

# Minnesota Council on Economic Education

winter 2005 [mcee.umn.edu](http://mcee.umn.edu)

## We need YOU for the *Global Food Challenge*

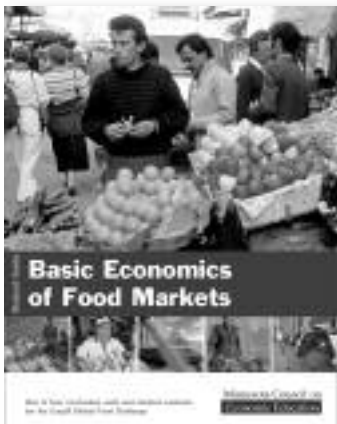
We're looking for teachers who can step up to the plate and implement the newest unit in the groundbreaking *Cargill Global Food Challenge* curriculum in their classrooms. *Basic Economics of Food Markets* demonstrates how concepts of supply and demand determine prices in food markets. Teacher and student guides are available free of charge from the Minnesota Council.



If you would like to give your students a special challenge, they can compete for honors and financial awards in the *Cargill Global Food Challenge* competition. Each teacher can submit two student projects in the competition. The deadline for submission is May 20, 2005.

Whether or not you choose to take part in the competition, this curriculum is an ideal introduction to important economic concepts. Can you take the *Challenge* and help pioneer this curriculum? If so, call the Council, or register your students online at [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu). We will send you everything you need to get started.

Materials for the *Global Food Challenge* are made possible by grants from Cargill, CHS Foundation,



Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy at the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council and Minnesota Ag in the Classroom.

## It's Winter Institute Time

That's right – it is time to get out those calendars and circle March 15-16. The 43rd annual Winter Institute is coming up, and it's going to be another great one. This year's event features the outstanding lineup of speakers and workshops you've come to expect, along with the ever-popular Economic Outlook panel presentation.

Dr. Ruby Payne, the bestselling author of "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" and "Hidden Rules of Class at Work" will be the featured speaker. All teachers dealing with the challenges of children and families living in poverty will find Dr. Payne's insights invaluable. Recognized nationwide as a leading authority on the effects of poverty on communities and schools, Dr. Payne has been highly successful working with schools to close the achievement gap.

We look forward to the Economic Outlook session to hear from distinguished panelists Art Rolnick, Senior Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; Dan Laufenberg, Vice President and Chief US Economist for American Express Financial Advisors; Tom Stinson, Minnesota State Economist and Professor at the University of Minnesota; and Rich MacDonald, Center Director and Professor at St. Cloud State University.

You will also have the opportunity to participate in teacher workshops and there will be plenty of time to socialize at the luncheon, reception and banquet events, which are no cost to educators.

This Winter Institute is going to be a winner, so don't miss out. Call Rich MacDonald at 320-308-2157 to register.

## Apply now for Houck Scholarships

If you're a Minnesota K-12 classroom teacher and you want to pursue educational opportunities in economics, we would like to help. The James P. Houck Memorial Scholarship awards two scholarships of \$1,000 each to teachers taking the Applied Microeconomics course [APEC 3001] for academic credit.

Apply by completing an application online, or download an application form and send it to the Minnesota Council on Economic Education by May 23, 2005. Need more information? Call the Council at 612-625-3727 or visit us online.

## Increase your impact on students' economic literacy

The Minnesota Council is researching factors affecting student understanding of economics. Nearly 800 high school students and 18 teachers of economics are currently included in the data base.

Understanding of economics is measured by the percentage increase in students' scores between pre- and post-tests, as well as students' post-test scores on the nationally-normed *Test of Economic Literacy* (TEL). Only students who score below 75% correct on the pre-test are included in the preliminary analysis. This restriction focuses the research on the learning and achievement of students who do not have a strong, basic understanding of economics upon entering a high school course in economics.

The preliminary results are conclusive and intuitive: students whose teachers have taken intermediate level economics score significantly higher than students whose teachers have not had that experience. Additionally, teachers' scores on the *Test of Understanding in College Economics* (TUCE) have a significant and positive impact on the percentage increase and the final TEL score of a student.

Seize the opportunity to increase your students' learning of economics, and register for the intermediate microeconomics course offered this summer in the Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota. Alternatively, register for an intermediate level economics course at one of the institutions hosting a Center for Economic Education, or register for one of the summer courses offered by the Minnesota Council.

If you would like to know how your students are performing, the Minnesota Council is offering the pre- and post-tests of the online TEL free of charge for a limited time. This offer is made possible by the National Council on Economic Education through funding from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement. Call 612-625-3727 for more information on how to register your spring economics classes.

