



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Pamela P. Smith  
601-974-1325

**WINNERS OF FALL STOCK MARKET COMPETITION TO BE ANNOUNCED  
TODAY BY GOVERNOR BARBOUR**

JACKSON, MS—December 16, 2008—The country is in a recession yet Mississippi’s teachers are successfully teaching their students about the free enterprise system. Today, at 5 p.m. at the conclusion of the Governor’s Economic Summit at the Jackson Marriott, Governor Barbour is scheduled to introduce the winner’s of the Fall 2008 Stock Market Game competition. Twenty six hundred students from throughout the state in grades 4 through 12 have participated in the on-line program where students invest \$100,000 in hypothetical cash in the real market for ten weeks. Of these students, nearly 80 percent have grown their portfolio above the Standard and Poors 500.

The competition is the premiere state program provided by the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) based at Millsaps College and its affiliated university centers at Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

The winning team from The Veritas School in Jackson are eleventh grade economics students and they grew their portfolio to \$163, 199.72 for an 89.44 percent return. The winning team is in Dr. Os Barnes’ class and Barnes commented on the program, “Probably the most important thing I believe my students have learned is the role of emotions in investing. Students saw that the public was fully invested at the top of the bull market last year. That was the time to sell. They learned that the time to buy is at the time no one wants to buy stocks. They used this principle to buy some terribly beaten down financial stocks back in October, and rode a nice bounce to the upside and then sold all the stocks. They also learned the value of learning the mathematics of investing.”

The Veritas team will have to wait until the spring semester is over, however, to learn if they are the overall state winners. If they are determined the overall state winners, the team and their teacher receives an all expenses paid trip to New York City. The team will be honored at the Mississippi Council on Economic Education’s Annual Awards Luncheon in May 2009 in Jackson.

The top three teams in each division are from throughout the state and are:

**Senior Division**

Rank	School	Teacher	Equity	Return vs SP 500
1	St. Joseph Catholic High School	Laura Pitre	139,026.38	70.167%
2	Pearl River Central High School	Gwen Ladner	113,523.94	44.665%
3	Forest Hill High School	Tommie Gillispie	111,335.34	41.242%

## SMG fall winners page 2

### Junior Division

1	Madison Crossing Middle School	Deborah Morali	99,498.04	30.639%
2	St. Andrew's Episcopal School	Chris Harth	102,304.02	28.544%
3	Stern Elementary School	C. Oakes & C. Karlson	97,272.21	28.413%

### Elementary Division

1	Leland School Park	Rhonda Looney	97,276.73	28.418%
2	Jeff Davis Elementary School	Kim Clemons	97,069.42	28.210%
3	Hancock North Central Elem.	Linda Bouffard	98,218.36	27.404%

The curriculum used in the SMG is correlated with national and state standards. Teachers report that math scores increase when the SMG is used in the classroom. Trading for second semester begins on January 12, 2009 and teacher workshops are scheduled throughout the month of January.

Data from the Mississippi State University Center for Economic and Financial Literacy shows that high school students who participate in the SMG, score 8 points higher on the Test of Economic Literacy. 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.

The SMG is an online education 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 28,604 students in 6,086 teams have participated in this state-wide competition. Sponsors for the 2008-2009 SMG program are *The Clarion-Ledger*, Merrill Lynch, BancorpSouth, Entergy, Enterprise Rent A Car, State Farm and Trustmark Bank with support from Regions and Smith Barney.

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”