



"GIVING OUR CHILDREN THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED"

TEACHING TEACHERS WORKS!

- The mission of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education is to provide professional development to Kindergarten through Grade 12 teachers so they can help their students achieve financial and economic literacy. After three years of programming, 4,300 teachers at 95 percent of the state's schools have been trained and these teachers are reaching 430,000 students.
- For every teacher that is trained, that teacher reaches 100 students the first year and another 100 the next year, and so on.....
- A workforce that is economically and financially literate is key to a productive state economy.
- **The programming is needed.**
Teachers' knowledge of economics has been preliminarily assessed on the nationally normed *Test of Economic Literacy* at 62 percent. In light of the new graduation requirements and the fact that National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing in economics began in 2006, the Board of Directors made a new program, the Master Teacher in Economics (MTE), its top priority. There are new graduation requirements requiring one semester of economics starting with the class that entered high school in 2008 so there is urgency in helping teachers earn the MTE. Teachers who complete this program increase their assessed knowledge on the *Test of Economic Literacy* by 40 percent. Students score 48 percent on a test of knowledge of personal finance issues before our training and score 86 percent after completing the program. A new economics endorsement has been established and one way to achieve the endorsement is through the MTE.
- Mississippi was the host state for the annual meeting of the Council for Economic Education in fall 2008; the MCEE is the 6th most productive state council in the country and its President, Pamela P. Smith, Ph.D. has been appointed to a three year term representing the affiliate state councils on the Board of Directors for the Council on Economic Education. For every dollar raised, 87 cents goes to direct programming of our state's teachers.
- The Mississippi Council is the state's only professional development organization for economic education and is affiliated with the 60-year-old Council on Economic Education. The Council trains teachers and provides resources for teachers to incorporate economics and personal finance into their lessons. The resources include interactive lessons, which make learning more successful.
- Professional development for teachers is delivered by faculty at two Centers for Economic Education—one at Mississippi State University and one at the University of Southern Mississippi. Programming is delivered in partnership with and under the recommendation of the Mississippi Department of Education.
- Fourteen thousand middle school students in the most disadvantaged school districts in the Mississippi Delta and Southwest Mississippi are being trained in financial literacy. High school students who have completed the program increase their financial literacy scores by 66 percent.

- Annual student competitions are held including the Mississippi Stock Market Game and the Mississippi Economics and Financial Literacy Challenges.

What teachers say...

I use my Master Teacher in Economics (MTE) certification in every way possible. It has increased my knowledge of the topic making me better able to instruct my students. The content they receive is so much more effective now compared to before I received the MTE. Because I am smarter, they become smarter and better able to apply that which they are learning. My ability to assess their learning and make adjustments as necessary has also improved. Overall, it has made me a better professional as well as a more informed citizen in our economy.

--Monica Roland, Brandon High School

The Economics Challenge was very beneficial to my students. They loved getting a chance to compete and they had a great time! With the evolution of the Master Teacher in Economics program and the Virtual Economics being distributed, things are soaring in the right direction to have a positive effect on all students. No longer will economics be referred to as the "dismal science!"

--Charles Sweeney, Northwest Rankin High in Flowood

What donors say...

Security Ballew will be a major sponsor at the 2008 Forum because we know how important it is for our kids to become economically and financially literate. In addition, we have seen how well the kids are doing as a result of the professional development provided by the Mississippi Council.

--Matt Ballew, Chairman of the Board, Security Ballew

This program is probably the most important grass roots education effort in our state.

--Gene Warr, Biloxi

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