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GEORGIA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

August 2020 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Give the People What They Want (and Need)

What do you do when you realize your way of doing business for the last 40+ years has been thrown out the window in a matter of days? If you want to survive and thrive, you've got to adapt to new realities by developing creative strategies that will allow you to serve your customers with the same high levels of expertise and support they've come to expect.



As the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. Never has this been truer for the Georgia Council than when our long history of serving K-12 teachers through in-person staff development workshops came to a screeching halt in late March. We quickly went from having dozens of in-person workshops and multiple special programs on our calendar to having to cancel each of these in a matter of minutes. Study tour to Ottawa: canceled. Agricultural bus tour across Georgia: canceled. Children's literature summit: canceled. Week-long summer institute with our friends at Georgia Pacific: canceled. All of them gone in the blink of an eye.

We allowed ourselves about five minutes of feeling down before we got to work figuring out new ways to reach teachers with innovative resources that are effective for online learning settings. Through a combination of hard work, long hours, and the magical greatness of our glorious saviors at the Zoom Video Communications software company, we managed to completely change our approach to offering meaningful professional staff development. The outcomes have been nothing short of amazing.

I'm proud to report that the remarkably talented program staff at the Georgia Council has served more than 1,900 K-12 teachers in the last four months by providing engaging virtual workshops to educators in every corner of the state.

As we head into a very uncertain 2020-2021 school year, one thing we are certain of is our ongoing commitment to our mission of helping teachers teach economics and personal finance. The Georgia Council will continue to adapt and evolve in order to effectively meet the needs of teachers and we will use the new educational realities to become an even stronger organization.

- Mike Raymer

NEW RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS

Econ Express Coming Your Way

If the current pandemic has taught the education world anything, it's that having quality web-based resources is more important than perhaps we ever knew. While there's absolutely no substitute for dynamic and interactive face-to-face instruction, when forced to go online, students and teachers need accessible, accurate, and engaging material they can rely on regularly. The Georgia Council, in conjunction with Georgia Public Broadcasting, has begun developing an exciting new resource that's all these things – and more.



Econ Express will be a web-based resource that will allow students and teachers to learn, practice, and assess economic concepts in creative ways. The “learning” component will take place through clear and concise short reading passages at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced level. Students will have the ability to “practice” what they’ve learned through a variety of interactives including drag and drop activities, manipulatable graphs, data-entry tables, and real-time decision-making grids. Students will also be able to “assess” themselves through a series of multiple choice items of various levels of academic rigor. For teachers, the site will link to lesson plans, resources, and teaching strategies designed to help students apply and use economics and personal finance standards in meaningful ways.

Development on the site is underway, with a release date scheduled for the summer of 2021. The Georgia Council is preparing for the future with *Econ Express*, as we know it will have a significant impact on economic education for years to come. That said, if anyone has a time machine they

could lend us to go back a year or two to create this resource, we would greatly appreciate it as *Econ Express* would be the perfect tool for today's virtual learning settings.

CIVIL RIGHTS

A Candid Conversation with Atlanta City Councilman Andre Dickens

The Georgia Council led a series of virtual workshops in late June and early July to address issues related to the economic impact of the ongoing Civil Rights Movement. The inaugural event was an interview with Atlanta City Councilman-at-Large, [Andre Dickens](#). Councilman Dickens attended Atlanta Public Schools and was a graduate of Mays High. He earned a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's of public administration degree in Economic Development at Georgia State University. As a proud product of the educational opportunities available in Atlanta, he provided participants of the event a unique perspective into what issues are critical to the economic advancement of all his constituents.



Dickens firmly stated, "Silver Rights' are what we're facing right now. We want economic inclusion, fairness, opportunity." To elaborate, the councilman went on to say that the Civil Rights Movement is about fighting the suppression of voting rights and developing an economic system that promotes transition from poverty to financial freedom for everyone.

Dickens emphasized the need to move Atlantans from "survival to stability and onto success." To help accomplish this mission, he co-founded the Technology Career Program in 2018. The free program is designed to prepare unemployed and individuals experiencing disadvantage in the work field for careers in the growing technology job market. The program teaches participants high demand technology skills while helping them land jobs in IT departments across Atlanta.

You can view the webinar [here](#).

TEACHER TRAINING

Economics and the Civil Rights Movement Virtual

Workshop Series

In late June and early July, the Georgia Council teamed with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to offer a series of interactive virtual workshops for fifth and eighth grade teachers focusing on the economics of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s to 1960s.



The virtual workshop for fifth grade social studies teachers focused on the Ten Demands of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. Each resounding call for change insisted on a fair living wage, fair employment and housing policies, and desegregation of school districts.

The virtual workshop for eighth grade teachers emphasized Georgia's major role in the Civil Rights movement while highlighting the economic implications of the Brown v Board of Education Supreme Court decision and the Albany Movement.

Scheduled for August 20th, the virtual workshop "Economic Equity and Civil Rights for Grades 9-12" will explore the economic goal of equity and its relationship to Civil Rights over time. In addition to resources and activities shared by GCEE, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta will also share perspective and resources to help teach this critically important content. Register [here](#) for this workshop and to see GCEE's other virtual offerings.

FOR STUDENTS

Georgia Stock Market Game Turns 40

Since 1980, Georgia students in grades 4-12 have had a chance to participate in the Stock Market Game, an exciting simulation where they invest a virtual \$100,000 for 10 weeks in real stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. At the end of the 10 weeks, teams with the highest total equity are eligible for a variety of prizes and awards.



The Georgia Council is proud to be partnering once again with the **SIFMA Foundation** to bring this exciting experience to thousands of students and teachers throughout the state this fall. Special thanks to our friends at the **Primerica Foundation**, the **UPS Foundation**, **Invesco** and the **Georgia Securities Association**, for supporting this outstanding program and for helping us bring it to so many students and teachers over the course of the last 40 years.

The Fall 2020 trading session of the Stock Market Game™ begins September 28th and runs through December 4th. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.



A winning Stock Market Game team from the 2018-2019 school year.

TEACHER RECOGNITION

August's Featured Teacher

Each month of the school year, GCEE's "Featured Teacher" program spotlights the incredible work of Georgia teachers who are using effective and engaging methods to teach economics and personal finance. The August, 2020 winner is **Don Riggins** from Central High School in Carrollton. Don is being recognized for his ability to consistently make economics and personal finance come alive for his students in effective ways and for his ongoing creativity in the classroom.



Winning teachers receive an Amazon gift card and a signed certificate to acknowledge their

fantastic work. To nominate an outstanding K-12 teacher of economics and personal finance for this honor, please contact GCEE Program Manager Angie Battle at jbattle15@gsu.edu.



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