.



# Calendar of Events

Register online at [mcee.umn.edu](http://mcee.umn.edu) or call 612-625-3727.

Workshops are free, but limited in capacity.

## Mathematics & Economics Curriculum Workshops

**January 25** *Math & Econ 6-8*, University of Minnesota-Duluth

**January 25** *Math & Econ 6-8*, Minnesota State University Moorhead

**January 25** *Math & Econ 9-12*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

**February 8** *Math & Econ 6-8*, University of St. Thomas

**February 22** *Math & Econ 6-8*, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**March 1** *Math & Econ 6-8*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

**March 4** *Math & Econ 6-8*, St. Cloud State University

**July 29** *Math & Econ 9-12*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

## Economics Challenge competitions

**April 11** *Southern Minnesota Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Mankato. Call 507-389-5329 for information.

**April 12** *Metro Economics Challenge*, University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5177 for information.

**April 17** *Heartland Economics Challenge*, St. Cloud State University. Call 320-255-2157 for information.

**April 17** *Lake Superior Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota-Duluth. Call 218-726-7568 for information.

**April 23** *Great Plains Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University Moorhead. Call 218-236-4029 for information.

**April 25** *State Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Call 612-625-3727 for information.

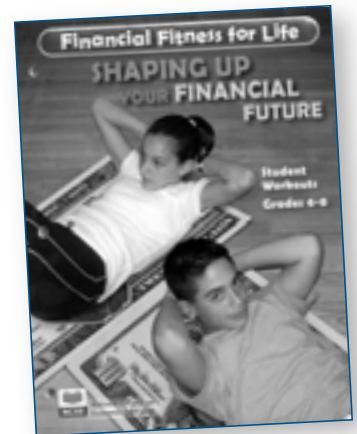
*Calendar continued on page 4*

## Taking Stock

# Council Highlights, 2002

## Professional Development for Teachers

- More than 750 teachers participated in professional development activities to help them enhance student understanding of economics and personal finance. This is the greatest number the Council has ever served in one year.
- Educators participating in week-long professional development courses concerning the economics graduation standard achieved remarkable increases in their economic understanding; 90% scored less than half correct on a standardized pre-test, but achieved an average increase of 30% in the post-test.
- One hundred educators participated in workshops on the new economics-based personal finance curriculum, *Financial Fitness for Life*. The new *Mathematics and Economics: Connections for Life* curriculum was introduced to over 125 math educators, and 65 history, civics, and geography educators participated in courses on enhancing the social studies curricula with economics.



## Outstanding Student Achievement

- The *Economics Challenge* team from Fairmont High School won the National Championship in the "Fundamental Economics" division. The Edina High School team placed third nationally in the "Advanced Economics" division. Minnesota was the only state with two teams at the national contest.
- 1,600 students participated in *Commodity Challenge*, a high school learning activity that illustrates the relationship between commodity prices and current events.
- 500 elementary students working with the *Seas, Trees and Economies* curriculum achieved an average increase in economic understanding of 42% from pre- to post-test. This nationally recognized curriculum was developed by Curt Anderson, Director of the Council's affiliated University of Minnesota-Duluth Center for Economic Education.

## Teacher Honors

- Six Minnesota teachers were presented awards for innovation and excellence in teaching economics: Pat Sheehan, Maple Grove High School; Bill Mittlefehldt, Anoka High School; Bernice Nelson, Dakota County Juvenile Services Center; and Jodi Glazier, Angie McGinnis, and Patty Novak, Kennedy Elementary School, Hastings.
- Bill Mittlefehldt was the ten-state regional winner in the NASDAQ National Teaching Awards in Economic Education. This is the second time in the four-year history of the national awards that a Minnesota economic educator has been a national finalist.
- Three Minnesota educators were selected to participate in the National Council on Economic Education's study tours to Russia, Ukraine, and Lithuania: John Deden, Bemidji High School; Scott Kromminga, Plainview High School; and Lana Mahoney, Saint Paul Public Schools.

## Faculty Honors

- Rich MacDonald, SCSU Center Director, served as President of the National Association of Economic Educators and was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Council.
- Curt Anderson, UMD Center, received the Bessie B. Moore award from the National Association of Economic Educators for outstanding service to economic education, the highest honor awarded by his peers.
- Claudia Parliament, MN Council, received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the students of the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, University of Minnesota.

# You won't want to miss . . .

## Math & Economics Workshops for Educators 6-12

This one's for every math teacher who has ever tried to answer the question "Why do I need to know this?" — which means it's for just about all of you. The *Mathematics & Economics: Connections for Life* curriculum ties the math skills you teach to concrete, dollars-and-cents economic concepts that students relate to their own lives.

Seeing how math skills help them with real situations in the real world can make all the difference in kids' comprehension and retention.

You don't have to know anything about economics to teach this curriculum — it was designed specifically for math teachers. And you'll get everything you need to implement it successfully at our workshops. Register online ([mcee.umn.edu](http://mcee.umn.edu)) or call 612-625-3727.

