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GCEE Newsletter - August 2023

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## A Busy Summer Leads to an Exciting Fall

It was a busy summer at GCEE. We led a group of teachers on a study trip to Canada and provided multiple learning opportunities for teachers at all grade levels. You'll see highlights in the articles below.

Now it's time to look ahead.

Another new school year is upon us, and thousands of K-12 teachers are getting started in classrooms in every corner of the state. To support the outstanding work of these teachers, the GCEE team has been hard at work creating exciting new resources and professional development opportunities that we will be delivering in the coming weeks and months. Some of these new programs are featured in a story later in this newsletter.



We are honored to have the opportunity to serve thousands of Georgia teachers each school year and remain committed to finding new ways to meet their needs and help

them teach personal financial literacy and economics effectively and in engaging ways. It's something we've been doing for more than 50 years.

The dedicated GCEE program team of Dr. Chris Cannon, Angie Battle, and Melissa Hegarty will be traversing the state once again this school year in order to ensure that educators everywhere have the training and resources they need to be successful.

Let's get to work!

- Mike Raymer



## GCEE Goes to Ottawa

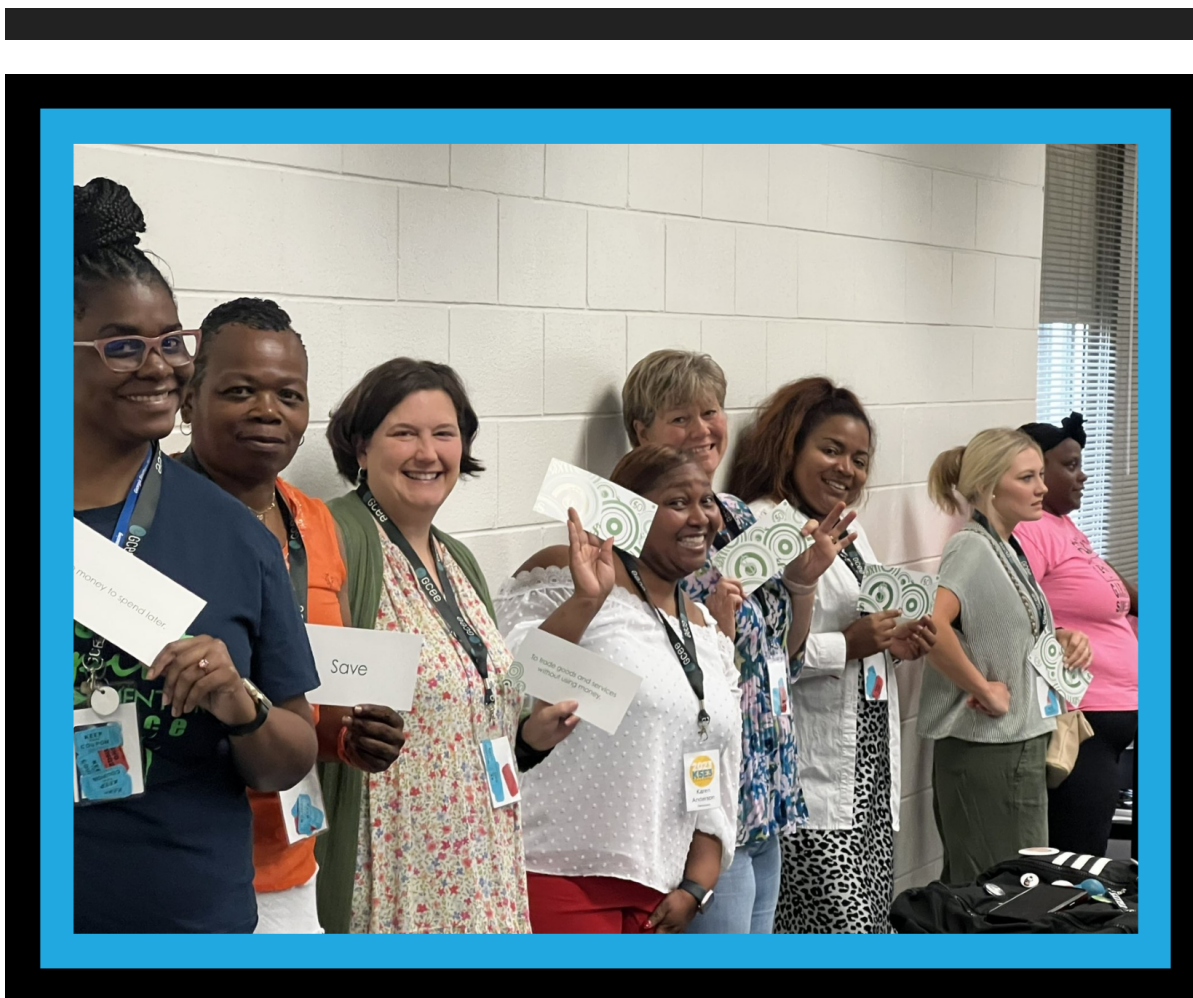
What's better than delivering a professional development workshop about Canada? How about conducting professional development IN Canada! That's exactly what GCEE did with a group of teachers in late June.

Partnering with the Consulate General of Canada's Atlanta office, GCEE created and delivered a four-day trip to Ottawa that highlighted many of the key reasons why

Canada is the #1 trading partner of the United States.

Through visits to the Canadian Parliament, the House of Commons (pictured above), the Bank of Canada, the Royal Canadian Mint, and Invest Ottawa, each group member had the opportunity to learn about many of the economic and governmental commonalities shared by the United States and Canada. Group members also had the opportunity to speak with experts who shared their knowledge on numerous topics related to macroeconomics and the structure of Canada's parliamentary system of government.

