

The Leading Minnesota Council on Economic Education INDICATOR

Building Economic and Financial Understanding for Life

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New Teaching Award Announced!

Thanks to a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the Council will offer a new award for teachers in 2006: the **Personal Finance Educator Award**.

If you teach personal finance, think now about creating a lesson that you can submit for the competition. Judges will be looking for: innovation in approach and development; emphasis on personal finance concepts; and ease of replication by other teachers.

For a complete list of criteria, award amounts, and application materials, check out our new website at www.mcee.umn.edu!

Minnesota Council on Economic Education

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AVOID FEBRUARY DOLDRUMS Attend the 2006 Winter Institute

The 44th annual **Winter Institute** at St. Cloud State University on February 21 and 22 will feature a teacher workshop on *Thinking Economics* and *Virtual Economics*. *Thinking Economics* is a CD-ROM based comprehensive high school economics curriculum of 76 interactive lessons. It includes printed materials of simulations, supplemental lesson plans, and test banks. *Virtual Economics 3.0* is the latest resource on CD developed for K-12 teachers. This interactive and easy-to-use CD reviews basic economic concepts and contains over 1,200 activity-based economics and personal finance lessons correlated to state and national economic standards. Both CDs were developed by the National Council on Economic Education. Come to Winter Institute to learn more about these exciting new resources and receive a free copy of the *Virtual Economics* CD-ROM (a \$100 value).

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on February 21 and from 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. on February 22. Following the first

half of the workshop on Tuesday, the **12th Annual Economic Outlook** will take place at the Kelly Inn in downtown St. Cloud. Learn the views of Tom Stinson, Minnesota State Economist; Dan Laufenberg, Chief Economist, Ameriprise; and King Banaian, Chair, Economics Department, St. Cloud State University. **The Economic Outlook** at 5:00 p.m. is free and is followed at 6:30 by a food and cocktail reception (\$20/person).

On Wednesday morning there will be a program of nationally recognized speakers at Ritsche Auditorium, Stewart Hall, St. Cloud State University.

Join us at Winter Institute for free workshops, panel discussions, speakers, and a banquet, and find the best economics and personal finance lessons for your grade level! To register, call Rich MacDonald at 320-308-2157.

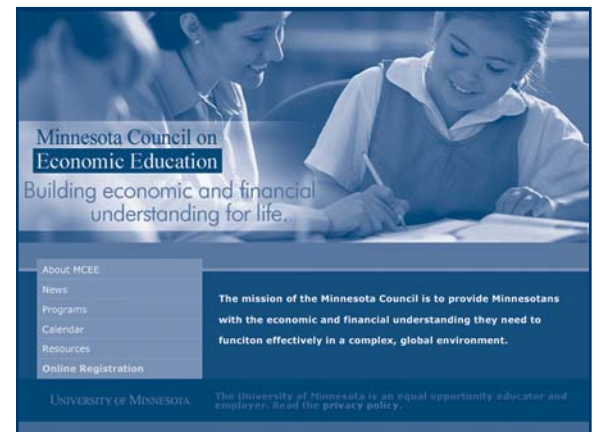
If you can't attend Winter Institute this year, join us on March 4th for a workshop on *Virtual Economics*. Don't miss your chance to learn about this new curriculum and receive your free CD-ROM!

**Where: University of Minnesota, St. Paul
When: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Register online at www.mcee.umn.edu.**

Check out our New Look!

Our Website Has a Great New Look and Is Easier to Use!

Visit us at www.mcee.umn.edu to learn about our programs, scholarships, and teacher professional development opportunities and view a full calendar of events. You can register online for our free curriculum workshops and take advantage of our resource links. If you missed the celebration and awards ceremony at the 29th annual **EconFest**, visit our website to find out how to submit your innovative lesson plans for the 2006 **3M Economic Educator Awards** and learn about the lessons developed by last year's winners.