### ► Grades 6-8

**Jan. 25** — Univ. of Minn.-Duluth

**Jan. 25** — Minn. State Univ., Moorhead

**Feb. 8** — Univ. of St. Thomas

**Feb. 22** — Minn. State Univ., Mankato

**March 1** — Univ. of Minn., St. Paul

**March 4** — St. Cloud State Univ.

### ► Grades 9-12

**Jan. 25** — Univ. of Minn., St. Paul

**July 29** — Univ. of Minn., St. Paul

The National Council on Economic Education through a grant from 3M has provided funding to make these workshops possible.

## Commodity Challenge

There's still time to get your students involved in the ever-popular *Commodity Challenge* program. Whether you use it as an independent study project, class assignment or assessment task, *Commodity Challenge* is an outstanding teaching tool. Kids "really run with it," as one teacher who is experienced with the program commented.

Register your students before March 7 to receive free *Commodity Challenge* teaching materials. Also, keep in mind that the deadline for entering student essays in the statewide competition for cash rewards is May 16, 2003.

Teaching tools and learning activities available at <http://mcee.umn.edu>.

## Financial Fitness for Life: Personal Finance Workshops

You've heard the bad news — a lot of kids today aren't even close to being fit to handle their personal finances. While they have more to spend than ever before, many don't have even the most basic understanding of decision-making and money management, and that doesn't bode well for their future financial health.

The good news is that studies show classroom instruction is very effective for getting kids in better fiscal shape. With that in mind, the National Council developed *Financial Fitness for Life*, a K-12 curriculum that makes personal financial literacy an integral part of students' education.

*Financial Fitness for Life* helps students apply economics and decision-making skills to the real world of earning, spending and saving. Best of all, you don't have to convince them that this stuff matters. Nobody wants to be a ninety-pound weakling in the pocketbook.

Want to learn more? Join us for one of the workshops listed in the accompanying calendar. Visit us online for information about *Pocket Power* (K-2), *Steps to Financial Fitness* (3-5), *Shaping Up Your Financial Future* (6-8), and *Bringing Home the Gold* (9-12).

Financial Fitness workshops are sponsored by TCF Financial Corporation, Metris Companies, and Marquette Financial Companies.

## Calendar cont.

### Financial Fitness for Life Curriculum Workshops

**February 22** *Financial Fitness* for grades 9-12, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

**March 22** *Financial Fitness* for grades 6-8, St. Cloud State University

### Commodity Challenge

**March 7** Deadline to register your students.

**May 16** Deadline for essay entry to the Minnesota Council.

**June 9** *Commodity Challenge* Celebration

### Summer Professional Development Opportunities

**June 23-27** Enhancing the Social Studies Curricula with Economics

**July 21-25** Economic Systems Content Standard

**August 4-8** Economic Systems Content Standard

**August 12-13** Advanced Economic Topics

[mcee.umn.edu](http://mcee.umn.edu)

## Economics Challenge

If you haven't started coaching a team for this year's *Econ Challenge*, don't worry — it's not too late. This extremely rewarding experience for everyone involved grows in popularity every year. And it could lead all the way to a national championship, as it did in 2002 for Minnesota's Fairmont High School. Call your nearest Center for more information, or to register your team.



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## Summer Graduate Courses Funded!

**W**e are able to offer an array of professional growth opportunities this summer due to a recent grant from the Federal Improving Teacher Quality Program, administered by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office. Check the calendar for dates of offerings, and then go online to reserve your place.

The *Economic Systems Content Standard* course will focus on fundamentals. You'll review key economic concepts, get hands-on experience with materials, and receive two University of Minnesota graduate credits. If you're new to teaching economics in grades 9-12 or want to build your knowledge of economics, this is the course for you. (The course is not open to previous participants of a similarly titled workshop.)

The *Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics* course is designed to help you successfully integrate economics into your social studies curriculum. If you teach middle or high school social studies, here's your chance to shore up your understanding of economics, gain ideas and materials on how to integrate economics into your teaching, and receive two University of Minnesota graduate credits.

Tuition expense and a \$100 stipend will be provided to the first 20 participants to register and fully complete each of these graduate courses. Travel stipends are also available, on a first-come, first-serve limited basis.

An *Advanced Economics Topics* workshop will also be offered for experienced economics educators. This workshop is designed to build a community of economic educators, and to take your knowledge and teaching skills to the next level. The emphasis will be on sharing effective learning activities and assessment techniques. The content changes each summer so that you can return without a repeat in topics. No graduate credit or stipends are available — only professional growth along with intellectual challenge and comradery.

### *Hands-on learning for elementary students*

## **Play Dough Economics**

**L**ooking for a way to get your elementary students' hands around important economic concepts? You might want to try opening a jar of Play Dough. That's the key ingredient in a unique curriculum offered by the National Council on Economic Education. *Play Dough Economics* covers all the basics of economics for young students through activities built around modeling clay. Goods and services, scarcity, opportunity cost, savings and investment — who would have thought you could get all that knowledge out of a can!

To learn more about this and other teaching resources for the elementary grades, check out the National Council's online catalog at [www.ncee.net](http://www.ncee.net).