

## **Middle Tennessee State University Center for Economic Education**

**Dr. Robert B. Blair, Director**

**Dr. Maria L. Edlin, Assistant Director**

The mission of the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Economic Education (CEE) is to develop Tennessee K-12 students to have the knowledge, understanding, and skills to make informed economic choices as consumers, workers, and citizens in a global economy.

This mission is accomplished through generous funding from the MTSU College of Business, the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation and the Council on Economic Education as well as partnerships with the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank, Nashville and Memphis Branches, the Austin Peay State University College of Business, and the Belmont College of Business.

**New Projects:** To make professional development more accessible to teachers across the state, the CEE, in began a webinar series “Third Thursdays” which highlighted a new economics state standard each month of the semester.

**Continuing Projects:** The CEE completed its 35<sup>th</sup> year of directing the **Tennessee Stock Market Game** during the 2015-2016 academic year. Students, working in cooperative learning groups, invest a theoretical \$100,000 in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds traded on the New York, American, and NASDAQ stock exchanges. The 860 teams (3,698 students) had 15 weeks to track their purchases while researching the impact of local, national, and global economic activity on the price of their selected companies.

The MTSU CEE is one of seven institutions in Tennessee certified to deliver the employment qualification training in **Personal Finance Education**. In partnership with the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank, Nashville Branch, the MTSU CEE trained 162 teachers during the 2015-2016 academic year.

A grant from the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation provided Rutherford and surrounding county schools the opportunity to participate in the **International Economic Summit**. During the Summit competition, student teams, representing the nations of today's complex world, compete for scarce resources, form strategic country alliances, debate global issues, invest in long term development projects, interact with global economic institutions, and seek to stabilize and advance the global economy. During the spring semester, the teachers integrated the curriculum into their classroom and began preparing their students for the day-long competition. Eighty-six countries were represented by 357 area high school students from four schools. Plans are being made to host the event during fall 2017.

Two economics workshops **Focus on the Tennessee Economy: Manufacturing in the Southeast** were held at the Nissan Smyrna Vehicle Assembly Plant. The programs focused on the Tennessee economy and the impact of the manufacturing and the automotive industry, specifically Nissan North America. The programs included an overview of the Tennessee and

national economies and manufacturing sectors presented by Troy Balthrop, Senior REIN Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta – Nashville Branch. The 41 participating teachers also received a tour of the Nissan’s Vehicle Assembly Plant and training facility and engaged a Q&A panel comprised of Nissan employees: Wayne A. Ellington, CMRP, Reliability Centered Maintenance, Kevin Smith, Manager, Technical Training, Mary Jo Cherney, Manager, Global Maintenance and Reliability, and Joan Dodson, Analyst, Training & Development Talent Management. The program concluded with Dr. Edlin providing educators with hands-on classroom activities and projects related to manufacturing and productivity.

A grant from the Foundation for Teaching Economics made it possible for 21 teachers to attend the 3 ½ day residential program **The Environment and the Economy**. The program highlighted basic economics concepts that impact environmental conditions. A half-day field trip to Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation integrated the concepts learned during the program with real-world application.

The CEE was awarded a \$27,000 grant to host 110 teachers in workshops across the state. The workshops will highlight the Council for Economic Education’s Virtual Economics 4.5 materials. After the programs, teachers will be encouraged to participate in the national Economics Challenge held during spring 2017.

**Partnerships:** The CEE partners with organizations that work toward the goal of promoting economic and financial literacy in the classroom and community. Some of those organizations include:

- Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank-Nashville Branch
- Belmont University College of Business Administration
- Austin Peay State University College of Business
- Nissan Smyrna Vehicle Assembly Plant
- Idaho Council on Economic Education
- Council for Economic Education
- Bancorp South
- Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
- Internal Revenue Service
- Pinnacle Bank
- US Community Credit Union
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Tennessee Bankers Association
- Tennessee Office of Attorney General
- University of Tennessee Extension
- Cornerstone Financial Credit Union.