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GCEE Newsletter - August 2025

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Off to the Races

As the new school year kicks off, everyone at the Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE) is excited for what's ahead. The mighty GCEE program team has spent several weeks planning dynamic and engaging programming that will make economics and personal finance more accessible and enjoyable for teachers and students across Georgia. From fresh content to innovative in-person experiences, GCEE's latest professional development offerings promise to help teachers deliver meaningful lessons to their students.

We are excited about several new workshops specifically designed for elementary school educators. GCEE Program Manager Angie Battle will offer sessions that incorporate STEM/STEAM concepts designed to equip K-5 teachers with age-appropriate tools and strategies to help students build a strong foundation in economic thinking and decision-making. Angie will also be rolling out a special new webinar series called "Ag-Tober Fest" this fall. With a name that spectacular, you know each webinar in the series will be great.

GCEE Associate Director Chris Cannon is excited about delivering a workshop in conjunction with

the Library of Congress, titled “Crossroads: Where Economics, History, and Music Meet,” in numerous locations across Georgia. Chris will also deliver sessions related to AP economics, international trade, and energy production. In addition to all that, we will once again conduct the popular Stock Market Game this fall and celebrate Econ Ed Month in a big way in October. (See the below stories for more information on all of these workshops.)

We look forward to serving thousands of teachers and students throughout the next school year. Let's get going!

- Mike Raymer

K-5 Professional Learning Opportunities for Fall 2025

This fall, we’re offering two new dynamic professional learning experiences designed to help K–5 teachers integrate economics across the curriculum.

Full STEAM Ahead with Econ is a new in-person workshop that explores the connection between economics and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math). Participants will investigate how transportation innovations have shaped economies over time through standards-aligned, hands-on activities. Attendees will leave with classroom-ready resources, instructional strategies, and a carefully selected children’s book. Sessions are available by request, with upcoming dates already scheduled in Newnan (September) and at the National STEM Academy in Warner Robins (November). There is no registration fee for Georgia educators.

Ag-Tober Fest is a four-part fall webinar series focused on the economics of agriculture. Each session will highlight a different Georgia commodity—cotton, corn, peanuts, or dairy—and feature engaging lessons on producers, consumers, markets, and productivity. Teachers will receive the featured picture book for each session they attend. Those who participate in three sessions will earn a $25 gift card; attending all four earns a $50 gift card.

Both of these new programs are designed to provide practical and engaging tools for the K-5 classroom. For more information, please contact Angie Battle.

Tuning up for Fall: Middle and High Notes!

