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# GEORGIA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

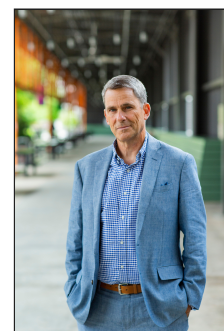
GCEE Newsletter - October 2021

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Celebrating Economic Education Month

It's October and that can only mean one thing: it's Economic Education Month. That's right, for the first time in our nation's history, the month of October has been officially designated as a time to formally acknowledge the importance of teaching economics to our K-12 students.

The Georgia Council on Economic Education was instrumental in helping to create Economic Education Month to promote the importance of economic education in helping prepare students for their key roles as workers, consumers, entrepreneurs, borrowers, savers, and investors.



To celebrate this momentous occasion, we've got special events, programs, and [contests](#) planned for the next 31 days. It's our hope that you will help us promote Economic Education Month, and the importance of teaching economics to students all across Georgia, by talking about how economics can help us all live more informed and prosperous lives.

Economics is all around us. It teaches us that scarcity forces everyone to make choices, and these choices come with costs. It also helps us understand how incentives encourage everyone to act in certain ways. Students with a clear understanding of basic economic principles will be equipped to make educated decisions that will help them live productively as they travel through life.

Economic concepts have been mandated in grades K-8 and through a required high school economics course in Georgia's public schools since the 1970s. Since that time, the Georgia Council on Economic Education has helped tens of thousands of teachers teach hundreds of thousands of students how to apply economic concepts and principles to their daily lives. Economic Education Month will help us celebrate these major accomplishments and bring awareness to the importance of economic education for all students.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) (@Georgiaecon) for daily updates.

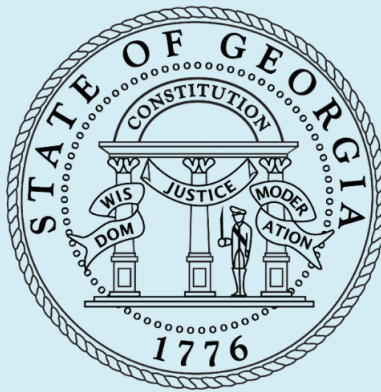
- Mike Raymer

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GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

## It's Official!

Governor Brian Kemp made an official proclamation declaring October Economic Education Month. It is also listed in the [National Day Calendar](#), and from this year on, every October will be Economic Education Month.



**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**ECONOMIC EDUCATION MONTH**

**WHEREAS:** Economics is the study of making sound decisions in managing scarce resources, which is an essential skill for all people; and

**WHEREAS:** The aim of economic education is to equip students with skills and tools for their economic roles as productive workers, informed consumers and savers, involved citizens, and lifelong decision-makers in a globally interdependent world; and

**WHEREAS:** Our democracy depends on the active support and involvement of economically literate citizens who can understand and evaluate critical issues of public policy; AND

**WHEREAS:** Economic education must be established and maintained in our K-12 schools, where even young children are capable of learning basic economic concepts that help them understand their economic world; and

**WHEREAS:** Economic education in our schools depends on K-12 educators equipped with high quality training and resources to ensure students have access to classroom lessons that develop the skills necessary to make informed choices as citizens; now

**THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as ECONOMIC EDUCATION MONTH in Georgia.

**In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 27th day of July in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.**

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GCEE PARTNERS

## Partnering with the Best

Serving thousands of K-12 teachers each year in a state as large as Georgia is no small feat for an organization with only four full-time employees. Without the support of key partners, the Georgia Council would simply not be able to serve as many educators as it typically reaches each year.



At the very top of the “key partners” list is the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. For years, the Georgia Council has worked with the Atlanta Fed to promote the importance of economic education and to bring high quality professional development to teachers throughout Georgia.

The Atlanta Fed’s incredibly talented team of experts is always willing to partner with GCEE’s program staff to ensure Georgia’s teachers are receiving the absolute best professional training and resources available. From providing the location for our AP Summer Institute to connecting the Council with expert speakers and resources at countless teacher workshops, the Atlanta Fed’s support of GCEE’s mission has remained steadfast. Members of the Atlanta Fed’s leadership team have consistently served on the GCEE Board and committees, and the Fed has hosted many of GCEE’s Annual Meeting Luncheons.

“We are incredibly fortunate to be able to work so closely with everyone at the Atlanta Fed,” says GCEE Associate Director Chris Cannon. “From hosting us at their amazing facilities to serving as consultants and advisors on lesson plans to co-presenting with us, everything they do is elite level and the epitome of professionalism. The Atlanta Fed is the perfect teammate for what we do at the Council.”

