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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Welcome to Another New Year

As the new school year kicks off, all of us at the Georgia Council send our best wishes and positive thoughts to each and every K-12 teacher in Georgia who is out there doing the most important job in the world.

The new school year represents an opportunity to try new lessons and new teaching strategies that will help students gain a thorough understanding of important economic and financial literacy concepts. We have spent the last few months developing new resources and workshops that we know will help teachers help students become more economically and financially fit, and we cannot wait to share them in the coming months.

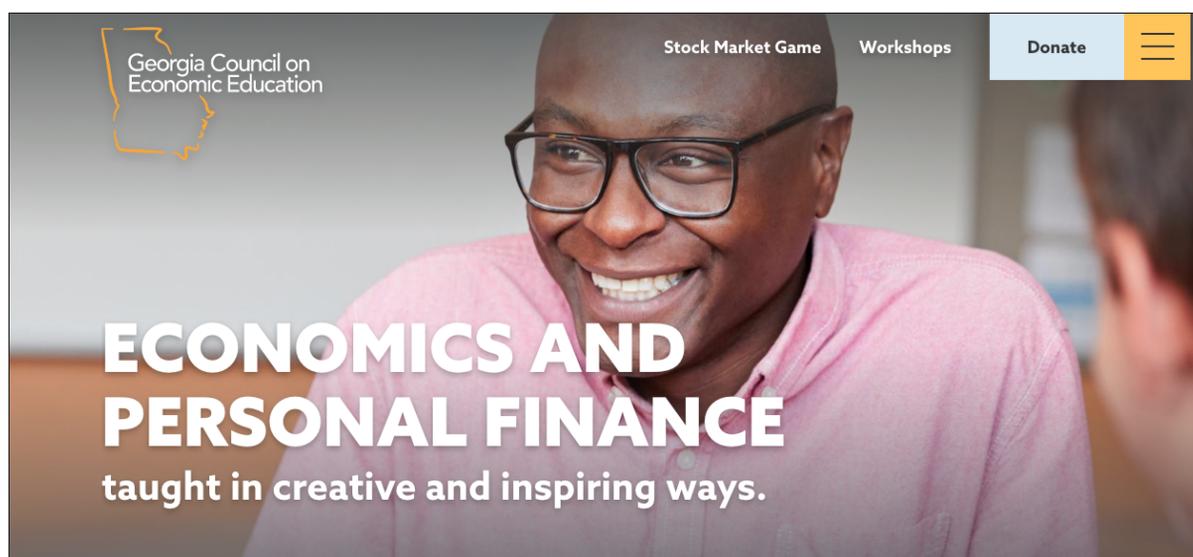


It's been an incredibly productive year for the Georgia Council. To date, we've delivered 87 workshops to more than 1,450 K-12 teachers in Georgia. With another 60+ workshops scheduled before the end of the year, 2019 is shaping up to be a banner year for the Georgia Council as well as for the tens of thousands of students who will be the ultimate beneficiaries of our important work with teachers.

This summer we hired former classroom teacher Angie Battle as our new Program Manager. We know Angie will do an amazing job delivering innovative workshops to elementary and middle school teachers in every corner of the state. We also launched our newly redesigned website ([www.gcee.org](http://www.gcee.org).) You can learn more about Angie and our new website in the stories below.

As we begin the 2019-2020 school year, I would like to send out a big "thank you" to the teachers who attend our workshops as well as to our amazing donors who make those workshops possible. Without donor support, we could not do what we do for so many Georgia teachers.

- Mike Raymer



WEBSITE

## GCEE Launches New Website

If you've been to [www.gcee.org](http://www.gcee.org) recently, you know that our website has been completely redesigned. The new and improved website provides a much better user experience for teachers, donors, and anyone else who spends time learning more about our critically important work. Visitors can register for workshops, learn more about the Council, see videos of us in action and donate. The new website will also allow us to interface with teachers and donors more efficiently which will increase our overall effectiveness and impact throughout the state. If you haven't already, check it out today!

