

Middle Tennessee State University Center for Economic Education

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The mission of the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Economic Education (CEE) is to develop Tennessee K-12 students to have the knowledge, understanding, and skills to make informed economic choices as consumers, workers, and citizens in a global economy.

This mission is accomplished through generous funding from the MTSU College of Business, the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation, the Foundation for Teaching Economics, the Council on Economic Education, and First Tennessee.

New Projects: Responding to requests from county curriculum supervisors, the CEE conducted in-service programs in Williamson County and Metropolitan Davidson County. Those programs included the integration of common core standards and differentiated instruction for classrooms with students working at a wide-range of abilities. About 85 public school teachers participated in the in-service programs.

In partnership with the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank-Nashville Branch and Austin Peay State University's College of Business, the CEE conducted two advanced-level workshops for economics teachers. The workshop *Beyond the Basics: Advanced Economic Concepts and Lessons* was attended by 38 advanced placement, honors, and advanced-level economics teachers. The workshop *Teaching the Middle School Economics Strand* was conducted twice with a total of 58 teachers attending. Plans are in progress for similar programming during fall 2012.

Continuing Projects: The CEE completed its 31st year of directing the **Tennessee Stock Market Game** during the 2011-2012 academic year. The program, conducted in partnership with area newspapers and businesses throughout the state, provides hands-on learning for students. The students, working in cooperative learning groups, invest a theoretical \$100,000 in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds traded on the New York, American, and NASDAQ stock exchanges. The teams have 15 weeks to track their purchases while researching the impact of local, national, and global economic activity on the price of their selected companies.

The Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation has provided a generous grant to enable all Rutherford County students enrolled in Economics, Business Economics, and Personal Finance courses during 2012-2013 to participate in the Stock Market Game at no cost to the school.

The MTSU CEE is one of seven institutions in Tennessee certified to deliver the employment qualification training in **Personal Finance Education**. In partnership with the Atlanta Federal

Reserve Bank, Nashville Branch, the MTSU CEE trained 134 teachers during the 2011-2012 academic year.

In partnership with the Foundation for Teaching Economics, the CEE hosted the **Environment and the Economy Conference** in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. A \$45,000 grant allowed 38 teachers to attend this 4-day conference that incorporates a blend of practical learning activities, including hands-on classroom activities and simulations.

Also in partnership with the Foundation for Teaching Economics, the CEE hosted the **Right Start Institute** in Brentwood, Tennessee. The Institute is designed to help teachers identify and learn basic economic content and develop lesson plans for effectively teaching high school economics. Teachers enrolled in the workshop use the materials as a springboard to studying for the Economics Praxis exam which is required for Tennessee teachers to be considered highly qualified to teach economics for high school graduation credit. A total of 36 participants attended the four-day program. The grant award for this program was \$43,200.

Partnerships: The CEE partners with organizations that work toward the goal of promoting economic and financial literacy in the classroom and community. Some of those organizations include:

- Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank-Nashville Branch
- Foundation for Teaching Economics
- First Tennessee
- Council for Economic Education
- Bancorp South
- Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
- Internal Revenue Service
- Pinnacle Bank
- US Community Credit Union
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Tennessee Bankers Association
- Tennessee Office of Attorney General
- University of Tennessee at Martin
- University of Tennessee Extension
- Cornerstone Financial Credit Union.