Our Mission
To help K-12 teachers teach economics and personal finance in the public and independent schools of Georgia.

Our Vision
- productive workers
- informed consumers and savers
- involved citizens
- lifelong decision makers in a globally interdependent world

Students leaving school prepared for their economic roles as
Our Team

Mike Raymer
Executive Director
Years in Education: 24
Favorite Econ Concept: Comparative Advantage
Favorite Workshop: Cuba Today

Dr. Chris Cannon
Associate Director
Years in Education: 20
Favorite Econ Concept: Allocation Strategies
Favorite Workshop: 6th/7th Grade Economics

Angie Battle
Program Manager
Years in Education: 30
Favorite Econ Concept: Decision Making
Favorite Workshop: Econ of Civil Rights Movement

Melissa Hegarty
Stock Market Game Coordinator
Years in Education: 13
Favorite Econ Concept: Fiscal Policy
Favorite Workshop: Stock Market Game
Public School Systems Served in 2022

141 of 181

Green = Teachers and students from county and city systems served by GCEE in 2022
2022 Achievements

4,251 Teachers Served

156 Workshops Delivered

22,820 Stock Market Game Participants

250,000+ Users of Lights, Camera, Budget Start It Up! Econ Express
2022 Special Projects

START IT UP!

Georgia Pacific Summer Institute

Econ Empress & the Scarcity Kid

EARL & STARLA
Go to the Farm

Written by Mike Raymer
Pictures by Ashley Byard
Recognizing Student Excellence

The Georgia Council conducts numerous student competitions throughout the year to give students opportunities to showcase their economic and personal finance knowledge.

**econ games**

A competition in which high school students compete in three rounds: assembly line, testing, and problem solving. 2022 winners:

- **Metro Atlanta Competitions:**
  - Crabapple Lane Elementary (Fayette County)
    - 4th Grade Winner
  - Newnan Crossing Elementary (Coweta County)
    - 5th Grade Winner

- **South Georgia Competition:**
  - Langston Road Elementary (Houston County)
    - 4th Grade Winner
  - Len Lastinger Elementary (Tift County)
    - 5th Grade Winner

**personal Finance Challenge**

A competition that allows high school students to demonstrate their knowledge of financial literacy. 2022 winners:

- Mt. Zion High School (Clayton County)
  - Access Zone Champions

- Jackson County High School
  - Georgia Champions

**eCon Challenge**

A quiz bowl style competition for high school students covering all areas of economics. 2022 winners:

- South Forsyth High School (Forsyth County)
  - David Ricardo Champions

- Gwinnett School of Math, Science, and Technology (Gwinnett County)
  - Adam Smith Champions

**THE Stock Market Game™**

A 10-week competition in which students invest a hypothetical $100,000. 2022 winners:

- Woodville Tompkins High School (Chatham County)
  - Spring Winning Portfolio of $149,917

- Redan High School (DeKalb County)
  - Fall Winning Portfolio of $148,895
One way Jason Eisele reinforces economic and personal finance concepts with his students is by turning his classroom into a “mini-economy.” Students earn income based on the grades they receive in his class. The better they do, the more “money” they make. They use it to pay rent on their desks. And, like in real life, if they don’t pay their rent, they get evicted. He allows them to earn additional income by doing optional assignments or coming in for extra help.

“Students must invest in their grade by earning and saving money,” Eisele says. “I have been amazed at how well this system has worked in my classroom and what students will do to earn fake money!”

Eisele also uses simulations, storytelling, and real world examples to engage his students.

“Economics is just so relevant,” he says. “It’s so encouraging for me to see them make the connections and understand how these concepts impact them and can benefit them.”

Eisele was inspired to be a teacher by the social studies teachers he had in high school – coincidentally the same high school where he has been teaching his entire career. He hoped to teach history, but instead was assigned economics as a long-term sub. With no lesson plans, he was forced to “build everything from scratch.” When he got the job permanently the next year, he attended several GCEE workshops, and has been attending them regularly ever since. He now helps write lesson plans and has facilitated workshops for GCEE.

“GCEE has been an indispensable resource,” says Eisele, who is the Social Studies Department Chair at McIntosh High School. “You always come away with something you can use right away. I also like collaborating with other teachers who love economics education as much as I do.”
Austin Green planned on being a lawyer. But halfway through his prelaw studies at Kennesaw State University, he changed his mind. Capitalizing on his love of history, he switched his major to education and became certified to teach social studies. The subjects he didn’t want to teach were world history and economics.

That changed when he was assigned an economics class as a student teacher. “I fell in love with the course,” he says.

After teaching government and world history for a few years, he took a job at Milton High School teaching AP Economics.

“Teaching economics at the AP level was something I wasn’t fully prepared for,” Green admits. He immersed himself in the curriculum and struggled to find answers to his students’ questions. He eventually earned his master’s degree in economics education, which gave him the understanding and confidence to teach economics at the AP level. He has also reinforced his knowledge and teaching strategies with GCEE workshops.

In all his classes, Green makes it a priority to incorporate activities, simulations and other things that help reinforce the content to enhance his students’ understanding.

“I am always looking for ways to break thing up between lectures and make it interesting,” he says.

He says one of the most rewarding things is seeing the number of his former students who have gone on to major in economics and have told him “your class was the reason.”