GCEE STAFF

## Angie Battle Named GCEE'S New Program Manager

Elementary and middle school teachers attending Georgia Council workshops may see a new face this fall. In July, veteran teacher Angie Battle joined the Georgia Council as its new Program Manager.

A classroom teacher for the last 26 years, Battle has spent the majority of her career in Houston County serving students with a broad range of needs and backgrounds in grades 4-

8. Along the way, she acquired her Reading Endorsement and Gifted Endorsement through Middle Georgia RESA. She was also the 2014 Georgia Economics Teacher of the Year.



For the last several years, Battle has served as a consultant to the Georgia Council, writing lesson plans and teaching workshops. She will now use her successful experience in the classroom to help other teachers across the state learn how to teach economics and personal finance.

“I am so excited to join the organization that helped me become a successful teacher,” Battle says. “I benefitted so much from the Council’s workshops and I am so happy to be a part of helping other teachers be successful.”



*Teacher Michal Jensby Smith in Japan*

SUMMER TRAVEL

## Georgia Teachers Travel the World

Several Georgia high school economics teachers traveled internationally this summer with organizations who have close relationships with the Georgia Council.

Here are highlights from some of those trips:

**Mark DeCourcy** – Starr’s Mill High School (Fayette County) went to **Latvia** and **Estonia** with the Global Economic Education Alliance. The group visited schools and talked with both students and teachers. They also attended teacher training sessions. “One of the schools we visited offered a business etiquette class, and I’m hoping to incorporate some of those lessons into my classes,” he says. “The Latvian teachers have shared the curriculum with me. I just need someone who speaks Latvian to help me translate it!”

**Stacy Dockter** – DeSana Middle School (Forsyth County) and **Jaisha Bruce** – Dunwoody High School (DeKalb County) went to **Peru** with the Global Economic Education Alliance. “Experiencing the people and their beautiful culture and seeing firsthand how their local economy operates enables me to enrich my teaching and be a better global citizen,” says Dockter. She and Bruce visited Lima, Cusco/Machu Picchu and Puerto Maldonado/Amazon Rainforest. They also visited schools, the Central Bank of Peru and participated in numerous cultural activities. “It is one thing to read or watch an educational video about a place; it is another thing to stand in that place and experience it yourself,” says Bruce. “When teachers are able to visit the people and places about which they teach, it fosters a new enthusiasm and passion for those subjects that they can then pass on to their students.”

**Michal Jensby Smith** – Tri-Cities High School (Fulton County) – went to **Japan** with the Keizai Koho Center. Highlights of her nine-day trip include a tour of Meiji Jingu Shinto Shrine, learning about Japan’s monetary policies, hearing about the future of technology in education and having a dialog with Japanese high school teachers about teacher and student struggles as well as the future of education. “My trip to Japan deepened my understanding of its strong ties to the United States and how they are currently addressing unique societal and economic issues,” Jensby Smith says. She also hopes she can share some of the culture with her students. “My students have a limited view of the world around them, and even more limited experience with people who are culturally different than they are. Any way I can expose them to other cultures and the possibility of travel creates ripples that challenge them to apply for study abroad trips, engage in diverse groups and piques their curiosity about the world around them.”

**Cathy Latham** – Coffee High School (Coffee County) - went to **Germany** with the Transatlantic Outreach Program. This was Latham’s first trip out of the country, and she really enjoyed traveling with fellow teachers and learning about modern Germany and its role within a global economy. “I spent a lot of time in former parts of East Germany, so I learned so much more about globalization, sustainability, and trade relations,” she says. “We were guests of the Foreign Ministry, and being able to talk about the importance of US-German relations politically and economically made what I do in the classroom so relevant.”

