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GCEE Newsletter - August 2024

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## GCEE Fundraiser a Swimming Success

At 5:50 p.m. on June 30th, I stood on a rocky beach in the little town of Brimley, Michigan, gazing out at the frigid waters of Lake Superior. Moments later, I was immersed in the waves of the world's largest freshwater lake, a smile on my face and a profound sense of accomplishment I had not felt in years.



Lake Superior marked the fifth and final stop on GCEE's "Great Lakes Swim" fundraiser for teachers. It is a day I will not soon forget.

Starting at the crack of dawn with a swim in Lake Erie in Hanford Bay, New York, my journey next took me to St. Catharines, Ontario, where I jumped in Lake Ontario. After heading west for a few hours, I arrived in Sarnia, Ontario, where I swam in the wavy and frigid waters of Lake Huron. From there, I drove north until I arrived on the shores of Lake Michigan in Wawatam Township, Michigan. The final leg of the journey took me over the famous Mackinac Bridge and into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where I concluded the challenge near Whitefish Bay in the vast expanse of water they call Gitchee Gumee. And yes, I did play "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" when I got back in my car and drove away.

When it was all said and done, GCEE raised more than \$8,000 (blowing past our original \$5,000 goal) from more than 100 incredibly generous supporters who share our desire to help Georgia teachers effectively teach economics and personal finance in K-12 schools throughout the state. This success is not just a number but a testament to GCEE's willingness to "swim the extra mile" to help teachers excel professionally.

And yes, we already have plans for a special fundraiser in the summer of 2025. This one will involve ten states, running shoes, and GPS. Stay tuned.

But for now, we're focused on the fall. Read below to learn about the exciting new opportunities we have for educators.

- Mike Raymer



## TEACHER WORKSHOPS

### Learning Economics Through History, Reading, Space, and More!

The Georgia Council on Economic Education is excited to introduce a series of engaging and innovative workshops designed to equip educators with the tools they need to elevate teaching strategies and enrich classroom experiences.

For grades K-5, **Teaching Background Knowledge to Broaden Reading Skills** integrates content area

knowledge with state-mandated Science of Reading strategies, enhancing reading skills while delivering robust economic instruction. This approach empowers teachers and engages young learners.

**“Why the Moon?” The Economics of Space Exploration** features the latest Earl and Starla adventure, *Earl & Starla Go to Space*. This interactive workshop delves into the costs and benefits of space exploration, integrating STEM concepts with key U.S. historical milestones. Designed using Grades 3-5 Georgia Standards of Excellence, it offers an engaging learning experience that will keep educators and students engaged.



**Georgia Studies and Economics: 2024 Edition** for eighth-grade teachers offers five new lessons incorporating economic concepts into history, geography, and government topics. Subjects like entrepreneurship, water usage in Georgia, and budgeting are explored through innovative, hands-on lessons. Teachers will also receive a new GCEE-produced map of Georgia's transportation systems.

**Personal Finance and Economics: Case Studies, Simulations, and More!** – in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta – provides case studies, award-winning lesson plans, and materials to bring the required Personal Finance and Economics course to life. Topics include budgeting, insurance, payment systems, and the role of the Federal Reserve Bank.

We are absolutely thrilled to offer these dynamic workshops starting in the fall. We believe they will enhance K-12 educators' teaching strategies and inspire their students with cutting-edge content. We can't wait to see the impact these workshops will have! To find out more information and to register, please visit our [website](#).



# FALL 2024 SMG SET TO LAUNCH

## LEARNING TO INVEST

### Get Ready to Invest \$100,000 in the Fall Stock Market Game!



What would you do with \$100,000? This fall, students will be able to answer that question in a dynamic and innovative way! GCEE is thrilled to announce the upcoming season of the Stock Market Game™, where teams are endowed with \$100,000 in fictional money to invest and compete. The game kicks off on September 30 and will run through December 6, providing a dynamic 10-week educational adventure in economics, investment strategies, and teamwork.

