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GEORGIA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

GCEE Newsletter - August 2021

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Look Ahead at New Days, New Ways

A mighty welcome back to teachers in Georgia who are about to embark on another year in classrooms and online platforms from Fort Oglethorpe to Kingsland and all points in between. The 2021-2022 school year presents another opportunity for teachers and students to examine economics and personal financial literacy and how these subjects relate to their lives and surroundings. Our fingers remain crossed that this school year goes off with few disruptions or hiccups.



The aim of the Georgia Council has always been to create workshops and classroom resources designed to help K-12 teachers teach important economic and personal financial literacy concepts in engaging and effective ways. Last year we could not see teachers face to face, but we continued to serve teachers through virtual workshops. Now it looks like we may be able to return to in-person workshops and we cannot wait! The experienced team of experts at the Georgia Council has spent the last few months creating new workshops and classroom resources that we know will be very popular with teachers everywhere.

In the coming weeks we will be rolling out new workshops for K-12 teachers including “Using Picture Books to Teach the Grades K-2 Economics GSE,”

“Teaching U.S. History With Economics” and “International Economics for Grades 6 & 7.” But the most exciting news is a brand new resource we’ve created called “Econ Express” (see story below). We know this will be a huge hit with teachers and students across the state. Econ Express has been in the works for more than a year and we look forward to rolling it out to high school teachers and students later next week.

The Georgia Council has many other big things planned for the 2021-2022 school year...numerous student competitions, a new collaboration with our friends at Georgia Public Broadcasting, the return of teacher field trips, and... did someone say October has been officially proclaimed ECONOMIC EDUCATION MONTH?! We hope you can join us for the next part of the journey.

Bring on the new school year!

- Mike Raymer

BOARD NEWS

GCEE Welcomes Mike Chriszt as New Board Chair

Mike Chriszt, Vice President and Public Affairs Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, began his two-year term as Chair of the GCEE Board of Trustees in May. He has been a Board member since 2014.

The Georgia Council has had a strong partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta over the years, with several executives consistently serving on the Board and in leadership positions. The bank also regularly hosts GCEE workshops and special events.



“Both the Atlanta Fed and GCEE recognize that fully participating in our economy requires an understanding of our economic and financial systems,” says Chriszt. “Our partnership with GCEE in this community of service allows us to combine our resources in preparing young people to thrive in the economy.”

As Board Chair, Chriszt says he's looking forward to connecting with GCEE staff, fellow Board members and stakeholders to learn and contribute to the mission of helping teachers teach economics and personal financial literacy.

"I'd also like to meet with our teachers in person at GCEE programs and events and hear from them first-hand about their challenges," says Chriszt, "as well as to thank them for their service to our children, our economy and our country."



TEACHER RESOURCES

The Georgia Council Launches Econ Express

You've been hearing about it for months, and now Econ Express is here!

[Econ Express](#) is a unique online resource that helps teachers and students learn, practice and assess basic economic concepts in a creative and engaging way. Covering 51 concepts, Econ Express serves as a general overview of the content typically taught in a high school "Intro to Economics" course. It's all here: from the basics of scarcity and productive resources to more intricate topics like comparative advantage and monetary policy. Econ Express provides an overview to economics that is accessible and easy to use. The "**Learn**" section provides a quick description of each concept at three different levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. Following is a "**Practice**" section with interactive activities that give teachers and students the opportunity to apply what they just learned. Finally, the "**Assess**" section challenges the learner with five multiple choice assessment questions.

Most importantly, Econ Express is provided at no financial charge to students or teachers. Normally, a resource like this would cost a school system hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars a year. Econ Express was made possible by generous support from the Truist Foundation, the Callaway Foundation, and the UPS Foundation. For more information, contact Georgia Public Broadcasting or the

Georgia Council on Economic Education.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

How GCEE Helps Me Teach

Each newsletter we will shine a spotlight on a teacher who has benefited from attending GCEE workshops and using our teacher resources. Here is our first installment.

Ivory Roberson, Ph.D. - Jonesboro High School



How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 15 years in Clayton County Public Schools.

How did you get interested in teaching economics?

My major in college was Economics and I have always had a great interest in Business content as well. I love teaching Economics, it is my favorite subject to teach, and I'm glad I have the opportunity to do so.

How did you hear about GCEE?

I was introduced to GCEE by way of the Department Chair when I began teaching Economics in 2012. Since then, I have attended an average of four workshops each school year. My estimate is that I have attended at least 40 or more workshops.

How has GCEE helped you teach economics?

GCEE workshops have been, and continue to be, a great asset in providing resources and strategies for teaching high school economics effectively. Their support has been instrumental in my success with students over the years. GCEE is very effective in providing proven methods that help me teach economic and personal finance concepts to students in ways that ignite their interest in learning economics. GCEE resources are beneficial to students and they enhance teachers' instructional skills.

WORKSHOPS

GCEE Hosts Planet Money's Jacob Goldstein

On Saturday, August 14, 2021, GCEE, along with the California Council on Economic Education and the Thomas R. Brown Foundation of Arizona, will host [Jacob Goldstein](#), NPR correspondent and co-host of the Planet Money podcast, for a unique virtual workshop. The workshop will revolve around Goldstein's book *Money: The True Story of a Made Up Thing*. Goldstein will speak for the first hour and take questions from the audience. After



Goldstein's presentation, the three hosting organizations will present ready-to-use lessons and resources on how currency is useful over time, how money is created and cryptocurrency. The first 100 teachers that register and attend get a copy of Goldstein's book. Participating teachers will also get a \$25 Grubhub gift certificate. Register for this informative and entertaining workshop at gcee.org.

K-2 WORKSHOP

GCEE Introduces the "Cool Cats" of Econ



What do you have when there are two hungry cats who love "Fishy Treats" but an almost empty bag?

Scarcity, that's what you have.

"**Earl and Starla Want ALL the Fishy Treats**" is a new children's book written by GCEE Executive Director Mike Raymer aimed at second graders to teach them about ways to allocate scarce resources. While they are enjoying the story about Earl and Starla – two fun loving cats – they

are learning economics.

The book is part of a new workshop called “Using Picture Books to Teach the Grades K-2 Economics GSE.” This workshop uses four unique children’s books to help kindergarten through second grade teachers incorporate effective literacy strategies into creative and engaging content-integrated lessons. The foundational economic concepts taught in these lessons are scarcity, decision making and allocating scarce goods and services.

Teachers who attend the workshop will receive picture books as well as corresponding lesson plans. There is no registration fee for this workshop, substitute reimbursement is available and lunch is provided. Workshops are already scheduled for the fall and plans are in the works for a virtual version of the workshop. Register online on www.gcee.org.



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