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GEORGIA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

GCEE Newsletter - January 2022

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Serving Teachers for 50 Years



The new year holds special significance for each of us at the Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE). 2022 marks our Golden Anniversary, the 50th year of the Georgia Council serving K-12 teachers across the state.

Through bold efforts of Atlanta business, community and educational leaders, GCEE was founded in 1972 and has grown to become a leading state council for economic and personal financial literacy education. For five decades, we have served tens of thousands of Georgia's teachers by providing meaningful professional staff development and effective classroom resources that have helped them prepare hundreds of thousands of students for their economic and financial futures.

Throughout the year, we will be celebrating this momentous occasion with special events and programs designed to highlight some of our greatest accomplishments of the past 50 years. We will also celebrate by rolling out a number of new programs and resources that will clearly demonstrate how we continue to evolve in order to meet the ever-changing needs of today's educators and students. Follow us on [Twitter](#) (@Georgiaecon) for updates.

Bring on the next 50 years!

- Mike Raymer



COUNCIL OF THE YEAR



Georgia Council on Economic Education

PRESENTED BY



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

GCEE Named Council of the Year

The Georgia Council was recently named the 2021 Council of the Year by the Council for Economic Education (CEE). The award recognizes a CEE state affiliate for their significant accomplishments, demonstration of best practices and outstanding service to educators in their state.

“On behalf of the Council for Economic Education, it was my honor and pleasure to present the CEE State Council of the Year Award to the Georgia Council on Economic Education,” says Nan Morrison, President and CEO of the Council for Economic Education. “Mike (Raymer) and the entire team exemplify outstanding leadership and service – as educators, advocates and thought partners to the national office. GCEE works insanely hard to provide the very best economic and financial education to every Georgia student. This year, it was Mike Raymer who truly led the charge to have October declared Economic Education Month – a

huge boon to our mission nationally.”

FALL STOCK MARKET GAME WINNERS

Perseverance Pays Off



When fifth graders Rashaud McKenzie (*left, in photo*) and Jonathan Sheppard (*right*) checked the computer one December morning and discovered they finished first place in the Fall 2021 Stock Market Game, they began jumping up and down and high fiving each other. They couldn't believe they won.

Neither could the rest of their class. After all, at the beginning of the game they were at the bottom of the rankings. So how did it happen that these two boys sitting at the lower end of the 2,400 teams who were playing rose to the top to win it all in a matter of 10 weeks?

“Perseverance,” says Sherry Anthony, a gifted teacher at L.K. Moss Elementary in Marion County who has been advising Stock Market Game teams in her fourth and fifth grade gifted classes since 2016. “At the beginning, they were so disheartened and frustrated and wanted to quit, but I persuaded them to stick with it.”

Not only did they have to change their attitude, but Jonathan and Rashaud – who have been inseparable friends since first grade – also had to change their strategy. Anthony says the boys were afraid to invest the money in their hypothetical portfolios to earn more. They needed to take a risk. They also learned they needed to be more selective about the stocks they chose by learning about the companies rather than just buying stock in those they were familiar with.

That strategy paid off. After doing research, they began purchasing stock in companies such as Lucent Technologies, Roblox, Nvidia and Tesla. Over 10 weeks, they turned their hypothetical \$100,000 into \$149,528 to take the title of statewide winner.

“We didn't move up until we started investing money,” Jonathan recalls.

As the value of their portfolio started to increase, so did their confidence.

“I started to see them collaborating more, and taking it more seriously,” says Anthony. “I also noticed a big change in their attitude. They became the best working team in the class. They worked hard and I am so proud of them.”

That’s not to say they didn’t have some disagreements.

“We agreed on what stocks to buy,” explains Rashaud, “but we disagreed on the number of shares. Jonathan always wanted to buy more.”

When asked to give advice to students who are playing the Stock Market Game, Jonathan offers this: “You have to diversify, and you have to invest money. You also should listen to your friends’ advice. They sometimes know things you don’t know.”

“You should never give up, even if you’re in last place,” adds Rashaud. “Because you could go up to first place and be surprised.”

NEW CURRICULUM

Georgia Council Plays Role in Developing New Personal Finance and Economics Course

When the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) wanted to increase the amount of personal finance covered in the required economics class, they called upon the Georgia Council to spearhead those efforts.



Last August, the department put together a committee to build a required course that would combine both economics and personal finance. GCEE was asked to lead the committee, which was made up of teachers and educators, professionals from different industries and state legislators. The committee examined what economics principles could be replaced and which personal finance concepts needed to be added. The restructured course is 55 percent personal finance and 45 percent economics.

“Under the leadership of GCEE Associate Director Chris Cannon, the Georgia Council played an instrumental role in ensuring the revised high school standards maintained a balance of economic content with personal finance,” says Mike Raymer, GCEE Executive Director.

On December 9, 2021 the State Board of Education approved changes to the Georgia Standards for the economics course required for graduation, which will

be implemented during the 2022-2023 school year and will be called Personal Finance and Economics.

To help prepare teachers to teach this new course, the Georgia Council will introduce new lesson plans and classroom materials to address the changes to the course, and will be rolling out a corresponding high school workshop later in the spring.”

“We look at this as an incredible opportunity to help every high school economics and/or personal finance teacher in the state who will be teaching the required course at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year,” says Cannon.

FEATURED TEACHERS

Featuring Excellence in Teaching

Each month of the school year, GCEE's “Featured Teacher” program spotlights the incredible work of Georgia teachers who are using effective and engaging methods to teach economics and personal finance. Winners in the past three months were **Michael Ho** from Suwanee Elementary School (Gwinnett County Schools - November), **Jessica Gibson** from Kell High School (Cobb County Public Schools - December) and **Sherry Anthony** from L.K. Moss Elementary (Marion County Public Schools - January).

Winning teachers receive Amazon gift cards and signed certificates to acknowledge their fantastic work. To nominate an outstanding K-12 teacher of economics and personal finance for this honor, please contact GCEE Program Manager [Angie Battle](#).



Michael Ho



Jessica Gibson



Sherry Anthony



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