GCEE will host a series of Stock Market Game teacher training workshops throughout August and September to ensure educators are fully prepared to guide their students through this financial journey. This year, we've completely revamped our workshops to include many new resources. Highlights include the SMG Essential Syllabus and an expanded section dedicated to researching investments. Whether you're a seasoned educator in the game or a newcomer eager to bring economic learning to life, these workshops provide the tools you need to make the Stock Market Game a cornerstone of your teaching strategy.

Workshops will be available both virtually and in person across the state, ensuring all educators can participate conveniently. Visit our [website](#) to register for a workshop and find out more about how you can make the most of this exciting educational program. Let's invest in our students' futures together—see you at the Stock Market Game!



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC EDUCATION

## \$martPath Brings Home the Emmys

GCEE Executive Director Mike Raymer was recently honored with two Emmy Awards for his work as a Co-Executive Producer on the \$martPath video series, which was released in 2023. Mike won awards for "A Plan for Every Season" (Instructional Short Form) and "Fun and Bowling" (Children and Youth Programming). He accepted the awards at a ceremony held in Lexington, Kentucky in July.



GCEE extends its heartfelt thanks to Dr. Julie Heath, Director Emerita, UC Economics Center; Colin Scianamblo, Chief Content Officer, CET; and Meghan Piphus, Writer & Performer Extraordinaire. Their incredible talent, vision, and hard work were instrumental in making the \$martPath project a smashing success.

\$martPath is an engaging, interactive, and easy-to-use way for elementary and middle school teachers to embed relevant and fun economic and financial education in their classrooms, to boost students' financial literacy acumen. And the best part? It's available to teachers and students at no financial charge!

Check out the videos [here](#).



# SUMMER 2024 WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER

## HIGHLIGHTING ECONOMIC EDUCATION IN THE SUMMER

### GCEE's Summer Sizzles with Teacher Excitement!

People often ask us "What do you guys do during the summer?" Well, we're glad you asked.

This summer was a whirlwind of activity and excitement at the Georgia Council on Economic Education! In early June, we hosted a virtual Advanced Placement (AP) workshop, certifying 25 teachers from around the globe—including Azerbaijan, Columbia, China, and South Korea, among others—to teach AP Macro and Microeconomics.

The energy ramped up from there during our third annual K-5 Economic Education Expo (K5E3), masterfully conducted by GCEE Program Manager Angie Battle and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. This event garnered rave reviews as teachers received a treasure trove of resources, enjoyed interactive demos, and explored historic Oakland Cemetery. And get ready—plans for K5E3 2025 in Savannah are already underway, and it promises to be an event you won't want to miss!

Meanwhile, Associate Director Chris Cannon led an enlightening agriculture tour of South Georgia, taking 16 teachers through nine sites, including White Oak Pastures, UGA's Tifton Laboratories and Research Fields, Resora Farms, and the Georgia Peanut Commission. The tour provided invaluable insights into the challenges and triumphs of our state's extensive agriculture sector.

The action didn't stop there! Twenty-four teachers from across the nation descended on Atlanta for the third annual Economic Education Summer Institute, sponsored by Georgia-Pacific. This all-expenses-paid experience included enlightening discussions with industry leaders and visits to important Atlanta locations such as the World of Coke, the National Museum for Civil and Human

Rights, the Waffle House Museum (*pictured, right*), and the UPS Smart Hub. Participants left with over 25 new lesson plans and renewed enthusiasm for teaching economics and personal finance.



After a brief respite in early July, we dove back into offering a host of pre-planning professional development sessions in Albany, Atlanta, Forest Park, Hapeville, Marietta, Savannah, Woodstock, and more. This fall promises even more enriching experiences and learning opportunities for teachers. Visit our [website](#) to register for a workshop, and follow us on Twitter (X), Facebook, and LinkedIn. We can't wait to see where we'll meet you next!

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**Contact Us:**

75 Piedmont Ave., NE  
Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-413-7820  
[www.gcee.org](http://www.gcee.org)

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