Making a Difference in Education and in the World: *EconFest 2005*

More than 120 teachers, economic and community leaders, and Minnesota Council board members gathered for the 29th annual *EconFest* in October at Cargill's Headquarters to celebrate local and international successes in economic education. We shared best practices, heard from award-winning teachers, and had the privilege of listening to Dr. Philip Pardey, featured speaker and Professor, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

Did you know that by 2050 we will need to feed 2.6 billion more people than we do today? Did you know that 800 million people around the world, mostly women and children, are chronically undernourished?

Dr. Pardey's presentation focused on the research and development challenges of meeting world food demands and underlined the importance of helping our students, who in the coming years will be faced with the challenge of feeding the world, understand the economics of world food issues.

Global Food Challenge can help you prepare your students for this future. Visit our web site at www.mcee.umn.edu to learn more about this series of innovative learning activities suitable for social studies, economics, agriculture and food science classes, and give your students the skills they will need to deal with these tough world food issues.

Thank you to our teachers, community members, directors, Cargill, and corporate sponsors for making *EconFest 2005* such an exciting event!

SUMMER COURSES

Increase Student Learning and Achievement!

Recent evaluations of more than 1,000 students show there is an increase in economic learning and achievement for students whose teachers have taken Minnesota Council workshops.

Our workshops include free curriculum. Teachers who attend week-long courses also receive stipends and graduate credit. Don't turn your back on student achievement. Start thinking now about these exciting summer workshops! All workshops are held at University of Minnesota, St. Paul unless otherwise indicated. Learn more and register online at www.mcee.umn.edu.

Personal Finance Camp in Duluth (Grades 6–12) – June 27–30

Become knowledgeable about personal finance concepts and practices, and go home equipped with curriculum materials that will actively engage your students.

Economic Systems (Grades 9-12) – July 10-14

This course helps high school educators prepare students to meet state academic standards in economics.

Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics (Grades 3–8) – July 17–21

Review basic economic concepts and learn how you can integrate these into your classroom using children's literature.

Economics and the Environment Camp in Duluth (Grades 6–12) – July 24–27

Receive the widely acclaimed *Seas, Trees and Economics* and *Economics and the Environment* curricula in this four-day economics and the environment decision-making workshop.

Enhancing Social Studies Curricula with Economics (Grades 7-12) – July 31–August 4

Learn how to integrate economic principles into history, civics, and geography in this week-long workshop.

Summer Economics Institute (Grades 9-12) – August 8–9

Gather ideas and resources for integrating current events into your economics curriculum in a collegial atmosphere ideal for building community among experienced economic educators.

GLOBAL FOOD CHALLENGE

Is Our Food Safe? Can We End World Hunger?

If you and your students are interested in these and other world food system questions, register your class in the 2006 *Global Food Challenge*. *Cargill Global Food Challenge* is a series of innovative learning activities that explore economics in the context of world food issues. The four stand-alone units, *Basic Economics of Food Markets*, *Economics of Food Security*, *Economics of World Food Trade*, and *Economics of Food Safety*, can be taught separately or together. Each spring, teachers are invited to enter two student projects per unit in the *Global Food Challenge* contest.

Visit our web site or call us at 612-625-3727 to register your students and request teacher and student guides. Once you have registered your students, you will receive curriculum and subsequent information on how to submit student entries for judging. The winning students and teachers in each unit will receive cash awards! Entries must be postmarked by April 28, 2006. Try tackling these real issues and tough questions in your classroom!

Request curricula at www.mcee.umn.edu.



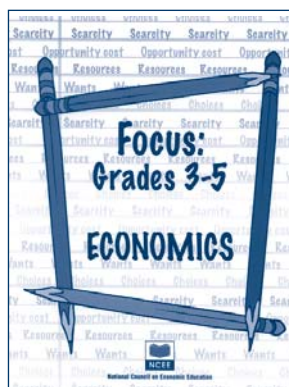
MATH & ECON Making It Real for Grades 3–5

Register for the March 11
free workshop and receive your
free copies of these new curricula.

