

New from Cargill

Introducing Global Food Challenge

Partnering with the Minnesota Council to help high school students understand how, why and at what cost food gets to their tables, Cargill has contributed \$300,000 for the development of the new curriculum and contest, *Global Food Challenge*.

Global Food Challenge will consist of the following flexible curriculum modules that can be taught as stand-alone units or in any combination:

- Economics of World Food Markets
- Food Security and Hunger: Economic Issues
- World Food Trade: Economic Issues
- World Food Safety and Regulation: Economic Issues

The *Challenge* curriculum covers basic economic principles and world food system issues. Basic principles including supply and demand, price discovery, comparative advantage, trade, productivity, and cost benefit are covered in the *Economics of World Food Markets*. The other three units assume a knowledge of basic economics and relate that to world food issues such as safety and regulation, hunger, genetically modified products, organic farming, globalization and the environment. Each unit includes student workbook and teacher manual and incorporates activities requiring inquiry, analysis, and a written report that can be judged in a competition with cash prizes for student winners and their teachers.

The Council will launch the modules over the next three years, beginning in winter of '04

Mark Your Calendar

Winter Institute's Coming!

Reserve March 3-4 for the 42nd annual Winter Institute. As always, there will be outstanding workshops, speakers, and the Economic Outlook panel presentation. This year, you'll have two workshops to choose from on Wednesday, March 3. One workshop will review the new *Advanced Placement Economics* curriculum from the National Council. The first 20 teachers to enroll will receive the curriculum (\$100 value) free. A *Financial Fitness for Credit* workshop will be offered concurrently for 25 educators. This session focuses on credit management lessons for high school students from *Financial Fitness for Life*, and adds a case study examining the ethical dilemmas in marketing credit cards to students. Teachers in this session will receive curriculum lessons and the case study free.

The workshops will be followed by the Economic Outlook featuring Art Rolnick, Senior Vice President and Director of Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; Dan Laufenberg, Vice

Global Food Challenge Pilot

Training workshop: February 21
Course implementation: Spring '04
Focus Group: Summer '04
Stipend: \$250
Travel expenses: \$40 metro,
\$80 outstate

with the two units, *Economics of World Food Markets* and *Food Security and Hunger*.

Wanted: Teachers to Pilot

You can play a key role in this exciting project by participating in the pilot of either unit. We're looking for high school teachers to attend a training workshop in February, teach the unit in spring of '04, meet during the summer to provide feedback, and then teach the curriculum again in the next school year.

The Council is offering a \$250 stipend, plus travel allowance (\$40 for the seven-county metro area, \$80 outside the metro) to participating teachers. To register, visit our website or call 612-625-3727.

What about Commodity Challenge?

In order to focus resources on the *Cargill Global Food Challenge*, we will no longer offer the *Commodity Challenge* competition and celebration. However, we will continue to offer the curriculum at no charge, as long as supplies last. Please contact us to order copies of the student learning activity.

Don't Forget:

Winter
Institute
March 3-4

Advanced
Placement
Economics

Financial
Fitness for
Credit

Calendar of Events

Workshops are free, but limited in capacity. Register online at mcee.umn.edu or call 612-625-3727.

February 21 *Cargill Global Food Challenge* training workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

March 3-4 *Winter Institute*, St. Cloud State University.

March 6 Follow-up meeting for *Economic Systems* graduate course from July, 2003.

March 20 *Technological Resources for Teaching Economics* Workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

April 1 *North Dakota State Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Moorhead. Call 218-477-4029 for information.

April 1 *Lake Superior Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota, Duluth. Call 218-726-7568 for information.

April 2 *Heartland Economics Challenge*, St. Cloud State University, Call 320-308-2157 for information.

April 2 *Southern Minnesota Economic Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Mankato. Call 507-389-5329 for information.

April 3 *Great Plains Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Moorhead. Call 218-477-4029 for information.

April 3 *Metro Economics Challenge*, University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5177 for information.

April 16 *Minnesota State Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. For teams who advance from Center competition.

