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## GCEE Newsletter - May 2024

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Another Successful School Year

In July 2023, the Georgia Council on Economic Education embarked on a journey to support K-12 teachers in imparting essential economic and personal finance skills to their students during the 2023-2024 school year. Fast-forward to today, and we have so much to be proud of, as we had one of the most productive years in our 50+ year history.

Our statewide coverage continued to grow as we served teachers and students in a record number of school systems throughout Georgia, reaching several rural counties for the first time in years. We also connected more teachers with businesses as our manufacturing initiative returned after being unavailable due to pandemic restrictions.

Our student competitions saw a significant increase in participation rates, a clear testament to our educators' dedication and our students' potential. We worked directly with over 26,000 elementary, middle, and high school students who participated in the Stock Market Game, Economics Challenge, Personal Finance Challenge, or Econ Games. These students didn't just learn about economics and personal finance; they experienced real-world events that deepened their understanding and prepared them for the future.



Looking ahead, the GCEE team will offer numerous experiential [learning opportunities for K-12 teachers this summer](#) that will connect Georgia's expansive and diversified economy with the economics and personal finance standards taught in classrooms across the state.

We look forward to meeting and serving new teachers in the coming weeks and sharing resources that will help effectively teach economics and personal finance in the future.

- Mike Raymer



GEORGIA STOCK MARKET GAME REACHES THOUSANDS

## Celebrating Success in Learning to Invest

GCEE has just concluded another successful edition of the **Stock Market Game**, a program that has reached unprecedented levels of participation this season. Shattering previous records, the spring program served an astonishing 14,091 students and teachers across Georgia, underscoring its expanding influence and reach.

One of the standout moments this season was the historic win of Jimmy Slack (*pictured. right*), a student from **Woodville-Tompkins High School** in Savannah. Jimmy's victory in the statewide competition for the third consecutive time is an unparalleled feat in the history of the Georgia Stock Market Game. Guided by teacher John Cook, who has consistently led teams to top finishes, including the first, second, and third places in the Spring 2024 program, Jimmy amassed a total equity of \$214,818. His achievement not only underscores his exceptional skill but also the excellence of the

program led by Mr. Cook at Woodville-Tompkins High School.

The culmination of these remarkable achievements was marked by the Stock Market Game Awards Luncheon, held on May 9th at Atlanta's Fabulous Fox Theatre. The event was a vibrant celebration, honoring more than 230 students and teachers from Georgia's congressional districts who had demonstrated exceptional skill in the competition.

Adding to the festivities, this year's luncheon also marked the inaugural ceremony of the [Georgia Stock Market Game Hall of Fame](#). This new tradition began by honoring significant contributors to the game's long-standing success. Among the first inductees were the SIFMA Foundation, Invesco, Barbara Futrell, and Dr. David Martin. Each has played a crucial role in the development and success of the Stock Market Game in Georgia since its inception.

For more details on the Georgia Stock Market Game Hall of Fame and to view a full list of inductees, visit our [website](#).



# 2024 ECON/PF CHALLENGE WINNERS

## HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

## Students Shine in Economics and Personal Finance Challenges

February-April is referred to as “competition season” at GCEE. In addition to the Stock Market Game, the Econ Games Atlanta is held at the Fed, and some of Georgia's best and brightest high school students fiercely compete in the Economics Challenge and Personal Finance Challenge.

GCEE's **Econ Games**, a mirror of the Meaningful Economics and Entrepreneurship competition in other states, is a platform where fourth and fifth-grade students showcase their economic knowledge, teamwork, creativity, and entrepreneurship skills. This year, the Atlanta Econ Games, held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, witnessed remarkable victories. **Oakland Elementary** from Henry County emerged as the fourth-grade champions, while **Willis Road Elementary**, from Coweta County, secured top honors in fifth grade. These schools' achievements stand as a testament to the potential and talent of our young participants.

Under the guidance of Program Manager Angie Battle, the Econ Games have evolved into an event that can be replicated at individual schools. The successful pilot at **Crabapple Lane Elementary** in Fayette County on March 29 marks the beginning of a new chapter. We are thrilled to announce our plans to welcome more schools into the fold in the upcoming school year, promising even more opportunities for students to showcase their skills and knowledge.

**The Economics Challenge** is part of a national competition that commences in early June in New York. Georgia teams first complete an online test. The top five schools then meet in person for in-person tests and a quiz bowl at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Three hundred eighty-nine Georgia students took on the challenge in 2024. This year's Adam Smith (AP/IB) State Champion was from **Walton High School** in Cobb County under the direction of David Dewar. The David Ricardo (On level Econ) State Champion hailed from **Lambert High School** in Forsyth County under sponsor John McCormick. GCEE is proud to announce that Lambert High School also made it into the top 10 in the country and will compete in the national David Ricardo division finals in June. Walton High School finished 11th, barely missing nationals, but vows to return next year as the team is comprised of all juniors.

Six hundred sixty-eight students battled it out online in Georgia's **Personal Finance Challenge** in 2024. The top five schools then had to evaluate a fictional case study and present a financial plan for improvement to industry professionals. **Dunwoody High School**, with sponsor Laura Lampron, successfully defended their state championship and is headed to Cleveland, Ohio, for the national finals on May 19. Additionally, **Rockdale High School** and teacher coach Gregory Johnson took top honors in the "Access Zone" division – a branch of the Personal Finance Challenge designed to attract new teams and teachers with different incentive packages. They will also be representing Georgia at nationals.

Each of GCEE's competitions helps teachers motivate their students to deepen their knowledge of economics and personal finance and provides opportunities for students naturally interested in these topics to prosper. GCEE is looking to grow these programs in 2024-2025. If you've never participated and are curious, e-mail [Chris Cannon](mailto:Chris.Cannon@GCEE.org) and get on the reminder list for next year!



Lambert High School



Dunwoody High School

# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING AWARD WINNERS

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC EDUCATION

## GCEE Honors Outstanding Economic Educators

The Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE) awards highlight the dedication and passion of educators, individuals, and organizations committed to delivering outstanding economic and personal finance education to Georgia's students. We were happy to honor these winners at our Annual Meeting held on April 30 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

We are thrilled to announce **Tammy Howard** (*pictured, right*) from West Laurens High School in Laurens County, as the recipient of the **2024 Georgia Economics Teacher of the Year Award**. Tammy's enthusiasm and innovative approach to teaching economics have significantly

enriched her students' learning experiences, making her a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.



Our **Program of Excellence** winner, **Rockdale County Public Schools**, has been instrumental in advancing economic and personal finance education, thanks to the enthusiastic support of Virnilisa Printup, the K-12 Social Studies Coordinator. Under her guidance, GCEE has successfully implemented economics and literacy programs in 100% of Rockdale County's elementary schools, while also reaching numerous middle and high school educators. Her efforts have also propelled Rockdale County to excel in the Personal Finance Challenge, with teams representing Georgia at the National Personal Finance Challenge finals for the past two years.

Finally, the esteemed **VanLandingham Commitment to Education Award** for 2024 was presented to the **Georgia Department of Education's Social Studies Department**, a team of individuals who have been a vital partner of GCEE for several years. GCEE has been fortunate to collaborate with the Department on numerous projects, which have advanced the teaching and learning of economics and personal finance standards and concepts across the state.

The dedication of these educators and institutions exemplifies the commitment to providing top-tier economic and personal finance education to Georgia's students. GCEE is honored to work alongside such passionate and effective partners.

You can read more about these outstanding award winners in our latest [annual report](#).

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