

[View this email in your browser](#)



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on 2018

As 2018 gives way to 2019, I'd like to take a moment to say thanks to everyone who helped make this one of the most successful years in GCEE's 46-year history. Ongoing board, committee, partner and donor support allowed us to make a significant difference in the lives of tens of thousands of students and teachers throughout Georgia. By helping us help teachers teach economics and personal finance in effective ways, you have made Georgia a better place to live, work, and do business. All of us at GCEE are truly grateful.



2018 was a productive year for GCEE. In addition to serving more than 2,200 teachers at 133 workshops, our list of accomplishments includes the following:

- hosting the 57th Annual Financial Literacy & Economic Education Conference
- releasing a second test-prep app for high school students
- partnering with Georgia Public Broadcasting and the SunTrust Foundation to create an online game that combines financial literacy skills-building and the Georgia film industry
- facilitating a three-day manufacturing bus tour of Georgia
- sending teachers to a nationally-renowned lesson writing workshop in St. Louis
- conducting multiple Distinguished Speaker sessions
- partnering with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta on a number of important educational programs
- creating a new workshop and lesson plans that focus on increasing literacy skills for elementary-aged students

We also had the pleasure of helping 19,871 Georgia students participate in the Stock Market Game, Capitol Hill Challenge, and InvestWrite national writing competition. Additionally, we conducted our 11th annual Econ Challenge, our very first in-person Personal Finance Challenge, and our 2nd annual Econ Games competition for fourth and fifth grade students. We also managed to find time to update our strategic plan and start work on a website and database redesign!

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the phenomenal work of GCEE's Dr. Glen Blankenship, Dr. Chris Cannon, and Ms. Barbara Futrell. I consider myself very lucky to have the opportunity to work with these talented individuals, as each is an expert at furthering GCEE's mission and vision.

To a productive 2019!

- Mike Raymer

FOCUS ON A GEORGIA COUNCIL SUPPORTER

Wells Fargo Bank

Hearing the name Wells Fargo Bank may conjure up images of an iconic stage coach being pulled across the prairie by six horses. That's one of the things the bank is known for. Another is its ongoing commitment to community – namely economic empowerment.



It is through that vision that Wells Fargo has become an important longtime supporter of the Georgia Council on Economic Education, advancing the mission of helping teachers teach economics and personal finance.

“Wells Fargo shares our vision of helping students become financially sound decision makers,” says Mike Raymer, the Georgia Council’s Executive Director. “Their funding helps us deliver financial literacy-themed workshops to teachers across the state.”

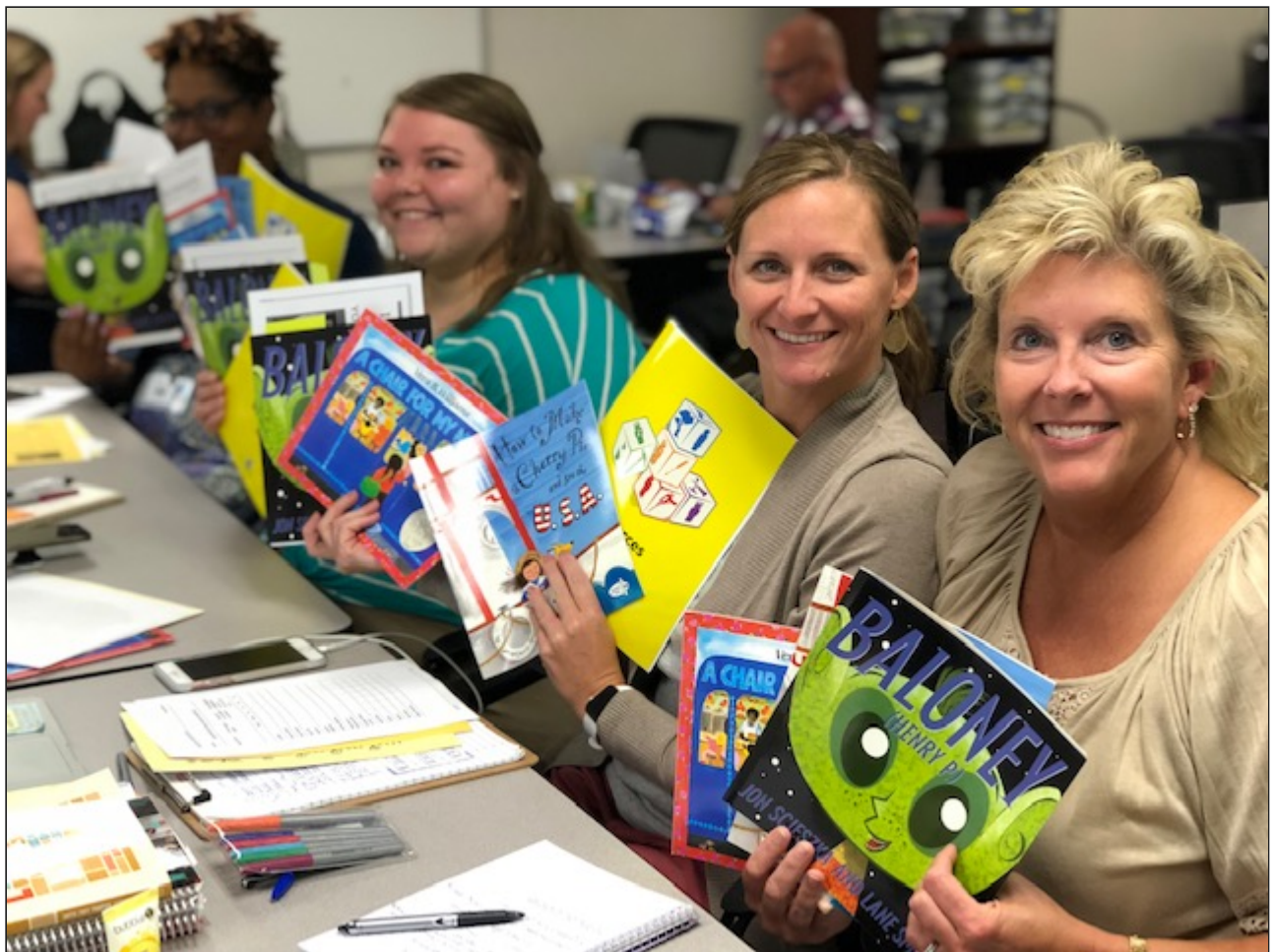
Aside from ongoing financial support, in October the Georgia Council partnered with Wells Fargo to deliver a “Hands on Banking” night for elementary students at Burch Elementary in Fayette County. This is part of Wells Fargo’s Hands on Banking® Program, which offers resources to people of all ages who want to learn more about money management.

