



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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APPLY NOW FOR THE STATE'S TOP ECONOMICS PROGRAM

December 3, 2008, JACKSON, MISS—Mississippi teachers with the Master Teacher in Economics (MTE) certification are demonstrating that vital skills of economic literacy and knowledge of the “real” world can be taught in the classroom. Applications are now being accepted for the spring 2009 MTE program, a state certificate program, provided by the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE). To date, 188 teachers in 70 school districts have completed the program with teachers showing an average 40 percent increase in their knowledge of economics upon completion of the program. Mississippi teachers score on average 62 percent on a *Test of Economic Literacy* and 86 percent following completion of the MTE Program, which is a highly statistically significant change. All districts are urged to have MTE's.

Pamela P. Smith, President of the MCEE explained the importance of the program to all students, “The new high school economics graduation requirements are being implemented this fall and every child deserves an economics teacher who can help them become economically literate. Fortunately, the two Centers on Economic Education at Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi along with our state's teachers are showing how relevant the economics classes can be when a teacher has the tools they need to impart this complex subject,” said Smith..

Terry Smith, the 2008-2009 U.S. Senator Thad Cochran Economics Teacher of the Year from Oak Grove High in Lamar County, summarized the reasons teachers would be wise to obtain the MTE, “Having gone through the program personally, I can say that I am much better prepared in the classroom. The program doesn't simply provide teachers with knowledge and information; it also teaches teachers how to teach the concepts of economics. Our students deserve the best education that we can offer. In order to provide our students with the best economics education that is needed greatly in these very troubling economic times, the *Master Teacher Program* is not only the best, but in my opinion, the only way.”

The MTE will be offered through the Centers on Economic Education at Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi starting January 24, 2009. The program consists of 5 modules of instruction with follow-up online self-study and assessment and an in-practice component. Teachers will receive university instruction in a program that can lead to the new “193” endorsement, text materials, curriculum resources and 10 continuing education units as well as a travel stipend. There is no financial cost to the teachers accepted to the program, but funds are limited. Applications are available at the MCEE website at www.mcee.org Click on Programs.

The cost to provide the MTE is \$2,000 per teacher. Sponsors of the program are: The Armstrong Foundation, AT&T, BancorpSouth, Citi Foundation, MS Department of

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Education, MS Power Foundation, State Farm and Trustmark. Limited funds are available to support teachers in the program and early application is recommended.

MCEE is a state-wide organization with thirty-four members on the Board of Directors, composed of business and education leaders from throughout the state. All programming is provided in collaboration with State Superintendent for Education, Dr. Hank Bounds.