



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TEACHERS OPEN DOORS FOR STUDENTS TO EARN PRIZES IN FINANCIAL COMPETITIONS**

JACKSON, MS—September 1, 2009—Teachers have three ways to demonstrate the financial and economic literacy of their students through statewide competitions. Registration is now open for the Stock Market Game and the new Mississippi Economics & Financial Literacy Challenges and provided by the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. Students in Grades 4 through 12 are eligible for the Stock Market Game. Go to [www.stockmarketgame.org](http://www.stockmarketgame.org) to register. Both Middle and High School students are also eligible for the Economics Challenge and the Financial Literacy Challenge, which are available at no cost on-line each nine weeks. For the Economics Challenge, go to [www.econchallenge.org](http://www.econchallenge.org) to register. To register for the Finance Challenge, go to [www.financechallenge.org](http://www.financechallenge.org).

Teachers can register as many teams of students for all three competitions as they wish and prizes are available for students and their teachers who achieve the highest scores. All schools are urged to participate.

A recent study by Learning Point Associates shows that students who play the Stock Market Game achieve significantly higher math and financial literacy scores. Mississippi teachers have reached 33,367 students in 7,145 teams in this state-wide competition.

Pamela P. Smith, President of the MCEE, emphasizes the need to participate in these competitions, “Relevancy of classroom initiatives is essential to our students today and those teachers, who learn new strategies to bring interactive learning to their students, are enabling their students to achieve demonstrated success. Thanks to Mississippi businesses, teachers have even greater access this year to the Stock Market Game and the Economic and Financial Literacy challenges.

Sponsors of the Stock Market Game include: Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, BancorpSouth, Entergy, State Farm Insurance, Trustmark National Bank and *The Clarion-Ledger*. Sponsors of the Challenges include: BankPlus, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, the MS Department of Education and State Farm Insurance.

## **Page 2 Competitions Open**

The MCEE's fundamental goal is to provide every Mississippi student with a sound non-partisan understanding of basic economic principles and how economics relates to their lives as workers, citizens and consumers in a global economy. MCEE is a state-wide organization with thirty-one members of the Board of Directors, composed of business and education leaders from throughout the state. MCEE is affiliated with the 60-year old Council on Economic Education based in New York.

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

“Giving Our Children the Tools They Need to Succeed”