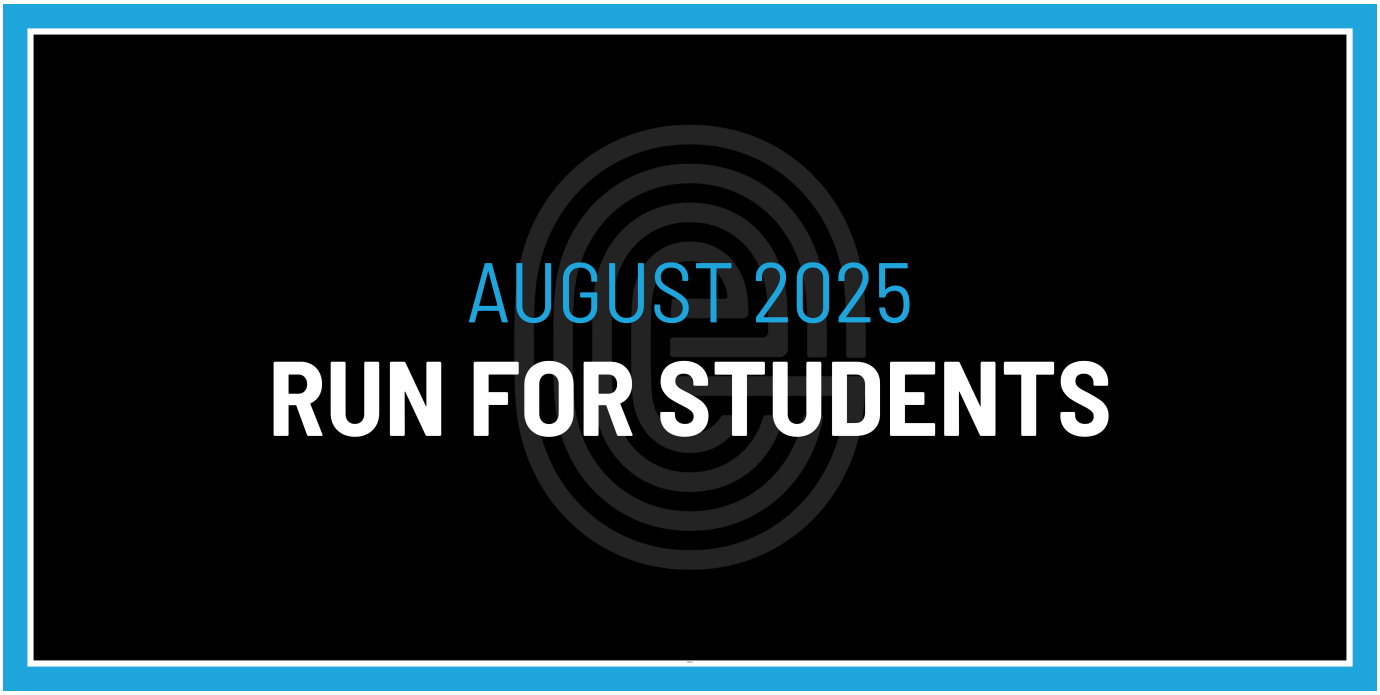
This fall, GCEE is turning up the volume with Crossroads: Where Economics, History, and Music Meet, our new collaboration with TeachRock and the Library of Congress. Blending music and U.S. History with economic concepts, Crossroads lessons invite high school students to explore how forces like innovation, migration, and social change have shaped both our economy and our soundscape. Workshops and materials will launch in September.

Our annual two-day Bootcamp for new economics teachers starts on

August 27 (with Day 2 on September 12). Former Georgia Economics Teacher of the Year Austin Green returns on September 26 to lead Select Topics in AP Macroeconomics**.** Then, on October 9, we'll team up with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to welcome Patrick DeRosa from George Mason University for an unforgettable Economics of Pop Culture workshop. As if that wasn't enough, our amazing friends from Econiful will be hosting multiple virtual sessions to help Georgia teachers effectively use their phenomenal materials and resources. Add in ongoing Case Studies workshops, **an educator tour of Plant Vogtle**, and a special event at Georgia Power to kick off **Econ Ed Month**, and you've got a packed fall calendar.

We're also building a brand-new 6th/7th-grade economics workshop, set to debut later this semester. Eighth-grade teachers, check our website for upcoming dates of our popular 8th-grade Georgia Studies and Economics sessions. With a wide variety of resources and workshops, there's something for everyone this fall—and we hope to see you soon!

For more information, please contact Chris Cannon.



GCEE Leaders Take to the Road to Raise Money for Financial Literacy

On July 13, Mike Raymer, GCEE Executive Director and Associate Director Chris Cannon hit the road – literally – to raise money to cover Stock Market Game™ fees for Title I students across Georgia. The duo ran one mile in ten states from Maine to Maryland *in a single day.*

