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GCEE Newsletter - January 2024

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Year for the Record Books

As we bid farewell to another transformative year, the Georgia Council on Economic Education takes immense pride in reflecting upon the accomplishments and strides made in fulfilling our mission of helping K-12 teachers teach economics and personal finance. 2023 was a testament to our unwavering dedication to educators and their students and the continued support of our stakeholders, volunteers, and partners.



Recognizing the pivotal role of educators, GCEE conducted a record number of effective professional development workshops for 3,721 teachers in 143 of Georgia’s 181 public school systems. GCEE also continued its commitment to providing access to quality education to underserved communities through our “Rural Georgia” initiative. The GCEE program team reached a record number of teachers and students in underserved areas of the state – logging more than 14,500 miles in the process.

As we set our sights on the future, GCEE remains committed to furthering our impact. In 2024, we aim to:

- Continue leading and advocating in economics and financial literacy education.

- Expand our reach into a greater number of public school systems in Georgia.
- Increase the number of students participating in the Stock Market Game, Econ Games, Economics Challenge, and Personal Finance Challenge.
- Strengthen partnerships with organizations and individuals committed to helping teachers and students prepare for their economic and financial futures.

As we look ahead to the new year, GCEE remains steadfast in its mission of helping teachers and their students thrive in classrooms and communities across Georgia. We are excited to get started.

- Mike Raymer



NEW IN 2024 **ELEMENTARY GRADES** **WORKSHOPS**

K-5 ECONOMIC EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING

To Infinity and Beyond!

While 2023 was a year chock full of elementary economic education excellence, we project 2024 will be even greater!

GCEE 's singular mission is to help K-12 teachers teach the mandated economics and personal finance standards effectively. We do this by delivering high-quality professional learning programming at no financial cost to teachers or their school systems. One method we've implemented in the last year is providing our valuable services to K-5 teachers in their school buildings during their planning periods.

The lessons and resources shared during teachers' planning periods are:

- grade-level specific
- intended to take 30 minutes or less
- cross-curricular
- low-prep, high-impact
- children's literature-integrated

We give participating teachers ready-to-use lessons, a featured econ-themed children's book chosen specifically for their grade level, and tasty snacks.

In anticipation of NASA's Artemis mission to put humans back on the moon, we are designing a workshop for fourth and fifth-grade teachers entitled "The Economics of Space Exploration." The launch of this exciting and engaging professional learning will take place in Fall 2024.

We will continue to offer our other fantastic programs for Georgia's K-5 teachers including the Earl & Starla/\$martPath workshop featuring the world's most famous Econ AdvoCats and fun puppet videos. We are also planning special workshops in amazing places such as the [Booth Western Art Museum](#) in Cartersville and the [Museum of Aviation](#) in Warner Robins.

Due to the phenomenal success of last year's K5E3 residential program for K-5 teachers, we are headed back to Savannah this summer! We are planning loads of fun and engaging sessions, as well as a teacher field trip to the [Massie Heritage Center](#).

For information about any of these programs for K-5 teachers, please contact [Angie Battle](#) or visit our [website](#).



NEW IN 2024
MIDDLE/HIGH GRADES
WORKSHOPS

6-12 ECONOMIC EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING

Exciting Times Ahead for Grades 6-12 Educators in 2024

Middle and high school teachers, start making those sub and travel plans now because the Georgia Council on Economic Education has an exhilarating lineup of workshops ready for you in 2024!

The much-loved 6th/7th Grade Economics and Social Studies workshop is hitting the road again this semester, bringing you a dynamic experience packed with our most extensive assortment of resources. Mark your calendars and let us know if we're not hitting your area so we can fix that immediately. Reach out to [Chris Cannon](#) to ensure we're on your calendar.

We're in the early stages of crafting a brand-new 8th grade workshop, set to debut in the fall of 2024. Until then, our current edition of the workshop is still being offered, alongside several specialty workshops related to civil rights and personal finance.

High school teachers, our Teaching Personal Finance and Economics Using Entrepreneurship workshop will be offered in multiple locations throughout 2024, so keep an eye on our website for details. Additionally, we hope you can attend our specialty workshops like Music and Economics, Economics of Housing, and Advanced Placement Economics. Stay tuned for an updated Election Economics workshop coming later this spring.

Summer 2024 is shaping up to be one of our busiest ever! We'll debut the *6-8 Economic Education Expo* in Savannah, hop on a bus for a tour of farms and agricultural sites, host our annual *Economic Education Summer Institute* for High School teachers, and see the return of the *Primary Sources Experience* in Athens, GA.

Want to stay in the know? Visit our [website](#) for updates, and follow us on X and Facebook. We can't wait to see you on the road soon!

FALL 2023 STOCK MARKET GAME WINNERS

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Historic Repeat Win in the Stock Market Game

Competing against thousands of teams to win the Georgia Stock Market Game is a fantastic feat. To do so twice is genuinely remarkable. But that is what one outstanding student did in 2023. In the fall season of the Stock Market Game, Jimmy Slack from Woodville-Tompkins High School competed against 3,532 teams across the state to win the big prize. Slack began the season with \$100,000, and in just ten short weeks, he turned that into \$202,455.19 in equity.



This is Jimmy Slack's second time winning the overall state competition of the Stock Market Game. Slack and teammate Jimena M. won the Spring 2023 competition with \$248,495 in equity. Becoming a two-time winner is highly unusual - a first in recent Georgia Stock Market Game history.

Slack attends Woodville-Tompkins Technical and Career High School in Savannah and is taught by former GCEE Economics Teacher of the Year John Cook. Jimmy's top investment in the game was in CAUD, with a gain of 86%. His prizes included a \$500 Amazon gift card, a trophy, and a banner. Slack and John Cook will be recognized at the annual Stock Market Game Awards Luncheon at the Fox Theatre on May 9th.

Special category winners in the fall Stock Market Game also received prizes, including \$400 Amazon gift cards. Rural Division winners were a two-student team from Thomas County Middle in Thomasville, GA, taught by teacher Stacie Layne. The winner of the Teacher Competition was John Masley of Ridgeland High School in Walker County. A team of students taught by Rayleen Tajirian at

John Robert Lewis Elementary School in Bibb County won the New Teacher Division, finishing the game as top dogs amongst hundreds of teams coached by teachers brand new to the Stock Market Game.

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