

[View this email in your browser](#)



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This Is What We Do

Whenever I meet someone new and get asked the inevitable “So, what do you do?” question, my answer is always the same. “I work at an organization that helps teachers teach economics and personal finance in Georgia.”

The two most common responses to my answer are typically “*Oh, that’s great, we really need more of that in our schools*” or “*I wish I had learned more about those topics when I was in school.*” As these conversations go a little deeper, I explain exactly what it is that we do to help teachers teach these critically important subject matters throughout Georgia.



Just imagine that you’ve been hired to teach a high school economics course and your background in economics is rather thin. Maybe you took one intro econ course your freshman year of college and what you learned in that course is a distant memory. In a matter of weeks, you’ll be standing in front of a classroom full of students wondering how you will effectively teach exchange rates, comparative advantage, supply and demand, compound interest, and many other economic concepts included in the state-mandated Georgia Standards of Excellence.

At this point, you’ve got few options. You can hit the panic button and lose a lot of sleep. You can assign your students endless amounts of boring “book work,” or you can attend Georgia Council workshops that have been designed to help teachers at all grade levels teach students in engaging and effective ways. By doing so, you will be better prepared to teach students economics and personal finance. What’s more, you’ll leave with multiple lesson plans and teaching materials that you can use in your classroom the very next day. Oh, and there will be no financial cost to you or your school system associated with attending these workshops.

When faced with this exact dilemma as I was getting started as an economics teacher, I quickly realized that the Georgia Council could be a lifesaver. I attended my first GCEE workshop in the fall of 1999 and the very next day my classroom truly came alive for the first time.

Fast forward 20 years and here I am helping teachers just like me become better educators. Since January 2019, we have trained 968 K-12 teachers in more than 60 workshops. During this time, we've introduced new workshops in globalization and assessment, as well as an online game to help middle and high school students hone their personal finance skills.

GCEE continues to help teachers prepare students to leave school with economic and financial literacy knowledge and skills that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. I am so very proud to be a part of this wonderful organization and of the meaningful work we continue to do throughout Georgia.

- Mike Raymer

FOCUS ON A GEORGIA COUNCIL SUPPORTER

Georgia Power

Since its founding in 1972, the Georgia Council has enjoyed support from countless companies, organizations, foundations and individuals. A One of the most important supporters during this time has been Georgia Power. Through the years, the company has provided the Georgia Council financial support, as well as in kind services such as printing and video production. Several key executives have also held leadership positions on the Georgia Council's Board of Trustees.



“Georgia Power supports the mission of the Georgia Council on Economic to provide opportunities for our teachers and students to advance their economic education so that we can all prepare our state and our community for a better and brighter future,” says Xia Liu, Georgia Power’s Executive Vice President, CFO and Treasurer, who joined the Council’s Board of Trustees and Executive Committee last year.

Every year the Georgia Council showcases its Economics Teacher of the Year with a video highlighting their accomplishments. A crew from Georgia Power travels to the teacher’s school – no matter where it is in the state – to film the video, edits it at their state of the art facilities, and puts together a finished product that is always the highlight of the Georgia Council’s annual meeting.

Georgia Power has also printed many of the Georgia Council's collateral pieces – including campaign materials, brochures, stationery and envelopes – at no financial charge.

“The money we save by not having to print these materials or produce these videos allows us to put our resources directly into teaching Georgia's teachers how to teach economics and personal finance,” says Mike Raymer, Executive Director of the Georgia Council.

The Council has also benefitted from the leadership and guidance of individuals like Tom Fanning, Ron Hinson, Warren Jobe, Ronnie Labrato, David Ratcliffe and Cliff Thrasher, who – like Xia Lui – served on the Georgia Council's Board of Trustees. Mr. Jobe and Mr. Thrasher are also former Chairs of the Board.

“We are so grateful for all the support Georgia Power has given us over the years,” says Raymer. “They have been a great partner to us and to the greater Georgia community.”

