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Letter From the Executive Director



As teachers across Georgia head back to their classrooms, I am once again reminded how lucky we are to work with such dedicated and creative educators. To the teachers – what you do truly matters. You help students make sense of the world, think carefully about their choices, and build skills they will use for life.

At GCEE, we are starting the school year full of energy after our busiest summer yet. It was great to see so many educators spend part of their summer with us learning, working together, and finding creative new ways to reach their students. Their enthusiasm and commitment inspired us, and we are thankful for everyone who joined us for a workshop, webinar, or other learning experience.

Looking ahead, the Georgia Council on Economic Education is ready to serve and support K–12 teachers with new workshops, engaging classroom resources, and programs that make economics and personal finance come alive for students. We are already making plans for another robust Econ Ed Month and many other hands-on learning opportunities, like visits to the Hyundai facility in Ellabell and the Mars Wrigley facility in Flowery Branch. We hope to see many of you at a GCEE workshop or event in the coming months!

-Mike Raymer

K5E3 & A Day At the Farm





In June, GCEE welcomed elementary educators to Savannah for the 6th annual K–5 Economic Education Expo (K5E3). Centered on the theme “Celebrating America250: The Economic Story of US,” the two-day experience helped teachers explore engaging ways to integrate economics into social studies, literacy, and STEM instruction. Through interactive sessions, collaborative activities, and a trip to the Georgia Railroad Museum in Savannah, participants left with practical, standards-aligned resources designed to bring America’s economic story to life for their students.

Always looking for a unique economic angle on life, GCEE also hosted a special teacher learning experience at Southern Belle Farm in McDonough. With beautiful weather for blueberry and blackberry picking, educators enjoyed experiencing Georgia agriculture firsthand while exploring connections among productive resources, entrepreneurship, production, and consumer decision-making. Conversations with Jake Carter of Southern Belle Farm and GCEE Executive Director Mike Raymer were highlights of a day filled with learning, laughter, berry picking, and meaningful connections.

High School Summer Institutes



The annual Economic Education Institute for High School teachers returned in late July. Teachers from around the country arrived in Atlanta for this intense weeklong experience conducted in partnership with our friends at Georgia-Pacific. The institute helped teachers build their knowledge of economics while connecting classroom lessons to real-world businesses and organizations. Teachers toured Georgia-Pacific's Innovation Institute to see how research, technology, and consumer feedback influence business decisions and product development in the fields of shipping and packaging materials. They also visited the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Waffle House Museum, and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights to explore topics like monetary policy, entrepreneurship, economic opportunity, public policy, and social change. Through a mix of professional development and hands-on learning, the institute gave educators fresh ideas, ready-to-use classroom resources, and practical examples to help make economics more engaging for students across the country. Plans are already underway for the 2027 edition celebration Georgia Pacific's 100th anniversary!

GCEE also held a record three Advanced Placement Summer Institutes. The legendary Gary Petmecky led the online AP Economics course – which GCEE has been providing for over 25 years. Remaining at the forefront of economic education, GCEE also conducted two in-person AP Summer Institutes in Fayetteville and Savannah for the brand-new AP Business with Personal Finance course. Led by former economics teacher of the year Dr. John Cook from Savannah, these highly rated institutes helped teachers build their knowledge and get ready for the new school year.

GCEE Goes to Scotland





2026 was not only the 250th celebration for the United States, but also for the seminal economics book *The Wealth of Nations* written by Adam Smith. To celebrate, GCEE took a group of educators to Scotland for a memorable study tour focused on economics, entrepreneurship, education, and innovation. The group visited Woolkind, a Scottish knitwear company, to see how craftsmanship, customer preferences, and local traditions influence modern businesses. At the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group, the group learned about Scotland's renewable energy sector and discussed the economic

opportunities and challenges associated with the transition to cleaner energy. They also met with education professors at the University of Edinburgh to exchange ideas about teaching and curriculum, toured the Port of Leith Distillery to learn about entrepreneurship, production, branding, and Scotland's whisky industry, and visited the former home of economist Adam Smith, whose work continues to shape economics today. A visit to the Scottish Parliament gave participants additional insight into Scotland's government, public policy, and economic decision-making. Together, these experiences provided educators with new international perspectives and practical examples to help make economics more engaging for their students.

Looking Ahead



This fall, GCEE will roll out several new professional learning opportunities, student experiences, and classroom resources for K–12 educators across Georgia. The much-anticipated *Let's Trade!* video game for middle and high school students will be released in August in partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting. Keep your eye out for an invitation to our red-carpet release event on August 27th and a special workshop titled *Let's Trade: With Canada!*

At the Canadian Consulate in September. *Makin' Georgia: The Economics of Manufacturing in the Peach State*, a webinar series presented with the GaDOE STEM/STEAM program and GPB Education, will help teachers connect with Georgia manufacturers and access classroom resources aligned with state standards.

After a successful pilot last year, the *Econ Showdown*, an engaging economics competition that will bring together eighth-grade students from Coweta and Fayette counties, returns this fall. In addition, the *Training of Writers Program* will convene a cohort of teachers from Georgia, Arizona, and Nebraska to learn how to develop engaging, active-learning lesson plans that can be used in classrooms across the country.

Of course, GCEE will still be conducting our traditional day-long workshops for High School, AP Macro, 6th/7th grade, and 8th grade as well as school visits to elementary schools! Visit www.gcee.org/workshops to register for a workshop today.



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