## It is not too early to start planning! Coming Summer Attractions

Already thinking about what you'd like to do this summer? So is the Council! We're busy putting together a schedule of workshops to meet every professional development need.

Details about these courses will appear in our spring issue. Read more and apply for these classes at our web site [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu).

### **Economics Systems (high school teachers) – July 11-15**

This course reviews basic concepts for high school teachers who are preparing students to meet state standards in economics.

### **Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics (teachers of grades 7-12) – August 8 -12**

Teachers can integrate economics concepts into high school history, civics and geography lessons after attending this workshop.

### **Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics (teachers of grades 3-8) – July 18-22**

In this course teachers will learn basic economic concepts and how to integrate them with reading and writing skills.

### **Economics and the Environment Camp in Duluth (grades 6-12) – July 25-28**

Learn economics from classroom and field experiences in our popular environmental and economics decision-making workshop.

### **Summer Economics Institute (experienced economics teachers) – August 3-4**

This is an opportunity to share knowledge and learn from your peers in a collegial setting for experienced economics teachers.

### **Applied Microeconomics: Consumers, Producers and Markets (APEC 3001) – MWF, June 13 – July 22, 8:30 – 11:30 am (Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota)**

Intermediate level course designed to meet the needs of educators. It covers consumer and producer decisions, supply and demand, market structure, and effects of government regulation. Need financial aid to take this class? See Houck Scholarship Announcement for more information.

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## Join the *Economics Challenge* tradition

*Economics Challenge*, the national high school competition in economic knowledge and decision-making, is a regular spring activity at many schools throughout Minnesota. Start a new tradition of your own by signing up a team or two for this fun and exciting competition, coming up in early



**Moorhead High School teammates conferring on an Economics Challenge questions.**

April. Choose the location nearest you: St. Paul, St. Cloud, Duluth, Mankato, or Moorhead. See the calendar in this newsletter for contact information and dates of the *Challenges* at our Centers around the state.

Students compete in a series of tests covering micro, macro and international economics, comparative systems and current events and policy issues. Trophies and cash prizes are awarded to high-scoring teams and individual students.

American Express sponsors *Economics Challenge* in Minnesota, which included two new competitions this year for non-AP teams, held in January at St. Cloud State University and University of St. Thomas. Winning teams from January will join April's winners at the Minnesota State Competition on April 15.

# Personal finance workshops: Something for everyone

This is the economics your students really want to learn – pocketbook issues that directly affect their financial well-being. We're offering workshops for teachers at every grade level to help you teach these very important concepts.

**All workshops are offered free of charge and include a \$30 stipend, lunch and free curriculum guides. Register online at [mcee.umn.edu](http://mcee.umn.edu).**

These workshops are made possible by the NCEE through funding from The Moody's Foundation. Additional funding has been provided by TCF Financial Corporation, Thrivent for Lutherans, Marquette Financial Companies, Steve Leuthold Family Foundation, and Metris Companies.

## For middle school and high school teachers

### **Learning, Earning and Investing and Financial Fitness for Life**

Learn about two excellent personal finance curricula for students just beginning to enter their earning years. *Learning, Earning and Investing* introduces students to the benefits and risks of investing and the role investing plays in the creation of jobs and wealth. *Financial Fitness for Life* helps students apply economics and decision-making skills to the world of earning, saving, spending, using credit and managing money.

#### **Workshop schedule:**

Date	Location	For grades
Feb. 23	St. Cloud State Univ.	6-12
Feb. 26	Minnesota State Univ., Moorhead	9-12
March 19	Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul	6-8
April 23	Univ. of St. Thomas, St. Paul	9-12
June 16	Minnesota State Univ., Mankato	9-12

## For elementary teachers, grades 3-5

### **Financial Fitness for Life: Steps to Financial Fitness – March 5, University of St. Thomas**

In this innovative curriculum, engaging lessons and activities provide the stepping stones young people need to prepare for their futures. This workshop, taught by Nancy Krenner of Valley Crossing Community School, is for elementary teachers who want a fun and effective way to make economics part of their students' basic education.

## Welcome Jill M. Dalager!

The newest member of the Minnesota Council is Jill M. Dalager, who joins us as Associate Director. Jill holds a Masters degree in Museum Studies from the University of Washington with a specialization in education and fund development. She has served as executive director of the Celebrate Redmond Foundation in Redmond, Washington, and education manager of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California. Jill received her Bachelors degree from the University of North Dakota and is a Minnesota native. We look forward to the fresh outlook and skills Jill brings to the Council.



