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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Economics in a Time of Uncertainty

I'm fortunate to call a large number of Economics teachers friends and I've heard from many of them since the world began changing drastically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To a person, each one expressed their extreme sadness in knowing they would be separated from their students for many weeks to come; maybe even for the rest of the school year.



Losing the opportunity to see their students each day has been the hardest thing for many of these teachers to accept. They're professionals and will adapt quickly to new teaching realities but those daily student interactions will be what they miss most.

These same teachers also told me they would be using the current crisis to reinforce the important economic concepts they have been teaching their students since the beginning of the school year. Although it's still too early to predict just how much damage the pandemic will ultimately do to economies all across the globe, all indicators are pointing toward a long road to recovery once our lives go back to some sort of normalcy.

Economic literacy was vital to the success of our nation before the COVID-19 crisis and it will be what helps us get back on our feet once we find a way out of this mess. All of us are going to be asked to critically evaluate the best solutions to what seems like an insurmountable challenge. A thorough understanding of economics will help us make the correct decisions.

As far as the Council is concerned, we have cancelled all remaining workshops for the rest of the school year and are waiting to see about our summer programs. Through our Twitter feed and our website, we are offering webinars, practical suggestions, and resources to help teachers be effective with their distance learning approaches. We are also moving ahead

with developing new workshops for the fall that will continue to help teachers teach economics and personal finance. More details are in the stories below.

To better days ahead.

- Mike Raymer



HERE AND NOW

Looking Ahead to the Future

It seems like every person we hear speak about the current COVID-19 situation uses some variation of the phrases, “we’ll get through this” or “things will eventually return to normal.” GCEE is operating on those assumptions as well and planning ahead in the midst of these aberrant times. In the short term, GCEE will be conducting multiple online “workshops” for teachers and students, so check our [workshops page](#) for dates and times.

Currently, it’s impossible to say what will happen to our summer programming, especially

those events planned in June. At the moment, we're scheduled to run our annual Advanced Placement Summer Institute from June 15 – 19 and the second annual Economics Education Institute for High School teachers the following week. Prior to both of these events, we hope to conduct an agricultural tour of South Georgia on June 9 – 11. Our plan is to wait a few weeks to post registration information.

Looking ahead to the 2020-2021 school year, GCEE has multiple exciting projects in development. First and foremost is the creation of a new website for teachers and students that will feature content, interactive activities, and links to lesson plans, activities, and other useful tools to help teachers teach economics effectively. This resource will be developed during the '20-'21 school year with a planned roll out in August 2021.

In addition to new workshops in the fall (see related article), GCEE will continue to offer special programs and one-off events like film studio and manufacturing facility tours as well as other unique opportunities for teachers.

Please follow us on Twitter using the handle @Georgiaecon and check our [website](#) regularly to stay up to date with our work and schedule.



ONLINE LEARNING

GCEE Offers Help with Distance Teaching and Learning

In a continued effort to meet the needs of K-12 economics teachers around the state, GCEE is sharing online resources and teaching tips via [Twitter](#) to aid distance teaching and learning during the current health crisis. Examples include our own award-winning "[Lights, Camera, Budget!](#)" online game and [Econ Lowdown](#) from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Here's a teaching tip anyone can try at home: Assign your child/student a home activity called "Pantry/Closet Hunt." Kids, with help from older family members, can look for where different items in their pantry or closet come from, and then find those places on a map. The compelling question they would answer is, "How'd this get here?" with a focus on the producers and consumers of goods and services involved. For a middle and high school twist, students can research online to discover if the U.S. has any trade barriers with those countries.

GCEE will also be offering a series of webinars in the coming weeks. "Macroeconomics in the News," will kick things off by examining macroeconomic policies in the news as well as ways to teach and assess these topics digitally. This workshop will be available to teachers and students. Visit www.gcee.org to register and to see a listing of additional virtual opportunities.

WORKSHOPS

New Workshops Scheduled for Fall

GCEE is excited to announce it will launch four new workshops at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year:

- **"S.T.E.A.M.-Powered Economics"** - Fourth and fifth grade teachers will learn to integrate the eight Mathematical Practices, core scientific skills, and basic design principles into effective economics instruction.
- **"International Economics for Grades 6 and 7"** - Sixth and seventh grade teachers will learn how to engage students in the economic concepts found in the sixth and seventh grade Georgia Standards of Excellence.
- **"Economics in Georgia Studies"** - eighth grade teachers will focus on applying various economic concepts to different history, geography, and government standards.
- **"Economics in U.S. History Grades 9-12"** - Economics and U.S. History teachers will learn how to connect economic concepts and principles to events in U.S. history.

Each workshop will be offered at no financial charge to teachers or school systems. GCEE will cover all substitute teacher reimbursement costs and will provide lunch. Registration will open this summer.

SPRING COMPETITIONS

Students Display Economic Knowledge in GCEE Competitions

The **Spring 2020 Econ Games** were a huge success with record numbers of students competing in Atlanta and Tifton. The Econ Games is a competitive event for fourth and fifth grade students in which they are challenged to apply an economic way of thinking in fun and engaging ways.

Atlanta Winners:

Main Street Academy (Fulton County) - Fourth Grade Winner

Springdale Park Elementary (Atlanta Public Schools) - Fifth Grade Winner



Tifton Winners:

Len Lastinger Elementary (Tift County) - Fourth Grade Winner

Kings Chapel Elementary (Houston County) - Fifth Grade Winner



Len Lastinger Elementary



Kings Chapel Elementary

The 2020 Georgia Personal Finance Challenge was fiercely competitive with student teams being given financial information related to a fictional family and then creating a plan that would help this family become more financially sound. Winners were:

- First Place - Jackson County High School (Jackson Co.)
- Runners Up - Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (Gwinnett County) and Campbell High School (Cobb County)

TEACHER RECOGNITION

New Program Recognizes Outstanding Teachers

The “Featured Teacher” is a new monthly program at GCEE designed to recognize the amazing work of teachers who are using creative and interactive methods to teach economics and personal finance. Winning teachers receive an Amazon gift card and signed certificate to acknowledge their exceptional work. Our first three winners were:

- **January** - Christie Lehman, Langston Road Elementary School (Houston County)
- **February** - Michael Herndon, Calhoun High School (Calhoun City Schools)
- **March** - Maryann Plowden, Westover Comprehensive High School (Dougherty County)



Lehman



Herndon



Plowden



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