



Nebraska Council

ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

annual report

**2014
2015**

advancing economic and financial literacy throughout nebraska

future impact

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Nebraska Council on Economic Education is to act as a catalyst and lead a statewide initiative to advance economic and financial literacy.

OUR VALUES

We believe that students should develop economic ways of thinking and problem solving that they can use in their lives as consumers, savers, investors, members of the workforce, responsible citizens, and effective participants in a global economy.

OUR VISION

To ensure that all students from kindergarten through high school have an ongoing education in economics and personal finance. Further we work to enhance teachers' understanding of the subject matter and their ability to teach these important concepts to their students.

If asked to select just one theme that exemplifies the American experience what would you select? Many of us would answer FREEDOM, both individual and collective.

The American founders read Adam Smith, the father of economics, and incorporated economic principles in the founding documents, which are the basis for our many freedoms.

Individual freedoms include the freedom of speech, the right to vote, and freedom of religion among others. In the United States each person also has the freedom and opportunity to participate in our market economy.

Economic and financial education in our schools matters because it uniquely equips young people with the essential knowledge and decision-making skills to exercise the many personal and economic freedoms this country still provides.

Our collective freedom depends on every individual, not just economists, understanding the basic principles which underlie our free-enterprise system.

The principles of economic and financial literacy are not intuitive for most people. We need highly qualified teachers in the classroom working with students on these important topics and concepts.

The best chance we have for successfully addressing our country's many challenges is through economic and financial education in our K-12 schools, and that is the mission of the Nebraska Council for Economic Education.



Mark Winkler
NCEE Executive Chair
General Director - Budget Services
Union Pacific Railroad



Jennifer A. Davidson, M.Ed.
NCEE President
Assistant Professor of Practice in Economics
University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Advancing Economic and Financial Literacy



Dr. Jamie Wagner, was hired as the Director of the UNO Center for Economic Education June 2015. She teaches undergraduate economics courses including principles of microeconomics and principles of macroeconomics. She is also working with UNO's CBA Scholars Academy and teaching the Scholars' section of principles of microeconomics. Through the center, Jamie also provides professional development to K-12 teachers in the Omaha area and is working with UNO's pre-service teachers to help them prepare to teach economics and personal finance in the future. Jamie is an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department. Her research interests include economic education and financial literacy.



Dr. Tammie Fischer has been the Director of the UNL Center for Economic Education since 1992. She teaches the undergraduate economics courses for education majors at UNL as well as graduate courses and workshops for teachers. Her student programs include Econ Day for high school students, Economics is Everywhere! camp for middle school students, and several in school savings programs.



Mary Rittenhouse, Director of the UNK Center, returned in 2004 after previously serving as the Economic Education Specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She has been involved in community outreach programs to increase financial literacy in the south central Nebraska region. \$martMoney Week has provided personal financial information to more than 10,000 community members in the Kearney area over the past six years. In 2007, Mary earned the State of Nebraska Women in Business Champion Award. She is currently a full-time instructor in the department of Economics at UNK.



Dr. Chuck Parker has been involved with the Wayne State College Center for Economic Education since 1995. In addition to his teaching load at Wayne State, Chuck conducts workshops for area teachers and visits K-12 classrooms to discuss economic concepts with students. He has also coauthored a curriculum guide on Nebraska Entrepreneurs.



Dr. Yvonne Moody joined us in 2014 as the acting center director for the Chadron State Center for Economic Education. Yvonne is an applied sciences professor whose research interests and published works include topics in family economics. She was the 2007 recipient of the American & Nebraska Association of Family and Consumer Sciences NAFCS Leader Award. Yvonne is on the team and works with the Council to provide economic and personal finance professional development for teachers in Western Nebraska.

Other Center Staff include: Jim Dick and Kim Sosin at UNO
Pat Arneson and Meena Dalal at WSC

what we do

The Nebraska Council on Economic Education was established in 1963 as a not-for-profit organization by university, civic, and business leaders.

Our mission is to ensure that all students from kindergarten through high school receive a useable education in both personal finance and economics. This work is of vital importance because it helps students become more effective consumers, workers, savers, investors, and citizens in the complex economies of Nebraska and the United States.

The Nebraska Council fulfills its mission by offering professional development programs for elementary and secondary teachers and administrators; conducting undergraduate courses in economics for education majors; preparing and providing instructional materials for use by teachers in Nebraska schools; sponsoring programs in economic and financial literacy for Nebraska pre-college students; and providing expert assistance to teachers, school administrators, and educational organizations.