Amy Hennessy, Director of Outreach and Economic Education in the Public Affairs Department of the Atlanta Fed, acknowledges the partnership goes both ways. “For more than a quarter century, GCEE has been one of the Atlanta Fed’s most valuable partners as both organizations are committed to equipping Georgia’s educators with the skills and tools to teach economics and personal finance to K-12 students,” Hennessy says. “Our partnership aligns with the Federal Reserve’s vision to create a society where all participants apply sound economic and financial decision-making thus promoting stability and growth within the U.S. economy.”

As we celebrate the first ever “Economic Education Month,” we wish to express our gratitude to everyone at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta for being a partner without equal.

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TEACHER SPOTLIGHT - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## 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. This month, in honor Economic Education Month, we are featuring three.*

## Shelly Cox – Center Elementary (Ware County)



### How long have you been teaching?

This is my 25th year teaching. I taught fourth grade for five years and I've been teaching WINGS (gifted) for twenty years.

### How did you get interested in teaching economics?

About five years ago my principal gave me some information about the ECON games. That year I was working with my students on an inventors and innovators unit and I thought the unit and the ECON games paired well together. In 2017, my principal, a fellow gifted teacher, and I took two teams to participate in the ECON games during Spring Break. That experience led to my interest in teaching economics. About three years ago, our school started participating in the Stock Market Game, and I became a teacher advisor this year.

### How has GCEE benefited you as a teacher?

GCEE provides resources, training, and games that teach life skills. GCEE has encouraged me to teach economics to my students, making it fun and interesting. I remember enjoying economics in high school, but being miserable in my college economics class. My college professor talked a lot about the stock market in a manner that was difficult to understand. GCEE has provided platforms that are fun and engaging for my students and they are able to apply what they learn by participating in activities like the Stock Market Game and ECON Games. I've been able to make economics fun, interesting, and accessible through the knowledge I've gained through GCEE.

### What is the best part about a GCEE workshop?

I love the materials we receive, who wouldn't?! The best part is being able to teach my students with engaging materials and information that GCEE provides. I've even learned a few things that I can apply to my personal life.

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## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT - MIDDLE SCHOOL

# How GCEE Helps Me Teach

## Stacy Dockter, Ed.S., DeSana Middle School (Forsyth County)

### How long have you been teaching?

This is my 21st year teaching.

### How did you get interested in teaching economics?

Honestly, GCEE is what sparked my interest in teaching economics. When I moved to Georgia and began working as a 7th grade Social Studies teacher, I signed up for several of their amazing workshops. The enthusiasm displayed by workshop leaders and the engaging lessons they shared inspired me.



### How has GCEE benefited you as a teacher?

Most obviously, it has enabled me to further deepen my own understanding of economics and has helped to make me a better teacher for my students. Furthermore, it's given me the opportunity to network with other teachers

and develop professional relationships. I've also traveled with GCEE, both around the state of Georgia during the Summer Bus Tours, and internationally to Japan where I modeled an interactive economics lesson for a group of local teachers and administrators. The benefits of GCEE are many!

### **What is the best part about a GCEE workshop?**

I will never forget the first GCEE workshop I attended. Mike Raymer led the session and it was on the 6th and 7th grade economic vocabulary. He modeled a series of hands-on, engaging lessons, and we were able to experience what our students would experience back in our classrooms. I left with lessons I could confidently use the next day and a stronger understanding of the economic concepts I needed to teach. Every workshop I've attended since (and I've attended many!) has been an equally amazing experience.

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TEACHER SPOTLIGHT - HIGH SCHOOL

## How GCEE Helps Me Teach

**Kay Johnson – Therrell High School (Atlanta Public Schools)**



### **How long have you been teaching?**

I have been teaching in Georgia public schools for 21 years.

### **How did you get interested in teaching economics?**

I became interested in the content of economics as an undergraduate political science major in college. I did not realize at the time that economics is rooted heavily into the study of government. After completing my studies, I pursued a career in secondary education and accepted a position at North Clayton High School in Clayton County as a teacher in the Academy of Finance Program, where I was inducted into teaching economics.

### **How has GCEE benefitted you as a teacher?**

GCEE has provided me with the strategies and advanced knowledge of the content to effectively teach secondary level scholars. I benefited from learning advanced topics in economics and scholars benefited and achieved success on state exams.

### **What is the best part about a GCEE workshop?**

The best part about GCEE workshops is that I was able to learn effective strategies that lead to scholars achieving success on state standardized exams, the workshop offerings are relevant to present day national, state, and global trends, and meeting other educators that are committed to professional growth that has resulted in amazing professional community alliances where other content opportunities are shared.



**Contact Us:**

P.O. Box 1619, Atlanta, GA 30301

404-413-7820

[www.gcee.org](http://www.gcee.org)

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