Through interactive activities, students at Burch Elementary were introduced to budgeting,

saving and earning income. Wells Fargo volunteers were on hand to help with fun and engaging activities and they played a critical role in making the event a tremendous success.



“We have partnered with the Georgia Council on Economic Education for the past 20 years, providing more than \$500,000 in grants to help teach students about money management,” says Kris Christy, Vice President of Atlanta and North Georgia Community Affairs. “The financial literacy night at Burch Elementary was a perfect example of how our volunteers and our Hands on Banking resource, married with our financial commitment, ensure that children learn about the importance of personal finance.”



TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Incorporating Literacy and Economics in Third Grade

The Georgia Council On Economic Education has created a new workshop for third grade teachers with lessons that combine literacy and economics, along with science, math and language arts. Called “Incorporating Literacy and Economics in Third Grade,” the workshop

provides teachers with strategies for helping teach context clues, visual and map literacy, cause/effect relationships, character development and reading for content. Economic concepts such as opportunity costs, factors of production, voluntary exchange and the roles of consumers and producers are also included.

“Third grade is a research-proven critical year where reading levels at the end of the year have statistically strong correlations with a variety of metrics, including graduation rates, which of course have major impacts on lifelong earnings,” says Dr. Chris Cannon, Associate Director and Chief Program Officer at the Georgia Council. “Many thanks to the Zeist Foundation for funding the creation and delivery of these great lessons and engaging workshop.”

Teachers who attend the workshop leave with four on-level books: *A Chair for My Mother*, *A River Ran Wild*, *Baloney* (Henry P.), and *How to Make a Cherry Pie and See the U.S.A.* Each book comes with an interactive lesson plan and the necessary materials to deliver the lessons in class.

The Georgia Council debuted this workshop in the fall and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from teachers. There are currently 11 workshops scheduled for the spring semester in many areas of the state. Learn more about this and other Georgia Council workshops [here](#).

GEORGIA COUNCIL RECOGNITION

Jason Beck Named Center Director of the Year

One of the ways the Georgia Council on Economic Education is able to reach so many teachers across the state is because of its statewide network of Centers for Economic Education. Based at universities around the state, these 12 Centers serve as a resource for teachers in every school and school system in Georgia. The Centers for Economic Education help teachers with curriculum development and also periodically host Georgia Council workshops.



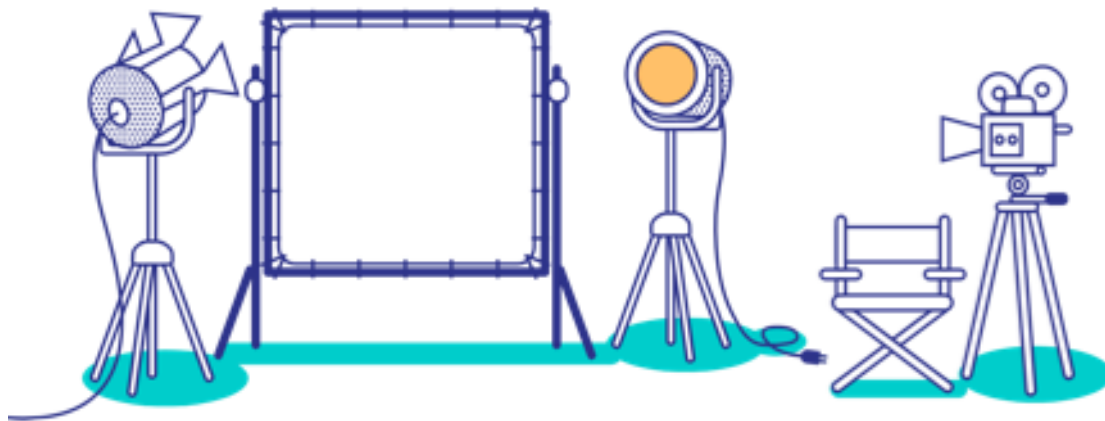
To recognize the efforts of those leading these centers, the Georgia Council recently introduced the Center Director of the Year Award. This award will be given each year at the Georgia Council’s Annual Center Director’s retreat.

