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Contact: Pamela P. Smith
601-974-1325

**STOCK MARKET GAME: MISSISSIPPI KIDS ARE EXCELLING AND
WORKSHOP REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN FOR SPRING 2009**

Editor's note: this is a statewide story and the Mississippi Council on Economic Education can put you in contact with teachers throughout the state who are using the Stock Market Game.

JACKSON, MS—December 3, 2008—Mississippi kids are demonstrating as much as a 94.70 percent increase above the Standard & Poors 500 (SP). Nearly twenty six hundred students throughout the state are currently engaged in the Stock Market Game (SMG) and nearly twenty one hundred students are surpassing the (SP). In the process, kids are learning essential workforce skills. Classroom teachers in grades 4 through 12 working with the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) make the program available to their students. Training to teach workforce skills in economic and financial literacy is now available for teachers.

Teachers are urged to learn to use the Mississippi Stock Market Game (SMG) program in the spring. The simulation is one of the most effective learning tools available about the free enterprise system for students in grades four through 12. The program enables teams of students to invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in the stock market over a 10-week period.

Kim Clemons, a 5th and 6th grade teacher at Jeff Davis Elementary School in Biloxi, shared the reasons for her student's portfolio growth of 32.55 percent, "I attribute my students success to their teamwork, research, decision-making skills and not panicking when the market started sliding."

Laura Pitre, teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School in Madison has students earning 70.47 percent above the S & P and she credits research for their success, "These students showed an earnest commitment to research and strategy and were extremely successful. I am very proud of their work."

An on-line classroom program, the Mississippi SMG, which is proven to help students achieve higher scores on tests of financial literacy is available to teachers again in the spring and teachers may begin training on the SMG as early as January 8, 2009 in Hattiesburg. The SMG is made possible by the support of more than 600 securities firms, combined with grass-roots support in schools and communities. It is the only stock market simulation supported by the New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq Stock Market.

According to the *National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in Economics: Findings for General Economics*, students who participated in a stock market

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game scored significantly higher than those who did not on the NAEP economics test.

The results clearly indicate that students who played the stock market game simulation out-performed the student national average overall and in every student category measured. Data from the Mississippi State University Center for Economic and Financial Literacy also shows that high school students who participate in the SMG, score 8 points higher on the *Test of Economic Literacy*.

Teachers can attend no cost training programs to learn how to use the SMG and receive .5 continuing education units along with the curriculum. The first training program for the spring is scheduled for January 8 in Hattiesburg. Registration is available on-line at www.mscee.org, click on the Stock Market Game logo. Additional training programs are scheduled as follows:

January 8—Hattiesburg

January 12—Starkville

January 13—Gulfport

January 15—Jackson

January 16—Tupelo

January 23—Cleveland

The SMG is an online educational program used in thousands of classrooms nationwide to help teach math, social studies, business, economics and language skills. Students in grades four through 12 participate in teams and manage a simulated investment portfolio during the school year. Mississippi businesses sponsor the SMG and to date 6,086 teams of 28,604 have participated in this state-wide competition. Sponsors for the 2008-2009 SMG program are Merrill Lynch, BancorpSouth, Entergy, Enterprise Rent A Car, Regions Bank, Trustmark Bank and *The Clarion-Ledger*.

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”