



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Highlights

2012
2013



TEACHING TEACHERS. ENGAGING STUDENTS. REACHING COMMUNITIES.

MCEE's mission is to provide Minnesotans with the economic and financial understanding they need to function effectively in today's complex global economy.

In 2012, 613 K-12 teachers participated in professional development programs. They in turn, reached over 60,000 students in 313 schools across 138 school districts.

Focus on Educators

MCEE professional development programs give teachers the skills and tools they need to successfully teach economics courses and to more fully integrate economics and personal finance into Math, Reading and Social Studies curricula. **MCEE helps teachers bring economics to life for their students.**

Popular Workshops and Courses:

Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics and Personal Finance (grades K-5)

Children's books that integrate economics and personal finance concepts into the stories help elementary teachers incorporate new state standards into their lessons. (See a clip of an award winning teacher on our website.)

Mathematics and Economics (grades 3-5)

Focusing on real-life situations, teachers are introduced to economics and personal finance examples that they can apply to enrich their math classes and engage their students.

Personal Finance Camp (grades 7-12)

This camp provides teachers with innovative lessons that introduce secondary students to personal finance with classroom-ready curriculum that meets MN academic standards.

Annual Conference:

Conference on Teaching Economics & Personal Finance

Our annual conference for K-12 educators brings together teachers from across Minnesota and neighboring states. In 2013, a timely focus will be placed on the new MN Social Studies standards that incorporate economics and personal finance into each grade. Along with our traditional emphasis on bringing teachers into contact with other classroom teachers, university faculty and corporate speakers who share current economics topics, this year's special focus will be on session tracks designed especially for each grade level.

Focus on Students

MCEE Teams Up with a High School with a Special Mission

Broadway High School (BHS) in South Minneapolis is devoted to young mothers ages 14-21. Each student's goal is a better future for herself and her child through education. In **Personal Finance Decision-Making for Young Mothers**, MCEE will train BHS staff to bring economics and personal finance skills to their students. To reinforce the content they've learned, the mothers will read a storybook to their child that incorporates an economic concept. With volunteers from program sponsor, **COUNTRY Financial**, the mothers will complete a project using their newly gained personal finance decision-making skills.

Summer Institute for College Access & Success

Saint Paul and Minneapolis Public School students will come to the U of M Saint Paul campus for a week-long college readiness institute. Participants will learn that economics and personal finance concepts can lead to success earning a college degree. In addition to gaining personal finance skills, the students will experience the college atmosphere during visits to 3 area campuses. *This program is funded by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.*

Student Competitions

Economics Challenge and **Personal Finance Decathlon** provide 6th-12th grade teams with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge as they compete for spots at state and national competitions. *The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis hosts these events.*

EconChallenge tests understanding of micro, macro and international economics. Awards are given to top scoring individuals and teams in 3 divisions, with advancement to the national competition in New York City in May. *Minnesota Economics Challenge is sponsored by The Mosaic Company.*

In the Personal Finance Decathlon individual team members test online, covering 10 areas of personal finance. The 6 schools with the highest scoring teams then compete in a double elimination quiz-bowl. Prizes are awarded to teams and individuals. The State Champions go on to compete nationally in St. Louis in May. *COUNTRY Financial and Sit Investment Associates sponsor the Minnesota Personal Finance Decathlon.*

In 2012, 616 secondary school students participated in student competitions, including the first place finisher in the National Economics Challenge, Little Falls Community High School.

Focus on Community Outreach

Community Mentorship for Financial Capability continues across the state. This "train the trainer" series is sponsored by **Allianz** and **Ameriprise**. In 2013, the **Otto Bremer Foundation** will fund 4 agencies in the Owatonna area to offer these personal finance workshops to their clients.

Expanding another step forward, Otto Bremer Foundation has provided MCEE with a generous grant opportunity. It will enable selected St. Paul community agencies to more fully incorporate personal finance education into their direct client offerings. With MCEE guidance and expertise, each will design a program and receive the funding needed to make it possible.

Seeking Sponsorship Support for MCEE Signature Events

Would your organization like to be part of our annual events?

The **Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance** brings together K-12 teachers from MN and nearby states for a two-day conference to gain best practices in teaching economics and personal finance across the curricula.

Sponsorship of **EconFest** enables MCEE to recognize educators for teaching excellence and bringing innovative instruction in economics and personal finance into their classrooms. Join Teacher Awards sponsors **3M** and **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** by becoming an event sponsor.

For information on these or other opportunities to collaborate with MCEE, please contact Sharon Bresson, Development Director, at sbresson@umn.edu.

In 2012, 17 community agencies, from Rochester to Fergus Falls, participated in Community Mentorship for Financial Capability, designed to provide personal finance education to low-income and new immigrant populations.

A Note from Executive Director, Donald Liu

As we enter a second half century of service to Minnesota, we find our mission is more relevant than ever. MCEE will continue to play a pivotal role helping Minnesota teachers prepare for the new state academic standards in Social Studies, incorporating economics into the K-12 curriculum. We will continue to expand our programs to engage teachers, students and community agencies, all with the goal of improving the knowledge individual members of our society need to build strong economic and personal foundations. Thank you for your on-going partnership, in support of our mission, through your individual donations, foundation and corporate grants and sponsorships.



Our 2012 Annual Report demonstrates the geographic reach of MCEE programming. The report is available online at www.mcee.umn.edu.



You Can Help Expand our Programming

MCEE seeks individual, corporate and private foundation support to expand its critical programming.

These are a few ways you can help:

- Sponsoring the 2013 Personal Finance Camp
- Replicating critical programs for access across the state
- Sponsoring student competitions at the middle school and elementary grade levels
- Building a network of master teachers in economics and personal finance
- Increasing our high school programs for young parents
- Supporting work with community agencies to incorporate personal finance education into their programming



Visit our website, www.mcee.umn.edu, throughout 2013 for updates and news, including a new MCEE blog featuring guest contributors.