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NEWSLETTER **JANUARY 2026**

Letter From the Executive Director



As we begin a new year, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Georgia's teachers. Their dedication to helping K–12 students understand economics and personal finance is the driving force behind our work at the Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE). Each of us at GCEE knows every semester brings new challenges and new possibilities, and we are honored to support teachers as they prepare students to become informed decision-makers, engaged citizens, and productive participants in our global economy.

Reflecting on 2025, we are proud of what we accomplished together. It was a record year on many levels. With the support of our generous partners, we expanded access to high-quality, no-financial cost professional learning, particularly in rural and high-need communities, and continued developing engaging resources that bring economics and personal finance to life in classrooms across the state.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce several new workshops in the coming months. These will include new offerings for 6th and 7th grade teachers, an elementary workshop aligned with America/Georgia 250, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Port of Savannah, and a few additional surprises we have in the works. As always, our workshops will be interactive, practical, and ready to use immediately in classrooms everywhere. We look forward to getting to work this semester as we continue our shared mission of helping teachers teach economics and personal finance. *-Mike Raymer*

A Look Back at 2025



In 2025, GCEE celebrated a year of exceptional growth and statewide impact. Through 167 high-quality professional development workshops, GCEE served 4,002 teachers from a record-setting 165 of Georgia's 181 public school systems, marking the broadest reach in the organization's history. To make this possible, GCEE's dedicated program team logged more than 15,000 miles on the road, bringing practical, engaging, and classroom-ready economics and personal finance training directly to educators in communities across Georgia.

Beyond workshops, 2025 was marked by a wide range of innovative and high-impact initiatives that expanded GCEE's reach and creativity. Teachers took part in an immersive international study tour to Finland and Estonia, gaining insight into global education and economic systems, while others engaged virtually through GCEE's new Ag-Tober Fest webinar series, which highlighted agriculture's role in Georgia's economy. GCEE also released another book in the popular *Earl and Starla* children's series, launched a new student competition, Econ Showdown, and welcomed educators from across the country to the Georgia-Pacific Summer Institute. Additional highlights included hosting the K5E3 teacher conference in Savannah, a behind-the-scenes learning experience at the Plant Vogtle nuclear facility, and the creation of a new series of economics-infused lessons with TeachRock, blending music, history, and economic thinking.

America 250: The Economic Story



In the spring of 2026, GCEE will be launching a brand-new professional learning experience: America 250: The Economic Story of US, a Grades 3–5 workshop series that will connect America's history to the economic ideas that helped shape it. As we look ahead to the nation's 250th anniversary, these sessions will invite educators to explore how everyday economic decision-making shows up in the real stories students learn in elementary U.S. history. Teachers will leave with fresh perspectives on familiar content, and simple, clear ways to help students understand why people moved, worked, traded, and

built in the ways they did.

Each workshop will be hands-on, classroom-ready, and tightly aligned to grade-level expectations, with activities and resources participants can use immediately. This series is being designed to strengthen both content understanding and instructional confidence while keeping lessons engaging and manageable. America 250: The Economic Story of US will help students see that history isn't just a timeline of events, it's a story of people making choices in a world of limited resources and how those choices helped shape economic growth across the United States. GCEE Program Manager Angie Battle looks forward to sharing this new workshop offering across Georgia in the coming months. Visit gcee.org to learn more and to register for workshop.

Cambridge High Wins SMG



This fall, the Georgia Council on Economic Education saw strong participation in the Stock Market Game, with more than 3,100 student teams representing over 12,000 students from across the state. Working in teams, students researched companies, analyzed market trends, and made investment

decisions, developing real-world skills in financial literacy, teamwork, and economic reasoning while gaining firsthand experience with how the stock market works.

The competition culminated with an impressive first-place finish by a team from Cambridge High School in Fulton County, which earned the top spot with a final portfolio value of \$278,274. Teachers consistently highlighted the program's classroom impact, with one sharing, *"I have enjoyed watching my students as they learned about the stock market and being able to see how math applies in the real world. The students really enjoyed researching stocks and mutual funds and were always eager to see how they ranked among other teams. Thank you for giving my students this real-world context on how to trade and make investments."* The next Stock Market Game begins on January 26, 2026, and teachers interested in registering for the game or signing up for a workshop can visit gcee.org for more information.



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