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## GCEE Newsletter - January 2025

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Looking Back, Looking Forward

The Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE) had a remarkable 2024, marked by significant achievements that underscore our mission to improve economic and personal finance education in K-12 classrooms statewide. Through innovative programs, grade-specific resources, and engaging student competitions, **GCEE served 3,353 teachers from 154 of Georgia's 181 public school systems.** The talented GCEE program team drove **15,375 miles** to deliver **178 professional development opportunities** for educators from across the state. These efforts empowered teachers with the tools and confidence needed to teach complex economic and personal finance concepts effectively, and we are proud of our impact.



One of the year's highlights was the significant expansion of our professional development portfolio. This expansion included new workshops on integrating economics and personal finance into core subjects such as language arts and history. By combining economics with literacy strategies, GCEE enabled educators to address multiple learning objectives simultaneously, making lessons more impactful. GCEE also strengthened partnerships with educational organizations and business leaders, ensuring our programs remained practical and responsive to the evolving needs of teachers

and students. Additionally, GCEE celebrated several annual student competitions, including the Econ Games, Economics Challenge, Personal Finance Challenge, and the Stock Market Game, where more than 27,000 students showcased their knowledge and critical thinking skills in competitive and inspiring environments.

In the coming months, GCEE will build on these successes by introducing new resources, expanding teacher training programs, and fostering greater collaboration between schools and their surrounding communities. GCEE remains steadfast in its commitment to preparing Georgia's students for the complexities of a global economy. We do this by equipping their teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed economic and financial decisions that will lead to increased opportunities and personal prosperity.

- Mike Raymer



K-5 ECONOMIC EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING

## Innovation in Action

GCEE's elementary economic education outreach will skyrocket in 2025 with programs designed to inspire Georgia's K-5 teachers and engage students through meaningful lessons. GCEE remains dedicated to supporting educators with innovative and impactful professional learning opportunities.

Our "Planning Period PL" initiative brings low-prep, high-impact lessons directly to teachers during planning periods. These grade-specific, cross-curricular lessons, integrated with children's literature, take 30 minutes or less and are ready to use the next day. Teachers also receive an econ-themed book

for their grade level and tasty snacks, maximizing their professional learning time.

We host hands-on workshops at venues like the Booth Western Art Museum and the Museum of Aviation, blending economic concepts with arts, sciences, and history. These workshops provide resources for dynamic, integrated lessons.

We have launched a [four-part webinar series](#) on economics and agriculture in partnership with the Georgia Farm Bureau. Teachers who complete three webinars receive a \$25 gift card, while those who attend all four earn \$50. This collaboration highlights one of Georgia's most important industries and provides practical classroom strategies.

Our new workshop, "[Teaching Background Knowledge to Broaden Reading Skills](#)," integrates economic concepts with Science of Reading practices, building critical knowledge and boosting literacy success.

With these exciting initiatives, GCEE is equipping educators to make economics education engaging and impactful for Georgia's students.

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



MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMIC EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING

Exciting Times Ahead for Grades 6-12 Educators in 2025

A new year means new professional learning opportunities with GCEE. We're thrilled to announce the continuation of our [Personal Finance and Economics: Case Studies and More](#) workshop this spring. Available throughout Georgia, this workshop offers exclusive access to GCEE's in-depth case studies, fresh lessons on modern payment methods, and a suite of new online resources. Don't miss out on these practical tools designed to enhance your teaching toolkit.

While we're hard at work crafting a new workshop for 6th and 7th-grade teachers, set to debut in the fall of 2025, we will continue providing several sessions of our middle school personal finance workshops. These sessions are perfect for educators in grades 6-8 looking to integrate essential financial literacy concepts into their curricula.

Teaching 8th grade social studies? Join us for the [Georgia Studies and Economics](#) workshop, scheduled for several locations around the state with more to come. This high-impact workshop gives teachers five brand new lessons and the chance to explore our very popular map of Georgia's transportation systems, offering unique insights into the state's economic landscape.

This semester's one-day [AP Microeconomics](#) workshop is on January 31. Additionally, on February 7, we're partnering with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to present a unique perspective on [Black History through an economic lens](#).

March and April will bring our eagerly anticipated annual Personal Finance Challenge and Economics Challenge competitions. More information on these competitive and educational events will be available soon.

Looking ahead to summer, GCEE will once again host its weeklong AP Economics Institute and the popular Georgia Pacific Summer Institute. Additionally, we're excited to announce new opportunities in collaboration with TeachRock and the Library of Congress to further expand your educational horizons.

Stay tuned to [gcee.org](https://gcee.org) for continuous updates, and don't forget to follow us on social media to stay connected. We can't wait to see you on the road!



# FALL 2024 STOCK MARKET GAME WINNERS

## STUDENT COMPETITIONS

### Celebrating Fall Stock Market Game Winners

The 2024 fall season of the Georgia Stock Market Game saw extraordinary achievements, with 12,139 students participating, including Samauria H., a ninth grader who clinched the top spot in the statewide student competition. She adeptly navigated the ups and downs of the market with bold strategies in biotech stocks, catapulting her to a spectacular win. Samauria attends Woodville-Tompkins High School in Savannah, where she is taught by teacher John Cook. Under Cook's guidance, the school's formidable Stock Market Game program has secured the state title for the fourth consecutive season!

Additionally, members of the Atlanta Hawks joined Georgia students in the latest Stock Market Game for some fierce competition! While many of the Hawks' SMG teams were made up of employees from the Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena, some Hawks players participated as well. In fact, Hawks point guard Garrison Matthews finished the fall Game in the state's top ten! Matthews was an active and enthusiastic participant, frequently marveling at the impressive investment strategies and financial skills displayed by Georgia students.

Special category winners also shone brightly this season, with students from High Shoals Elementary (Oconee County Schools), The Atlanta Academy (Independent School), Beacon Hill Middle School (Decatur City Schools), and Woodbine Elementary (Camden County Schools) demonstrating outstanding financial strategy and teamwork to win their respective divisions. The fall winners were recognized at an online event and will be recognized again along with the spring winners at the Stock Market Game Luncheon at the Fox Theatre in May.

As we look forward to more inspiring stories and educational achievements in the spring semester competition, we applaud all participants for their hard work and creativity in learning the complexities of the stock market.

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