“Every single one of them found that economics just made sense, and they turned it into not just a degree or a career, but a passion,” he says. “To me, that is the greatest reward.”
Every chance it gets, Okefenokee RESA (Regional Education Service Agency) hosts GCEE workshops to assist its K-12 teachers in acquiring new ideas for teaching economics and personal finance in fun and creative ways.

“The teachers love the workshops,” says Cindy Hitt, Okefenokee RESA’s ELA/SS Specialist. “They are always engaging, and the teachers get materials and resources they can use in class the next day.”

Based in Waycross, Okefenokee RESA consists of nine school districts. Most of these are small, rural districts that depend on RESA for professional learning.

“Most of our schools are small and don’t have staff dedicated to supporting teachers like larger districts might,” says Hitt. “GCEE is always willing to come to South Georgia, and we are so appreciative of their efforts.”

Hitt says that teacher participation in GCEE workshops continues to increase each year. With more teachers attending, a more concentrated instructional focus on the economics standards included in each grade level’s social studies standards increases.

While GCEE periodically recognizes exemplary economic programs that have a strong track record of hosting K-12 workshops, participating in GCEE events, and spreading the word about economic and personal finance education, this is the first time a RESA has been awarded the Program of Excellence Award.

“Okefenokee RESA has been an exemplary partner of the Georgia Council’s for more than a decade,” says Chris Cannon, GCEE Associate Director and Chief Program Officer. “They are always among the first to request new workshops and to recruit teachers to attend workshops. They make the entire trip an enjoyable experience.”
VanLandingham Commitment to Education Award

GCEE is proud to be honoring the Georgia Securities Association (GSA), a longtime supporter of the Georgia Council, with its 2023 William J. VanLandingham Commitment to Education Award.

The Georgia Securities Association has fostered professional and social interaction among its members since 1935. As an affiliate of the Security Traders Association, the GSA takes an active role in shaping the forces that will change the securities industry and also believes in giving back to the community.

GCEE has been lucky enough to be one of the beneficiaries of its philanthropy for more than 40 years.

“The GSA has made a consistent commitment to supporting GCEE because past and present Board members believe in its mission and vision,” says Joe Roman, president of the GSA. “Educating Georgia’s students on basic economic principles provides exponential benefits by equipping them to make better financial decisions for the rest of their lives.”

The GSA targets its financial support to the Stock Market Game, a simulation that gives students in grades 4-12 the opportunity to invest a hypothetical $100,000 for 10 weeks in real stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Several GSA-affiliated members have also served on various GCEE committees and the board over the years. And GSA-affiliated members regularly volunteer as judges for GCEE’s Personal Finance Challenge, a competition for high school students.

“The Georgia Securities Association has had a long partnership with GCEE to help us serve tens of thousands of Georgia students who have played the Stock Market Game,” says Mike Raymer, GCEE’s Executive Director. “The GSA’s support has been instrumental in helping us become a statewide leader in preparing teachers to teach key economics and personal financial literacy concepts and standards.”
Partnering Organizations

The College Board
Council for Economic Education
Econiful
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Finra Investor Education Foundation
Foundation for Economic Education
Foundation for Teaching Economics
Georgia Council for the Social Studies
Georgia Department of Education
Georgia Humanities

Georgia Pacific
Georgia Public Broadcasting
Georgia Securities Association
Georgia State University
Global Economic Education Alliance
Japan-America Society of Georgia
National Assoc. of Economic Educators
Regional Educational Service Agencies
SIFMA Foundation
Transatlantic Outreach Program

Centers for Economic Education

Georgia College
Dr. John Swinton, Director
Dr. Rui Kang, Associate Director

Georgia Southern-Armstrong
Dr. Jason Beck, Director

Georgia State University
Dr. Shelby Frost, Director
Dr. Joe Feinberg, Associate Director

University of Georgia
Dr. Kim Logan, Director

University of North Georgia
Dr. Michael Gove, Director
Dr. Lauren Bradshaw, Assoc. Director

Savannah State University
Dr. Arav Ouandlous, Director

University of West Georgia
Kim Holder, Director

Valdosta State University
Dr. Sean Lennon, Director
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John Swinton, Georgia College
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Phil Walsh, Deloitte
William Wesley, Delta Community Credit Union
Matt Woltersberger, Georgia Retirement System
Scott Wolle, Invesco
Brett Wooten, Landmark Financial Capital

Statement of Assets and Net Assets

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GCEE is the beneficial owner, but not the legal owner, of the Georgia Council on Economic Education Fund, which had a market value of $1,712,599 as of 12/31/22. The fund is owned by the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, Inc. and, accordingly, is not included in GCEE's statement of assets and balances.
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$50,000 or More
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Georgia Power Foundation
Library of Congress
The Pittulloch Foundation
UPS Foundation
Robert W. Woodruff Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999
Georgia Securities Association
Regions Foundation
Zeist Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999
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Waffle House Foundation

$1,000 to $2,499
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Valarie Asbury
Bank of America
Cynthia Bennett
Ron Domanico
Sally Finch
Foundation for Teaching Economics
Georgia Financial Services Foundation
Marie Gooding
Richard Higgins and Margaret Graff Charitable Fund
Jason Levitt
David Martin
Nandy and Wes Millner
Karen Pickerell
Mazeen Porbandarwala
Mike Raymer
Matthew Wolfersberger

$500 to $999
Beverly Armento
Chris Cannon
Ben Cheek
Hays Evans
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Amy Hennessy
Laura Mccarty
Gary Petmecky
Linda and Ron Vansickle
Richard Wells
Scott Wolle

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