April 17 *Financial Fitness for Life* (9-12) Workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

April 22–May 4 Study Tour on Economic Education in Latvia and Lithuania, National Council on Economic Education.

Looking ahead to summer

A preview of coming attractions. Begin to plan your summer now.

■ Enhancing Social Studies With Economics

August 9-13, University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus
Two graduate credits, free of charge

This five-day workshop for middle- and high school teachers shows you how to integrate economic concepts into your civics, history and geography classes, even if economics isn't your field. Shore up your economics knowledge and help your students by grounding your social studies learning activities in the principles of economics that influence today's world.

■ Economic Systems

July 19-23, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus
Two graduate credits, free of charge

This class for high school econ teachers covers key micro, macro and international economics concepts with instructional materials, learning activities, and assessment tasks. It's the ideal foundation if you're new to teaching economics or want new learning activities to update your curriculum.

■ New! Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics

July 12-16, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus
Two graduate credits, free of charge

Here's a creative way to insert economics into fun reading activities for elementary students. This new curriculum uses a variety of children's literature favorites for different ages (*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie; Mr. Bear's Chair; The Light in the Attic; Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*) as a basis for teaching concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs, costs of production, and inflation. It's engaging, it's flexible, and it's effective!

■ Economics and the Environment Camp

July 26-29, University of Minnesota, Duluth

"The workshop was excellent and I have told other people they should apply for it next year... I would grade it an A+."

The Council's Economics and the Environment Camp got stellar marks from participants last summer. Using a combination of classroom activities and site visits, the program will give you new insight and ideas for teaching environmental issues and decision making. Topics include the relationship between natural resources and economic well-being, natural resource management, and the costs and benefits of environmental choices. The camp is appropriate for both science and social studies teachers.

■ Advanced Economic Topics

August 4-5, University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus

This popular two-day seminar for experienced economics teachers will apply economic principles to current issues. Each year the issues change, so you can attend this seminar more than once.

You may register for any of the professional development offerings online by visiting our web site at www.mcee.umn.edu or by calling the Minnesota Council at 612-625-3727.

Winter Institute *continued from page 1*

President and Chief US Economist, American Express Financial Advisors; Tom Stinson, Minnesota State Economist and Professor, University of Minnesota; and Rich MacDonald, Center Director and Professor, St. Cloud State University. The Economic Outlook will be followed by a banquet, which is free of charge to educators.

Other Winter Institute highlights include Art Rolnick's presentation on the Economics of Early Childhood Development, followed by a panel discussion on Thursday, March 4. Mark your calendar now for the economic education event of the year! For more information or to register, contact Rich MacDonald at 320-308-2157.

Year-at-a-Glance

2003 Highlights in Econ Ed

Social Studies Standards: Great news! Minnesota's proposed standards for social studies include economics and personal finance beginning in Kindergarten. Thanks to our legislators, Department of Education leadership, classroom teachers and the Council network, our students will continue to gain economic and personal finance literacy.

Teacher Development: In 2002-03, the Council provided professional development courses to 675 teachers, representing 63% of the public school districts in Minnesota. Through these training opportunities, teachers in social studies, family and consumer science, business, math, and science have made important strides in integrating economic and personal finance in their classrooms.

Outstanding Teachers: Minnesota teachers continue to win national honors out of proportion to the size of our state. Bill Mittlefehldt of Anoka High was a ten-state regional winner in the NASDAQ National Teaching Awards – the second time in the four-year history of the awards that a Minnesota teacher has advanced to the national finals. Minnesota teachers have also been selected for almost every international study opportunity offered by the National Council.

Council Network: This year the Minnesota Council received the highest commendation from the National Council on Economic Education, affirming the Minnesota Council's leadership as one of the most innovative and effective members of the national network.

TEL Online

The Test of Economic Literacy (TEL) is now available online, making it easier for you to assess and analyze your students' economic knowledge. Developed by the National Council, the TEL is a standardized test designed to measure high school students' economic literacy.

The web-based test enables you to:

- Track students' progress easily,
- Review detailed reports to see what your students are learning, question-by-question, or by topic,
- Assess pre- and post-course knowledge, and
- Receive test results instantly.