"Having the opportunity to experience Canada firsthand with a group of educators was incredible!" said Stacy Dockter, a teacher at DeSana Middle School in Forsyth County. "The guided tour of the Parliament building brought Canada's political system to life, as did the tours of the Royal Canadian Mint and Royal Bank of Canada in terms of their currency and economic system. Sharing what I learned with fellow teachers and students will help us all have a better understanding of, and appreciation for, our neighbors to the north!"




## K-5 Teachers Learn Fun Ways to Teach Economics

“Play-doh economics,” puppet videos, and a book about how two “cool” cats visit a Federal Reserve Bank were just some of the lessons that elementary teachers from across Georgia learned at the third annual K-5 Economic Education Expo (K5E3) held this year in Savannah. GCEE once again partnered with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to bring 34 amazing educators together for a meaningful, engaging, and fun professional learning experience. Dr. Jason Beck, Center Director of Georgia Southern University - Armstrong Campus, served as host and co-organizer of the Expo.

The two-day conference was filled with top-quality, hands-on learning sessions led by a variety of educational leaders from across the state, including the Booth Museum of Western Art, Greene County Central Office, the Georgia Department of Education, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and of course, GCEE staff. Teachers left with low-prep, high-impact lesson plans and resources designed to maximize student engagement.

GCEE provided the entire experience – including educational resources, meals, on-campus accommodations, and a walking ghost tour with an econ twist – at no financial cost to participants or their school districts. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive with teachers saying they felt valued and empowered. As one participant remarked, “It was beyond anything I could have imagined, and I can't wait to experience more that GCEE has to offer.”







## Great Partners = Great Summer Learning Experience

With support from Georgia-Pacific and the Library of Congress, GCEE offered two great learning experiences for teachers.

Georgia-Pacific and GCEE partnered once again for the third **“Economic Education Institute for High School Teachers”** this past June. A select group of teachers from across the country joined an experienced group of Georgia teachers in Atlanta for a week-long series of experiences designed to help them deepen their content and pedagogy knowledge.

Participants were treated to field experiences at Georgia-Pacific, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Waffle House Museum (pictured above), the National Center for Human and Civil Rights, and an in-depth tour of Truist Park and the Battery. Additionally, a variety of lesson plans and activities were demonstrated by former GCEE Teacher of the Year Finalist Ashley Brown and Joel Miller of the Foundation for Economic Education. Teachers left with loads of ready-to-use classroom materials and experiences that will help them teach more effectively in the future.

Primary sources were the main theme of GCEE’s pilot program, **“Teaching Economics with Primary Sources: the Savannah Experience,”** which also took place this past June. Nine teachers were selected for this unique experience which was supported by a Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources grant.

Over two days, participants heard from academic experts, conducted research at the Savannah Municipal Archives, experienced lesson plan demos, visited the Prohibition Museum, and brainstormed ways to use primary sources in their classroom. Participants are now working on lesson plan ideas that will incorporate what they learned.

Experiences like these, and many others offered by GCEE, help teachers make deeper connections between economics and the real-world and ultimately help students in numerous ways. Experiential learning opportunities like these would not be possible without the tremendous support of organizations like Georgia Pacific and the Library of Congress.



## Fall Preview: What's New for Teachers

GCEE is pleased to announce exciting new workshops and resources to help teachers get their school year off to a great start.

### **Elementary**

The Econ Cats are back! *Earl & Starla Go to a Federal Reserve Bank* is the latest installment of everyone's favorite economic education Advo-Cats. In their greatest

economic adventure to date, Earl, Starla, and their friend Elizabeth visit the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta where they learn about the money museum and receive a bit of inspiration and encouragement from bank President Dr. Raphael Bostic. Teachers can use this book and its accompanying lesson to demonstrate in a fun, engaging way the critical role the Federal Reserve System plays in our nation's economy. They'll also learn how to teach the importance of money in our economic system. This book will be included in the latest iteration of the Earl & Starla Economic Adventures series workshop. Teachers attending the workshop will receive all three picture books as well as corresponding lesson plans. There is no registration fee, substitute reimbursement is available and lunch is provided. Register online on [www.gcee.org/workshops](http://www.gcee.org/workshops).

How do you make a children's economics video fun? Just add puppets! **\$martPath** returns this fall with six new music videos featured on [smartpathlearning.com](http://smartpathlearning.com) that teach budgeting, costs and benefits, methods of payment, and how patience pays off when we delay gratification. Each video features a low-prep, high-impact lesson that teachers can implement effectively in their classrooms. These lessons will be demonstrated in upcoming workshops across Georgia this fall.

### **High School**

Ready to *Start It Up* in the new school year? GCEE's high school workshop: **Personal Finance, Economics, and Entrepreneurship with Start It Up** offers teachers a creative way to teach the new state mandated standards. The heart of the workshop centers on *Start It Up*, GCEE's latest online activity that helps students understand the complexities of starting a business. In the workshop, teachers will learn how to use *Start It Up* as a launchpad to teach multiple topics related to the required high school course. Teachers completing this training will be equipped with ready-to-teach lessons aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence. There is no registration fee, substitute reimbursement is available and lunch is provided. This workshop will debut in Coweta County on September 7 with many more dates to be scheduled during the 23-24 school year. Register online at [www.gcee.org/workshops](http://www.gcee.org/workshops).

And we have more exciting news! The **GCEE test bank** will soon be available for high school teachers. Featuring more than 250 standards-aligned questions, the test bank gives teachers the ability to create their own tests or quizzes and export them into word, pdf, or excel files. Over time, GCEE plans to steadily grow the test bank, providing teachers with new assessment items, enabling them to refresh their classroom assessments.

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