

# Highlights 2013



**Photo (above):** A Broadway High School teacher and students complete a personal finance project.

## Teaching Teachers

Our professional development for teachers is at the heart of our mission. MCEE courses connect teachers with economics and personal finance content and resources they can then bring directly to the classroom. By equipping teachers, thousands of students are impacted year after year.

Throughout the summer, teachers participate in 3-day camps and 5-day courses. Topics range from *Energy and the Environment* to *Using Children’s Literature to Teach Economics & Personal Finance*. Our annual conference featured 40 sessions on diverse topics.

During the school year, MCEE supports teachers’ professional development through one-day workshops, regular eCommunications, our blog, and online resources.

MCEE 2012-13 Participation	Totals
Teachers	659
Schools Represented	377
School Districts Represented	122
Students Reached in the Classroom	56,775
First-time Teacher participants	396

## Teacher Recognition

Each fall at **EconFest**, MCEE recognizes K-12 educators for teaching excellence and innovation. Awards are presented for innovative economics and personal finance learning activities that bring *economics to life* in the classroom.

**Teachers**, like the one pictured here, exemplify **MCEE’s mission**, to provide Minnesotans with the economic and financial understanding they need to function effectively in a complex global environment.

## Why Economic Education Matters

Economic and personal finance education gives students a way of thinking about the world around them. It helps students become informed decision-makers, knowledgeable consumers, and financially responsible citizens.

### What the teachers say . . .

*I would never have devoted a week of my time to study economics. After taking this course, I realize how important economics is to all grades.*

*This course was invaluable in providing me with resources, information and activities for my students. It will definitely make economics more accessible, understandable and fun for my students.*

**Photo (below):** Attendees at the Sixth Annual Conference on Teaching Economics and Personal Finance “get into the act” during an elementary-level activity.



## Engaging Students

In 2013, 1,079 Minnesota students participated in MCEE competitions. The competitions test economic and personal finance knowledge as students actively engage in learning and compete for spots at state and national finals. Through **Economics Challenge**, **Personal Finance Decathlon** and **Global Food Challenge**, student accomplishments are highlighted; they gain economic and personal finance understanding and build teamwork skills. Not to mention, they also have a lot of fun along the way!



**Photo (Left):** State and National Economics Challenge Champions - Little Falls High School

**Photo (Right):** Personal Finance Decathlon State Champions - Mounds View High School

**Economics Challenge State Winners:** Barnesville (small school), Little Falls (large school), Mounds View (AP)

**National Results:** Little Falls - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Mounds View - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Personal Finance Decathlon State Winners:** Mounds View - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Little Falls – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**National Results:** Mounds View - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## New MCEE Programs Engage Students Directly

**Personal Finance Decision-Making for Young Mothers** – a semester-long course for Minneapolis teen mothers.

**Personal Finance Summer Institute for College Readiness** – a 5-day course directed at metro-area students exploring post-secondary options and their financial readiness for college.

## Reaching Communities



MCEE partnered with 6 community agencies to bring financial literacy education to their clients. With the University of Minnesota Extension, MCEE provides “train the trainer” workshops for agency staff members, who then provide 12 hours of personal finance education to their clients. MCEE was able to provide grants to 4 additional St. Paul agencies to enable them to build capacity for ongoing financial literacy programs.

**Photo (above):** Community agency educators complete financial literacy training.

A network of university based **Centers for Economic Education**, located in Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, St. Cloud and St. Paul, enables MCEE to reach out to the entire state.

MCEE is an affiliate of the national Council for Economic Education, a partnership of state councils and centers for economic education and research committed to the promotion of economic and financial literacy.

**For more information please visit [www.mcee.umn.edu](http://www.mcee.umn.edu).**

Minnesota Council on Economic Education is a MN 501 (c)(3) nonpartisan, nonprofit established in 1961. MCEE is housed in the Dept of Applied Economics, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, 116 Ruttan Hall, 1994 Buford Avenue, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Saint Paul, MN 55108