**Melissa Frey** – Decatur High School (Decatur City) – travelled to **Cuba** with the World Affairs Council of Atlanta. Teachers had the opportunity to meet with Cuban economists, entrepreneurs and other professionals. “They shared stories about Cuba that I could not possibly have learned from textbooks or news articles in America,” says Frey. “This trip allowed me to experience first- hand topics that I regularly discuss with students in my classroom such as centrally-planned economies, scarcity, tradeoffs and the U.S. embargo on Cuba.” She says it inspired her to write a lesson that traces the change in economic goals and government policy over seven decades, culminating in the most recent decade, which has seen vast changes in economic equity and opportunity for Cuban citizens.

**Joel Miller** – South Forsyth High School (Forsyth County) – also went on the **Cuba** trip. He says he wanted to go to Cuba to witness how economic goals and social values can truly shape the lives of people in an economy that hides most market mechanisms. He has created a lesson on the embargo that takes into consideration recent economic policy changes on the island and gives students the opportunity to craft their own foreign policy solutions for the Cuban and American governments to consider. “I believe my students will enjoy exploring the facts of life in Cuba through their American lens,” he says. “Cuba is a place very unlike the United States, yet economic principles still drive the system as Cubans adapt to pursue their own self-interests with severely limited alternatives.”



AP ECONOMICS

## Georgia Teachers Serve as AP Readers

Each spring, thousands of high school students take the Advanced Placement (AP) exams in macroeconomics and microeconomics. And each year, around 350 teachers have to read those exams and give them a numerical score ranging from one to five.

This year seven Georgia high school AP economics teachers were among the 180 or so teachers that gathered in Cincinnati in June to read the AP exams.

To qualify to be a reader, teachers have to submit an application to the College Board, the organization that oversees the Advance Placement program. Teachers must have at least two years experience teaching the course to be considered. The group of readers is made up of a mix of both high school teachers and college professors who teach the subject.

Readers receive training, calibrate their grading so all exams are scored fairly and work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a week, grading thousands of exams.

“At the beginning of the week, the task appears to be insurmountable with an unimaginable number of folders filling up boxes that are stacked all over the convention center,” says Tim

Reeder, an AP economics teacher from Chattahoochee High School in Fulton County, who returned as a reader for the fourth year. “But by the last day of reading, it’s very satisfying to see the last test in the last folder in the last box be graded and shipped away.”

In the evenings, the College Board offers professional development workshops, usually by college professors or other experts in the field. Readers also benefit from being around other experienced AP economics teachers for a week.

“It is hard to explain to people why it is enjoyable to read/grade AP exams for eight hours a day, but being able to interact with people who enjoy economics like you do is fun,” says Craig Ellis, an AP economics teacher at Jackson County High School who was a reader for the first time this year. “I was able to learn some great ideas and tips from other readers. It was also helpful just to see how the grading process worked.”

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IN MEMORIAM

## Gwen Hutchinson: Dedicated to Social Studies

Dr. Gwen Hutcheson, a teacher who dedicated her career to K-12 Social Studies, passed away on June 5, 2019.

Hutcheson was born in Porterdale, Georgia, and graduated from Clarkston High School in DeKalb County. She earned a degree in English from Berry College, along with her teaching certificate.

Throughout the years, Hutcheson taught geography, English, and sociology at various high schools. She received her Education Specialist’s Degree in Social Studies Education from the University of Georgia, and in 1971 became Social Studies Coordinator at the Georgia Department of Education.



“Gwen was a giant in social studies education in Georgia,” says Glen Blankenship, former Associate Director of the Georgia Council. “She was a stalwart advocate for social studies teachers, for social studies education, and for children. Gwen's greatest works were behind the scenes, making sure that the teaching of history and economics and civics/government were never ignored. Her philosophy and love for social studies lives on through all those whose lives she touched.”

Following her retirement as Social Studies Coordinator in 1993, she began doing extensive

consulting work with the Georgia Council on Economic Education, and other organizations, including the Southern Center for International Studies and the “We the People” program coordinated by the Center for Civic Education and the Southern Center for International Studies.

“We were blessed that she became a senior consultant to the Georgia Council when she retired from the Georgia Department of Education,” said Dr. David Martin, former Executive Director of the Georgia Council. “She continued to make important contributions to social studies education in general, and economic education in particular.”



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