University of Minnesota, St. Paul

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Designed especially for elementary instructors who are trying to find ways to make mathematics real and exciting for their students, *Mathematics and Economics: Connections for Life* contains twelve interactive lessons that help students use their math and problem-solving skills to address real-life economic and personal-finance problems. All lessons correlate with content standards in both economics and mathematics, and you don't need a background in economics to implement this curriculum. Each lesson includes a web address with ready-to-print activities and resource links. In the lesson, "Pizza on a Budget," students learn to budget and apply basic math operations to plan a pizza party. In the lesson, "Plenty of Pennies," students use pennies to help compute percents and learn that interest is payment for the use of money.



Focus: Grades 3–5 Economics helps elementary students explore the world of economics and discover how economics affect their everyday lives. The fourteen lesson plans use simulations, games, stories, and role-playing. This curriculum includes tips for teaching economic concepts so elementary teachers have a framework for introducing economics to their students. Students learn about human and natural resources and the concept of scarcity as they create decorations for their classroom in the lesson, "Back-to-School Scarcity." They explore the role of banks in their communities in the lesson, "Bulletin-Board Banking."

TAKE YOUR STUDENTS TO NEW YORK All Expenses Paid!

Each year, the top *Economics Challenge* teams in regional competitions receive all-expense paid trips to New York City for the national *Economics Challenge* championship. Minnesota has taken more teams to the national *Economics Challenge* than any other state. Enter your students this year for their chance to win a trip to New York in May!

Students compete through a series of tests on macro and micro economics, international economics, and current events. Each team consists of three to five students and competes in one of three divisions: the Joan Robinson Division for small schools, the David Ricardo Division for large schools, or the Adam Smith Division for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-in-the-Schools programs.

Economic Challenges are being held at the Centers for Economic Education. Winning teams in each division advance to the State Championship in April. See the calendar of events in this newsletter or visit our website for dates of the 2006 *Economics Challenge*.

Register for all workshops online
www.mcee.umn.edu
or call 612-625-3727

Apply now for Houck Scholarships

If you're a Minnesota K-12 classroom teacher and you want to increase your understanding of microeconomics, we can help. The James P. Houck Memorial Scholarship will award three \$1,000 scholarships to teachers taking the *Applied Microeconomics: Consumers, Producers and Markets* course for graduate credit at the University of Minnesota. The course is scheduled for MWF from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. from June 12 – July 21 on the St. Paul campus.

Visit our web site to complete a scholarship application online, or download the application form and send it to the Minnesota Council no later than May 19, 2006. Call the Council, 612-625-3727, for additional information regarding the course and the Houck scholarship application.

Minnesota Council on Economic Education

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All workshop opportunities are free to participants and limited in capacity.

- March 4 *Virtual Economics* workshop, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- March 11 Workshop for elementary teachers on *Math & Econ, 3–5* and *Focus: Grades 3–5 Economics*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- March 21 *Twin Cities Economics Challenge*, University of St. Thomas.
Call 651-962-5681 for information.
- March 28 *Great Plains Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Moorhead.
Call 218-477-4029 for information.
- March 29 *North Dakota Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Moorhead.
Call 218-477-4029 for information.
- March 31 *Southern Minnesota Economics Challenge*, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Call 507-389-5329 for information.
- April 4 *Heartland Economics Challenge*, St. Cloud State University.
Call 320-308-2157 for information.
- April 6 *Lake Superior Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota, Duluth.
Call 218-726-7568.
- April 18 *State Economics Challenge*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
Call 612-625-3727 for information.
- April 23–24 *Regional Economics Challenge* in Minneapolis for state winners.
- May 20–22 *National Economics Challenge* in New York City, NY.
- June 12–
July 21 *Applied Microeconomics: Consumers, Producers and Markets* Intermediate
Economics Course, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- June 27–30 *Personal Finance Camp*, University of Minnesota, Duluth.
- July 10–14 *Economic Systems* Course, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
- July 17–21 *Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics* Course,
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- August 8–9 *Summer Economic Institute*, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

www.mcee.umn.edu