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Georgia Council Partners with Georgia Pacific to Offer Summer Program for Teachers

Opportunity cost, monetary and fiscal policy, specialization, market economies, free enterprise, entrepreneurship and international trade are just some of the topics teachers from across the country will learn at the Economics Summer Institute to be held in Atlanta June 25 to 29.

Thanks to a partnership with Georgia-Pacific, the Georgia Council will be able to share its creative approach to teaching economics with a national audience of teachers.

Taught by Georgia Council staff and a master teacher consultant, the goal of the Summer Institute is to increase high school teachers' knowledge of economic concepts and improve their understanding of economics, entrepreneurship and the free enterprise system. Teachers will leave Atlanta with grade-appropriate lesson plans and ready-to-use classroom materials designed to help teach important economic concepts in innovative and effective ways.

Participants in the Summer Institute will also visit the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Chick-fil-A corporate headquarters, High Road Ice Cream, the newly-renovated State Farm Arena, and enjoy guest speaker sessions from insightful members of the Georgia-Pacific

family.



FOR TEACHERS

GCEE Brings Jacob Clifford to Atlanta

Jacob Clifford, a former high school economics teacher and YouTube sensation who has made a name for himself producing videos that explain economic principles in fun and interactive ways, came to Atlanta for two days in February to share teaching strategies with teachers. Sponsored by the Georgia Council, Clifford taught a workshop for regular economics teachers as well as one for those who teach Advanced Placement economics. Both workshops filled almost immediately and had long waiting lists. Clifford's workshops were so successful that the Georgia Council has plans to bring him back during the 2019-2020 school year.



FOR STUDENTS

Red Carpet Roll Out for GCEE's New Online Game

On February 20, the Georgia Council hosted a “Red Carpet” event at the studios of Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) to debut their new online game for students called “Lights, Camera, Budget!”

Ryan Millsap, Chairman and CEO of Blackhall Studios, spoke to the group about the positive economic impact the film industry continues to have on Georgia’s economy.

Developed in partnership with GPB, the game tests personal finance skills in the context of the film industry. The game is designed to help middle and high school students learn, study and review financial literacy topics while also practicing their budgeting skills. Funded with a grant from the SunTrust Foundation, Lights, Camera, Budget! has been played over 3,600 times, with an astounding average on-site time of 15 minutes. Check out the game [here](#).

The Georgia Council would like to thank GPB, Blackhall Studios and Alston and Bird for making the kickoff event a success.

COMPETITIONS

Recognizing Excellence in Education

While the focus at the Georgia Council is mainly on teachers, we also provide various ways for students in grades 4 – 12 to test their economic knowledge in competitions throughout the school year. Here is a sample of this year’s excellent students:

Georgia Economics Challenge – held in March at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Sandy Creek High School (Fayette County) – David Ricardo Division (regular economics)
Chattahoochee High School (Fulton County) – Adam Smith Division (AP/IB)



Sandy Creek High School



Chattahoochee High School

Personal Finance Challenge – a competition for high school students held in November.
Woodstock High School (Cherokee County)
This team will go on to the national finals in Lincoln, Nebraska in May



Woodstock High School

Rock-O-Nomix – a competition where students change the lyrics to a song using economic terms and then make a video for the song.
– Fall, 2018 Cary Hargett, Morrow High School

Econ Games– a competition held in March in Tifton and Atlanta where fourth and fifth grade

students compete in three rounds: an assembly line activity, a written test, and a problem solving activity.

Tifton Winners:

Annie Belle Clarke Elementary (Tift County) – Fourth grade winner

North Brooks Elementary (Brooks County) – Fifth grade winner



Annie Belle Clarke Elementary



North Brooks Elementary

Atlanta Winners:

Main Street Academy (Fulton County) - Fourth Grade winner

Sope Creek Elementary (Cobb County) - Fifth grade winner



Main Street Academy



Sope Creek Elementary



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](#).