

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: The University College provided the CEE with a public service grant to teach personal finance at Patterson Park Community Center. In partnership with Ms. Regina Harvey of Dominion Financial Management, Inc., 18 students who participate in Patterson Parks Community Center's afterschool program attended sessions where they learned to research stocks, understand compounding interest, and trade stocks in the Stock Market Game program.

To make professional development more accessible to teachers across the state, the CEE, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Nashville Branch, offered two webinars ("Income Inequality" and "Entrepreneurship Basics") during the spring 2015 semester. A total of 22 teachers participated in the webinars.

Continuing Projects: The CEE completed its 34th year of directing the **Tennessee Stock Market Game** during the 2014-2015 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 teams have 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 Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation has provided a generous grant to enable all Rutherford County students enrolled in Economics, Business Economics, and Personal Finance courses during 2014-2015 to participate in the Stock Market Game at no cost to the school. The grant allowed 244 teams from 12 schools to participate in the program.

A complementary part of the Stock Market Game is the **InvestWrite** national writing competition. Students are given grade-level appropriate prompts and asked to compose a 750 word essay which encompasses the information they have learned as they have participated in the Stock Market Game. **Ms. Sofia Tomov, a 6th grade student from Cedar Bluff Homeschool in Knoxville, Tennessee, placed first nationally during the fall 2014 competition.** Sofia,

along with her parents and her teacher, Ms. April Shepherd, will travel to New York City for three days to tour the New York and the New York Stock Exchange.

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 185 teachers during the 2014-2015 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. Seventy-eight countries were represented by 286 area high school students from four schools. Plans are being made to host the event during fall 2016.

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
- 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.