

Middle Tennessee State University Center for Economic Education

Dr. Robert B. Blair, Director

Dr. Maria L. Edlin, Assistant Director

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: The CEE resumed hosting the International Economic Summit competition during the 2012-2013 academic year through a grant from the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation. During the Summit competition, student teams, representing the nations of today's complex world, compete for scarce resources, form strategic country alliances, debate global issues, invest in long term development projects, interact with global economic institutions, and seek to stabilize and advance the global economy. In the fall, eleven teachers participated in two-days of professional development, conducted by the Idaho Council on Economic Education, during which they learned core concepts in international trade as well as the details of the day-long Summit competition. In the spring, the teachers integrated the curriculum into their classroom and began preparing their students for the day-long competition. Seventy countries were represented by 280 area high school students from seven schools. Plans are being made to host the event during fall 2013.

In an attempt to reach teachers in remote areas of the state, the MTSU CEE, in partnership with the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank, Nashville Branch offered a series of webinars "The Building Blocks of Economics." Each month during spring 2013, a different economic indicator was discussed, classroom lessons were highlighted, and classroom teachers shared their experiences teaching the concepts in their classrooms. The culminating event for the webinar series entitled The Building Blocks of Economics: A Two-Day Educator Summit will be held in June 2013.

The Austin Peay State University College of Business in partnership with the MTSU CEE and the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank, Nashville Branch conducted the day-long workshop "Making Economics Come Alive." During the workshop, Dr. Dennis Pearson, Ms. Maria Edlin, and Ms. Jackie Morgan shared lessons associated with the John Stossel video and lesson series "Making Economics Come Alive." Teachers were provided a copy of the video as well as the 4th edition of the Hubbard and O'Brien textbook, *Economics*.

Continuing Projects: The CEE completed its 32st year of directing the **Tennessee Stock Market Game** during the 2012-2013 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 grant allowed 756 teams from 16 schools to participate in the program.

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 131 teachers during the 2012-2013 academic year.

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
- Belmont University College of Business Administration
- Austin Peay State University College of Business
- Idaho Council on Economic Education
- 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 Extension
- Cornerstone Financial Credit Union.