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GEORGIA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

May 2020 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Applauding the Superheroes Among Us

I've always known that teachers are superheroes. What they manage to accomplish each day with limited resources and unlimited pressure from students, parents and elected officials is nothing short of amazing. A silver lining to the current COVID-19 pandemic might be that the general public comes back around to realizing just how important teachers are to the overall success of our country, our economy and our sense of normalcy.



What was “normal” for teachers went completely out the window when the Governor ordered all Georgia schools closed in mid-March. Within a matter of hours, teachers throughout the state were delivering lessons and activities in virtual settings while working with students in ways that many probably never imagined.

In the last few weeks I've spoken with numerous exasperated parents who suddenly found themselves assuming a much larger role in their child's education as a result of school closures. If I had a dollar for every time one of them said something along the lines of, “Wow, teaching is *really* hard!”, I'd have exactly \$397. Teaching is incredibly hard, and all of us should be thankful for the thousands of incredibly talented educators out there dedicating their lives to preparing our children for the future.

All of us at the Georgia Council tip our hats to the teachers who were asked to do the impossible and managed to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to deliver quality education to students during extremely difficult times. We look forward to continuing to effectively serve these superheroes in ways that reflect the new educational realities that are upon us.



TEACHER SUPPORT

Rising to the Challenge: GCEE Helps Teacher Navigate Distance Teaching and Learning

Due to the unusual conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers across Georgia were driven from face-to-face classroom settings to digital formats in a matter of days. For many educators, this was uncharted territory. To help teachers face this unique challenge, GCEE prepared and delivered a series of virtual workshops to provide strategies and resources to teach economic and personal finance standards remotely.

From mid-March to the end of May, GCEE created and delivered 16 virtual workshops to 1,197 teachers. We had the honor of hosting online events featuring in-depth discussions with distinguished guests such as Nadia Theodore, Consul General of Canada in Atlanta, and U.S. Women's National Soccer Team player and two-time World Cup champion, Kelley O'Hara. We were also fortunate to team up with notable partners and friends to give teachers the tools and resources they need to teach right now and in the future. These included:

- Princeton Williams (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta)

- Jessica Cork (YKK Corporation of America)
- Joseph Huntemann (Georgia Department of Economic Development)
- Patty Dees and Mersia Martin (Booth Museum of Western Art)
- Jennifer Zoumeris (Georgia Department of Education)
- Wood Powell and Jenny Windell (Transatlantic Outreach Program)

The response to GCEE's virtual workshops has been overwhelmingly positive. One attendee commented, *"Thank you for continuing to reach teachers (virtually) in the midst of a pandemic. GCEE's commitment to teachers is unwavering."* Another said, *"This workshop was timely, relevant and purposeful. Thank you!"*

Please follow us on Twitter using the handle @Georgiaecon and check our [website](#) regularly to stay up to date.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Honoring Excellence in Economic Education

Because of the Coronavirus, the Georgia Council was forced to cancel its Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon in April. At the meeting, we usually recognize outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations who have had an impact on economic and personal finance education. Though we couldn't do it in person, that will not stop us from bragging about our very deserving winners. Congratulations to everyone!

Georgia's 2020 Economics Teacher of the Year – Joel Miller

At South Forsyth High School, Joel Miller's students usually walk into his economics class to find music playing in the background. More times than not, they will spend class time on their feet in a role-playing activity, in groups playing econ-inspired games, or listening to a guest speaker. Whatever the activity, at the end of the class period, chances are they learned an important lesson in economics.



Miller, who teaches Advanced Placement (AP) micro- and macro-economics as well as the regular economics class, creates experiences for his students by using creative and interactive activities. He believes if they learn by doing, they will better understand the concepts. Those efforts have paid off. His students have earned 100 percent passing rates on required end of the course assessments, and his AP students consistently score four (out of five) or higher on the AP exams. Multiple students of his have even received "Perfect Score Awards" from The College Board.

To learn more about Joel, [watch this video](#) produced by our friends at Georgia Power.

2020 Lifetime Achievement Award – David Martin

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to someone who has dedicated his life to economic and personal finance education. From the beginning of his career as a high school economics teacher to helping to write the economics curriculum for Cobb County to ultimately leading the Georgia Council on Economic Education for nearly 40 years, David Martin has remained a champion for economic and personal finance education and the teachers who teach it.



As a teacher, he discovered the Georgia Council as a resource. Looking to make a bigger impact on education, he became the organization's Associate Director in 1979. Three years later he was named Executive Director. For 35 years, he oversaw the organization that grew into one of the nation's most effective organizations for advancing the teaching and learning of economics.

To recognize that impact, the Georgia Council on Economic Education is proud to announce that going forward, this award will be named the **David Martin Lifetime Achievement Award**.

2020 William J. VanLandingham Commitment to Education Award – Georgia Public Broadcasting

We often think of Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) as the state's PBS and NPR network, bringing us stellar programs like Mr. Roger's Neighborhood, Sesame Street, and Masterpiece Theatre, as well as Morning Edition and All Things Considered. But GPB is more than just broadcasting.



The organization has an extensive education arm that reaches preschool-12th grade students and teachers across the state through its digital content and outreach. That content includes instructional videos, games, lesson plans and a digital textbook that are aligned with Georgia's educational standards. In the 2018-2019 school year, GPB's digital content was accessed 8.2 million times and more than 4,000 educators received face-to-face professional development.

GPB is also a valued partner of the Georgia Council for workshop delivery and creation of online resources such as the award-winning Lights, Camera, Budget! To play Lights, Camera, Budget!, click [here](#).

2020 Program of Excellence Award – Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

When the Georgia Council on Economic Education introduces a new workshop, one of the first systems to request it is the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS). In fact, SCCPSS has become a state leader in economic professional development for its educators by

hosting more than 30 economics workshops for over 450 teachers in the last three years. Additionally, SCCPSS has fielded several Teacher of the Year finalists, helped facilitate student and teacher study tours to Japan, and hosted GCEE for many other special events and learning opportunities. GCEE is proud to work with such an exemplary system, a true program of excellence.



SPRING COMPETITIONS

Recognizing Amazing Students...

Congratulations to the thousands of students who participated in Georgia Council competitions this spring. Our 2020 spring winners include:

- **Georgia Economics Challenge:**
 - Adam Smith Division, Chattahoochee High School (Fulton County)
 - David Ricardo Division, Starr's Mill High School (Fayette County)
- **Personal Finance Challenge:** Jackson County Comprehensive High School
- **Stock Market Game:** Atlanta International School
- **Lights, Camera, Budget! Competition:** Starr's Mill High School (Fayette County); Berrien Middle School (Berrien County)



TEACHER RECOGNITION

...And Remarkable Teachers

Each month of the school year, GCEE's "Featured Teacher" program spotlights the incredible work of teachers who are using effective and engaging methods to teach economics and personal finance. Winning teachers receive an Amazon gift card and a signed certificate to acknowledge their fantastic work. Our most recent winners:



- April – Janaé Cohen, Red Oak Elementary School (Henry County)
- May – Austin Green, Milton High School (Fulton County)

To nominate an outstanding K-12 teacher of economics and personal finance for this honor, please contact GCEE Program Manager Angie Battle at jbattle15@gsu.edu.



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