For more information, or to place your order, visit our website.

International Opportunity

If you want to take an unforgettable study tour to Latvia and Lithuania this spring (April 22 – May 4), get busy and apply. Applications are due January 30. Two Minnesota teachers, Scott Wolla of Hibbing High School and Glen Matthews of New Century Charter School in Hutchinson, were chosen for the December study tour to Russia. For more information and application forms, visit www.ncee.net.

NEW Center for Personal and Family Financial Education

Partnering with the Minnesota Extension Service, the Minnesota Council has established a Center for Personal and Family Financial Education. The Center hopes to empower individuals and families with the financial knowledge they need to survive and thrive. The new Center will work with community educators to teach their clientele about personal finance and related issues. The Center's director is Dr. Patricia Olson of the University's College of Human Ecology. You may contact this center at 612-624-1786.



Patricia Olson

mcee.umn.edu

Spring 2004 Professional Development Opportunities

Technological Resources for Teaching Economics, K-12

Saturday, March 20, 2004, 9:00 - 4:00
Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul
Stipend: \$30
Participants receive: Virtual Economics CD, lunch and refreshments
Maximum participants: 25
Register: Online or by phone
(612-625-3727)

In this workshop, you'll explore a range of Internet resources for teaching economics and integrating economic content into other subject areas. You'll also look at strategies for using *Virtual Economics*, a CD toolkit with background information, professional references, data sets, and a complete economics curriculum with printable lesson plans and reference materials. The printable lessons cover grades K-12. Your instructor for this invaluable session is Dr. Ashok Chowdhury, Director, Center for Economic Education, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Financial Fitness for Life, 9-12

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 – 3:00
Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul
Stipend: \$30
Participants receive: Free curriculum materials, CD, lunch and refreshments
Maximum participants: 30
Register: Online or by phone
(612-625-3727)

As students move into the teen years, they are eager to make the transition from the world of school to the world outside. While they may have more money to spend than ever before, many don't have the most basic understanding of decision-making and money management. *Financial Fitness for Life: Bringing Home the Gold* teaches the financial knowledge and skills high school students need to become more competent and independent. This is one course where nobody will ask you "Why do I have to know this?" Your instructor for the workshop is Dr. Vernon Dobis, Director, Center for Economic Education, Minnesota State University, Moorhead. This workshop is made possible by a grant from Marquette Financial Companies.

**A partnership of education,
business and labor**

Minnesota Council Network

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New curriculum from the National Council **Institutions and Markets**

Inspired by the World Bank's 2002 *World Development Report: Building Institutions for Markets*, the National Council is offering a new curriculum in the popular Focus series, highlighting the role of institutions in the development of markets and market economies.

While this might seem like a tough subject to teach — let alone for the average student to learn — the authors have put together a dynamic series of lessons that clarify complicated ideas and bring them to life for high school kids.

For instance, a lesson on property rights and contracts as economic institutions includes a role play around Metallica's lawsuit against Napster. A unit on regulatory institutions moves from a stomach-churning reading about sausage-making in 1906 from Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, to activities where students weigh the costs and benefits of regulating national park usage, fishing and teenage driving.

As with other curricula in the Focus series, *Institutions and Markets* emphasizes active and cooperative learning, with direct instruction as appropriate, and extensive use of current data from the United States and other countries.

For more information about *Institutions and Markets*, or to order a copy of the curriculum, visit the National Council's website at www.ncee.net.



Rookie of the Year **Congratulations, Ken Rebeck!**

Every year, the National Council gives special recognition to a new member who is already making significant contributions to the field of economic education. And for 2003, the winner is . . . the Minnesota Council's Ken Rebeck!

As Director of the Center at St. Cloud State University in 2001-02, Ken hit the ground running, organizing a highly successful annual Winter Institute, increasing participation in the *Heartland Economics Challenge*, developing a SCSU website, and providing research and assessment tools for the National Council. He has also been an enthusiastic and effective workshop instructor. Congratulations, Ken — you've got a great future ahead of you!