“We created this award to recognize the great work being done in our statewide network,” says Mike Raymer, the Executive Director of the Georgia Council. “These centers are vital in

helping us extend our reach across the state.”

Dr. Jason Beck, economics professor at Georgia Southern University-Armstrong Campus and Co-Director of the Coastal Georgia Center is the first recipient of the award.

“Jason continues to help us deliver workshops throughout Georgia and is always willing to help us serve teachers in the Savannah area and beyond,” says Raymer. “He was also instrumental in the creation of our acclaimed Port of Savannah workshop and he has single-handedly increased the number of workshop opportunities for Savannah-area teachers.”



FOR STUDENTS

Learning Personal Finance While Making a Movie

What happens when you cross film production with a little personal finance education? You get Lights, Camera, Budget! – an online game designed to help middle and high school students learn, study and review financial literacy topics while also practicing budgeting skills. The game is a collaboration between the Georgia Council on Economic Education and Georgia Public Broadcasting, and is funded with a grant from the SunTrust Foundation.

In the game, students assume the role of movie producers who have \$100 million to produce a movie. To accomplish that task, they must answer questions about various financial literacy topics. The more questions answered correctly, the more money they earn toward producing their film.

As the game progresses, students answer 15 personal finance questions and make a total of 12 movie-related decisions that ultimately determine the quality of their movie. Decisions

involve everything from choosing actors and directors to shooting locations and marketing strategy. Students are asked to analyze the risks and rewards of their choices and their impact on the movie budget, with the goal of creating a blockbuster movie that doesn't bust the bank.

Aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence, Lights, Camera, Budget! uses the excitement around the film industry to teach students key personal finance concepts. Lights, Camera, Budget! was designed to work across web and mobile platforms and is available online and via mobile devices.

The game will be officially rolled out on February 20th at a red carpet event at the Georgia Public Broadcasting studios, but is now available on the [GPB website](#).

SPEAKER SERIES

Distinguished Speakers Enlighten Teachers

As part of the Georgia Council on Economic Education's Distinguished SpeakerSeries, the Georgia Council was honored to have Ambassador Charles Shapiro, President of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and former U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela, and Nadia Theodore, Consul General of Canada to the Southeast USA, speak to teachers on important economic and political issues in two separate events.



Ambassador Shapiro spoke on November 15 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and touched on the ongoing economic and political crisis currently unfolding in Venezuela. Ms. Theodore spoke about the North American Free Trade Agreement, Canada-U.S. trade relations and the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to a group of teachers on December 3 in Fayette County.

"These events are important because they put teachers in front of experts who make real word connections to concepts and standards found in the Georgia Standards of Excellence," says Mike Raymer, Executive Director of the Georgia Council. "Hearing from experts like Ambassador Shapiro and Consul General Theodore gives teachers new ideas they can share with students and this makes studying economics more meaningful for everyone."



FOR STUDENTS

Woodstock High School Wins Personal Finance Challenge

A team from Woodstock High School will represent Georgia in the National Personal Finance Challenge next May in Nebraska. The team earned that honor after winning the Georgia Personal Finance Challenge held November 27 at SunTrust Park.

In the past, the winner of the Georgia Personal Finance Challenge was determined by an online test. This year, the Georgia Council changed formats to ensure the winning team would be better prepared for the national competition.

Fourteen teams from around the state gathered at SunTrust Park to create a financial plan for a fictional family. Each team was given a three-page overview of the family's finances and had 90 minutes to review it and prepare a six-minute PowerPoint presentation with a plan describing ways to help the family. Teams presented their plans individually to a panel of judges, and three finalists were chosen to present their plans in front of the entire group. Woodstock High School came in first, with Jackson County High School finishing second and Decatur High School coming in third.

Pictured Above: *Teacher Joshua Sailors with students Malachi Brewer, Andrew Brandenburg,*

Michael Rehman and Matthew Garcia.



Copyright © 2018 Georgia Council on Economic Education, All rights reserved.
THE WORD, Winter 2018

Contact Us:

P.O. Box 1619, Atlanta, GA 30301
404-413-7820
www.gcee.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).