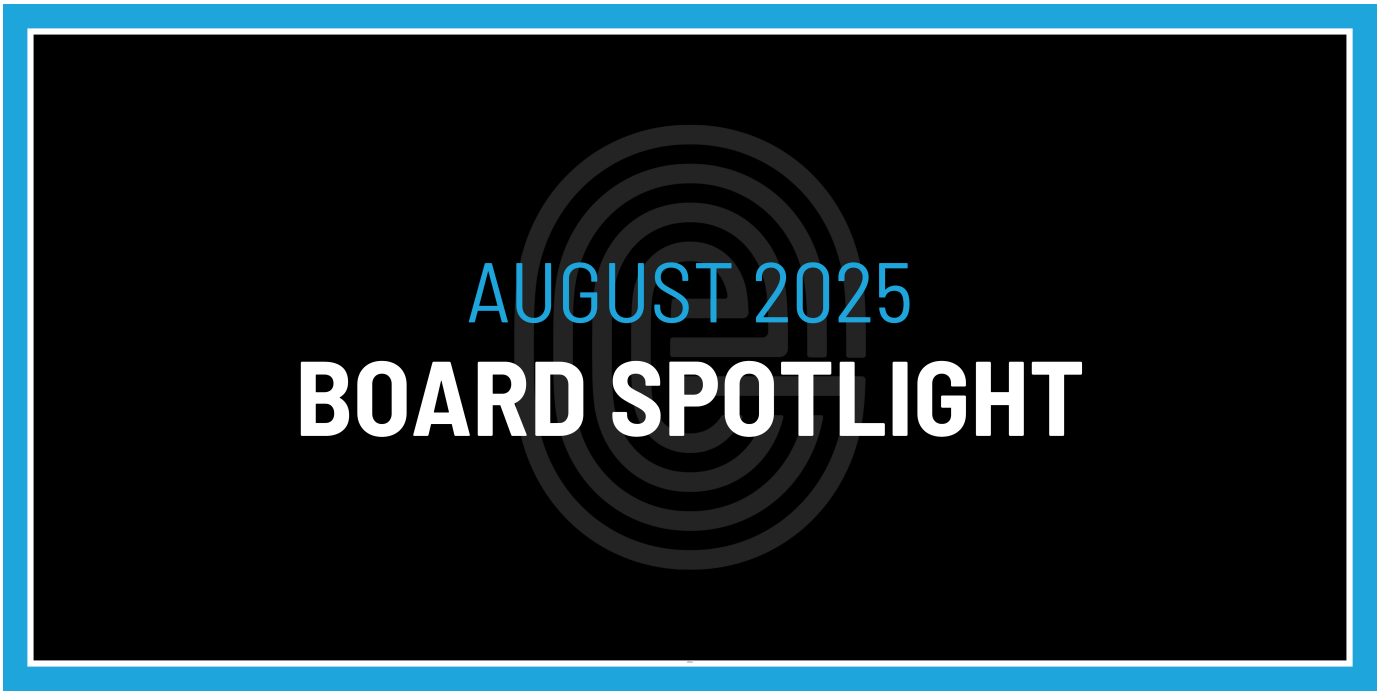
They began their odyssey in Kittery, Maine, and ended it 13 hours and 493 miles later by running up the steps made famous in the "Rocky" movie in Philadelphia. Along the way they ran a mile in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.

The "Funding Their Futures" 10-state run raised nearly $16,000 to help students from Title I schools play the Stock Market Game during the upcoming school year.

"We wanted to come up with a creative way to raise money, while showcasing the importance of economic and personal finance education," said Raymer. "Every dollar raised will help students experience the power of financial literacy."

Last year, Raymer did a similar fundraiser, swimming in all five great lakes in one day. This year, Canon joined in the fun. It's unclear how the pair will outdo themselves next year, but they are already thinking about it!

It's not too late to contribute to "Financing Their Futures" – just click here to support this great cause.



Biking for a Cause

Board Spotlight: Kenny Jackson

COO & Director of Institutional Sales, JECohen

On July 13th, longtime GCEE board member and Development Committee Chair Kenny Jackson undertook an incredible seven-and-a-half-hour personal challenge to help raise funds for the Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE). Kenny rode his bike 100 miles in one day as part of GCEE's "Financing Their Futures" fundraising campaign to support Title I students participating in the Stock Market Game. His determination, passion, and commitment to education were on full display as he pedaled across Metro Atlanta in support of financial literacy. "The climbs hurt, the legs screamed - but in the end it wasn't about me," Jackson said. "It was about students from Title I schools and providing them with the opportunity to participate in the Stock Market Game."

Thanks to Kenny's inspiring effort and the generosity of those who donated in his honor, GCEE was able to raise critical funds that will help thousands of students across the state. Whether you pledged, cheered him on, or shared his story, we thank you for being part of this special event. Kenny's ride reminds us that individual efforts can have a powerful impact—and we're so grateful he chose to go the extra mile (or 100!) for GCEE.

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GCEE Newsletter, Austm 2025

Contact Us:
75 Piedmont Ave., NE
Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-413-7820
www.gcee.org

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