## Calendar of Events

Feb. 23	Grades 6-12 – <i>Personal Finance</i> curriculum workshop, St. Cloud State Univ.
Feb. 26	Grades 9-12 – <i>Personal Finance</i> curriculum workshop, Minn. State Univ., Moorhead.
Mar. 5	Grades 3-5 – <i>Financial Fitness for Life</i> curriculum workshop, Univ. of St. Thomas.
Mar. 12	<i>Middle School Geography Workshop</i> , Univ. of Minn., St. Paul.
Mar. 15-16	<i>Winter Institute</i> , St. Cloud State Univ.
Mar. 19	Grades 6-8 – <i>Personal Finance</i> curriculum workshop, Univ. of Minn., St. Paul.
April 1	<i>Southern Minnesota Economics Challenge</i> , Minn. State Univ., Mankato. Call 507-389-5329 for more information.
April 6	<i>Heartland Economics Challenge</i> , St. Cloud State Univ. Call 320-308-2157 for more information.
April 6	<i>Lake Superior Economics Challenge</i> , Univ. of Minn., Duluth. Call 218-726-7568 for more information.
April 7	<i>Great Plains Economics Challenge</i> , Minn. State Univ., Moorhead. Call 218-236-4029 for more information.
April 9	<i>Metro Economics Challenge</i> , Univ. of St. Thomas, St. Paul. Call 651-962-5686 for more information.
April 11	<i>North Dakota Economics Challenge</i> , Minn. State Univ., Moorhead. Call 218-236-4029 for more information.
April 15	<i>State Economics Challenge</i> , Univ. of Minn.-St. Paul. Call 612-625-3727 for more information.
April 21-22	<i>Regional Economics Challenge</i> . Call 612-625-3727 for more information.
April 23	Grades 9-12 – <i>Personal Finance</i> curriculum workshop, Univ. of St. Thomas, St. Paul.
May 20	Deadline for entries in the <i>Cargill Global Food Challenge</i> . Call 612-625-3727 for more information.
May 21-22	<i>National Economics Challenge Competition</i> , New York, NY. Call 612-625-3727 for more information.
June 7	<i>Global Food Challenge Celebration</i> , Cargill Headquarters, Minnetonka.
June 16	Grades 9-12 – <i>Personal Finance</i> curriculum workshop, Minn. State Univ., Mankato.

# Minnesota Council on Economic Education

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## Building Economic and Financial Understanding for Life

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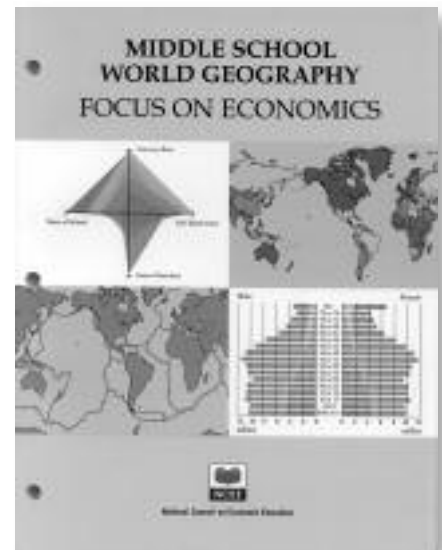
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## NEW! Middle School World Geography: Focus on Economics

Developed by the National Council, this exciting new curriculum for middle school classrooms brings together two key disciplines: economics and geography. In nine activity-based lessons, students will develop an understanding of basic concepts that will help them think more critically and competently about real world situations.

For example, in the lesson "Joining Together That Which Has Drifted Apart," students learn about the physical forces that move people on different continents further apart, and the economic forces that bring them closer together. A study of continental drift segues into role play activities, where students assigned to two continents simulate the production of goods (pizzas and colorful rugs). Through this simulation, they discover that trade brings the world together by increasing consumers' interactions, options and buying power.

To get a jump start on implementing this innovative curriculum in your classroom, you are invited to attend a free workshop (details below). Register online or call 612-625-3727.



### Middle School World Geography: Focus on Economics Workshop

*(Workshop also includes The Wide World of Trade middle school curriculum )*

**Who:** Middle school social studies teachers

**When:** Saturday, March 12, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** University of Minnesota, St. Paul

**Cost:** FREE! Participants receive a \$30 stipend, curricula, lunch and refreshments. Enrollment limited to 20.

**Instructor:** Curt Anderson, co-author of the *World Geography* curriculum and Director of the Center for Economic Education in Duluth.

This workshop is made possible by the National Council on Economic Education through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Education, in coordination with the U.S. Department of State.