



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pamela P. Smith
601-974-1325

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED NOW FOR THE SPRING MASTER TEACHER IN ECONOMICS PROGRAM

JACKSON, MS—January 7, 2010—Mississippi now has 251 teachers who have completed the Master Teacher in Economics (MTE) program in 84 school districts and an additional 84 teachers are in progress. Applications are now being accepted for the spring program, which begins on February 6. The MTE improves teachers' abilities to bring economics to their students in stand-alone economics courses or to integrate economics as a strand within social studies and business curriculums.

Charles Sweeney, the 2009 U.S. Senator Thad Cochran Master Teacher of Economics stated the reason that every school needs a MTE, "All students need to know how the real world functions so that they can contribute to the economy. The required class in economics permits all students to learn these skills and those of us who have gone through the MTE program are in a strong position to deliver the lessons that students need in order to succeed. If your school does not yet have a MTE, now is the time," said Sweeney.

Pamela Smith, the President of the MCEE shared information about the growth of the program, "A semester class in economics is now required for high school graduation and most districts are making sure that their economics staff has the MTE certification. Teachers cannot teach what they do not know and our program is one that enables teachers to learn how to teach the complex concepts in a way that our students can understand and use," said Smith.

The format of the program includes five classroom sessions on Saturdays starting in February and ending in May. Secondary social studies, business and marketing teachers can earn the new "193" endorsement from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE).

This program is offered as a collaboration between the Mississippi State Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy, the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Education at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Mississippi Council on Economic Education, the MDE and the Center on Economic Education at Mississippi College. The MDE confers the "Master Teacher of Economics" designation.

Teachers who complete the program raise their own economic literacy by 40 percent with average pre course assessments at 62 percent and average post course assessments at 86 percent. Teachers learn to teach the required economic and personal finance concepts as well as to utilize state of the art curriculum for use in the classroom.

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A grant from the US Department of Education made possible by US Senator Thad Cochran and the Mississippi Congressional Delegation is enabling MCEE to reach out to all districts that do not yet have a MTE. Sponsors of the program also include The Armstrong Foundation, the Indianola business community, Mississippi Power Foundation and State Farm Insurance. The program costs \$2000 a teacher to deliver and

“scholarships” are available thanks to the support of the sponsors. Teachers earn 11 continuing education units for completion of the program and are provided with a travel stipend as well as materials. Applications are available at:

www.mscee.org/programs.html. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2010.

For additional information about the MCEE, please contact: Pamela P. Smith, Ph.D., President, at 601-974-1325.

“Giving Our Children the Tools They Need to Succeed”