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GCEE Newsletter - June 2025

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Here's to Another Outstanding Year

The Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE) had an incredibly productive 2024-2025 school year, serving educators across the state to strengthen economic and personal finance education in Georgia's K-12 classrooms. Through a wide range of professional development workshops, the GCEE program team, led by Dr. Chris Cannon, Angie Battle, and Melissa Hegarty, reached thousands of teachers, equipping them with engaging tools, practical strategies, and the confidence to bring economics and personal finance to life for their students. From interactive trade simulations to innovative lesson plans linking literacy to economics to a visit to a blackberry farm, every workshop included practical, relevant, and applicable resources that teachers could immediately implement in their classrooms.



Teachers served at our workshops left energized and inspired, often commenting on the quality of the resources shared and the collaborative atmosphere of each session we offered. After attending our Econ Ed Month "Waffle House 101" workshop, a Fulton County teacher had this to say about the experience, "You guys never fail to provide us with unique experiences that help make our jobs so

much easier. I don't know how I'd do this without your help."

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, we are already hard at work creating resources and experiences (anyone want to visit the new nuclear power plant?) that will bring economics and personal finance to life for teachers and students. We look forward to getting started!

- Mike Raymer



SPRING 2025 STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Students Shine in Spring Competitions

This spring, GCEE hosted a series of student competitions that showcased the knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking skills of young economists from across the state. Each competition provided students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that brought classroom concepts to life. The winners included:

Stock Market Game: A team of students from Woodville-Thompkins High (Savannah-Chatham County) finished in first place with a portfolio total of \$180,740.

Econ Games (South Georgia): Teams from Kings Chapel Elementary (Houston County) and Schley County Elementary took first place in the 4th and 5th-grade divisions, respectively.

Econ Games (Metro Atlanta): Teams from Springdale Park Elementary (Atlanta) and Crabapple Elementary (Fayette County) took first place in the 4th and 5th-grade divisions, respectively.

Economics Challenge: Teams from Lambert High (Forsyth County) took 1st place in both the Adam Smith and David Ricardo divisions.

The Personal Finance Challenge: A team from Salem High (Rockdale County) took first place in the Access Zone division, and a team from Lambert High (Forsyth County) took first place in the Open division.



SPRING 2025
GCEE STUDY TOUR

GCEE Visits Finland and Estonia

Over spring break, GCEE led a group of educators on a week-long study tour to Helsinki, Finland, and Tallinn, Estonia. The Helsinki leg of the trip included classroom visits and meetings with educators and students to discuss many of Finland's successful educational strategies and practices. The group also met with representatives from the Finnish Central Bank Money Museum, the Helsinki Chamber of Commerce, and the award-winning Oodi Library.

While in Tallinn, the group visited the Estonian Central Bank, where they met with a leading economist who spoke about trade policy and Estonia's economic outlook. The group also visited a leading Estonian business school that focuses on teaching entrepreneurship and business creation. This leg of the tour concluded with a meeting with two Estonian parliament members, who discussed the current EU political climate and the process of making informed fiscal policy decisions for their country.

GCEE Associate Director Dr. Chris Cannon, who planned and coordinated the trip, returned home confident that the study tour had exceeded expectations and helped each group member gain a deeper understanding of the varied educational strategies and economies of Finland and Estonia. "The trip was so beneficial to everyone in the group. Every guest speaker we met in both countries helped us gain a deeper understanding of their specific field of expertise. We are all better off as educators having completed this trip," Cannon shared when asked about the experience.



Study Tour participants outside Helsinki's Central Station

SUMMER 2025 SUMMER PROGRAMMING

GCEE is Off to a Great Summer!

This summer, GCEE brought economic education to life for elementary educators through two unique events: *Pollinator Palooza* in Dublin and *K5E3* in Savannah. Each event provided engaging, standards-aligned experiences that emphasized STEM and literacy integration while exploring the real-world connections between economics, agriculture, and interdependence.

Held on June 3 at the Heart of Georgia RESA in Dublin, *Pollinator Palooza* focused on the economic impact of pollinators on Georgia's agricultural economy. Participants engaged in hands-on, STEM-based activities and received resources from the Georgia Farm Bureau, GPB Education, and UGA Extension. The day wrapped up with a visit to SonRise Farms in Dexter, where teachers picked blackberries and received local honey from a Georgia beekeeper. One participant shared, "This was an incredible day that has provided me with so many resources I can use to teach effectively." Teachers left inspired to show students how pollinators support both ecosystems and the economy.



On June 17–18, GCEE welcomed 41 elementary educators from 18 districts to Savannah for *K5E3* — a two-day conference centered on trade and interdependence. Partners from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Booth Western Art Museum, GPB, UGA Agriculture, and the Georgia Department of Education led interactive, high-energy sessions that showed how children's literature and art can bring economic concepts to life in fun and meaningful ways. A Goosechase scavenger hunt ran throughout the conference, encouraging participants to explore historic Savannah while completing team challenges tied to key themes. The event also featured a ghost tour and dinner downtown, adding a dash of local flair to the learning experience. "Thanks for another great conference," said Jisela Martinez of Henry County. "You didn't disappoint! I'm so excited about starting some of the things I learned at the conference in my classroom."

Both events equipped educators with practical ideas, fresh classroom strategies, and a deeper understanding of how STEM, literacy, and economics work together to prepare students for the world around them.

For the fifth year, GCEE partnered with its friends at Georgia-Pacific to deliver its *Summer Institute for High School Teachers* week-long workshop. This summer, 28 teachers from eight different states traveled to Atlanta for a week of training that included lesson demonstrations, engaging guest speakers from Georgia-Pacific, and visits to numerous businesses and institutions. Highlights included a trip to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, a morning at the Waffle House Museum, an afternoon at the Georgia Film Academy and Trilith Institute, and a tour of Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Participating teachers received a multitude of lesson plans, classroom resources, and real-world

examples that will help them teach economics standards more effectively. Associate Director Chris Cannon noted, “This institute reinforces GCEE's mission of helping teachers teach economics and personal finance by experiencing a variety of economic principles in person. These experiences give the teachers tangible and practical examples to use in their classroom to help their students realize a basic truth - that economics is everywhere.”



Running to Benefit Students

On July 13th, GCEE’s Mike Raymer and Chris Cannon are hitting the road—literally. They will be running one mile in ten states from Maine to Maryland in a single day to raise money to cover Stock Market Game fees for Title I students across Georgia. Every dollar raised will help students experience the power of financial literacy. Visit www.gcee.org/run to support the effort and help students participate in the Stock Market Game. Follow along on July 13th via GCEE’s social media channels to monitor their progress. [Twitter/X](#): @Georgiaecon, [Facebook](#): georgiaecon1, [YouTube](#): @GeorgiaEcon

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