This statewide program is conducted through five Centers for Economic Education located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO), University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK), Wayne State College, and Chadron State College.



The Mary Lynn Reiser Economic Educator Award

To honor Mary Lynn Reiser on her 29 years of service to the Omaha Center for Economic Education, NCEE initiated the Mary Lynn Reiser Economic Education Award. Winners of the award will receive a monetary stipend, will be listed on perpetual plaques at both UNO Center offices and UNL Council offices, and be listed on the Council website. Trent Goldsmith of Waverly High School was the recipient of the inaugural award in May 2015.

Mary Lynn Reiser was an Associate and Director of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Economic Education. Her workshops and other teacher outreach activities are extensive and legendary. She started the In School Savings Program in Nebraska, and was instrumental in the creation of an economics magnet elementary school, which she supported for many years by providing professional development for teachers and curriculum materials. She provided guidance and materials for the Center's website, EcEdWeb. She was also active in the international outreach programs of the Center, and hosted teachers from newly emerging market economies, such as Ukraine, to help them prepare to teach economics to children in their countries.

Mary Lynn is also a widely known and beloved national leader in economic education. She was a board member of the National Association of Economic Educators (NAEE) and served as its president. She served as a national board member for the Council on Economic Education (CEE). She initiated the CEE/NAEE pre-conference program for working with new center and council directors to help them efficiently develop and organize successful programs in their home states.

Mary Lynn will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best in retirement and are excited to honor her legacy through this award.



professional development



Economics for Leaders Program
July 27-August 2 held at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Economics for Leaders Program

The Nebraska Council on Economic Education hosted more than 50 participants for the Economics for Leaders program, July 27-August 2, 2014. The program, which is an initiative of the Foundation for Teaching Economics, brought teachers and students from across the country to campus to learn how to integrate economics into the process of decision-making through a hands-on, experiential environment.

“Hosting this program is a testament to our commitment to developing future leaders who have the economic literacy to successfully navigate the challenges of their time,” said Jennifer Davidson, president of NCEE.

Twenty-two students explored topics in economics and leadership through lectures, discussions and activities. The 30 educators who participated in the program received content instruction, pedagogy and active learning simulations to bring back to their classrooms.

“We received so many compliments about the amazing hospitality people received on campus all week long,” Davidson said. “Not only do we want to impart the importance of the economic way of thinking on all age groups, we also feel that outreach of this kind is especially important as it shows soon-to-be college students and teachers all that UNL has to offer.”



Some attendees and speakers at the UP Summer Seminar Series: Economic and Policy Issues in Nebraska June 9-10, 2015.

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community involvement



Gooding and Jennifer Interviewed on Channel 10/11 First at Four show with Taryn and Jon Vanderford.



Jennifer Davidson has participated as a contributor for Channel 10/11's Mom's Everyday money spots locally for the last 3 years. She was invited to participate as a panelist in the national program with Gray TV (GTN on NSYE). Gray TV owns and/or operates television stations in 44 markets. Jennifer spent 3 days filming in Colorado Springs for the fall 2015/spring 2016 episodes.

NCEE in partnership with Funding the Future presented GOODING to over 2000 Nebraska high school and college students with a concert and financial literacy presentation. The band experienced their own financial struggles early on in their career. After overcoming these obstacles, they decided to share the message of their lessons learned. The band has singles on the record charts and their original music can be heard in movies, TV shows and commercials. Funding the Future was formed in January 2014 and the Nebraska tour was the second financial literacy tour event for the year. Events were scheduled in support of Nebraska Money Smart Week held in April 2015.



financial report FY 14-15

Income

Government Grants	\$127,397
Other Contributions/Gifts	\$63,337
Program Service Revenue	\$98,695
Investment Income	\$12,380
Total	\$301,809

Expenses

Grants to Teachers/Others	\$19,906
Personnel	\$87,530
Fees for Management Services	\$3,757
Investment Management Fees	\$102
Membership/Dues	\$50
Advertising/Promotion	\$2,764
Office Expenses	\$5,619
IT Expenses	\$26,938
Travel	\$9,289
Workshop/Conferences/Meetings	\$28,224
Payments to Affiliates	\$8,705
Other	\$7,605
Curriculum	\$2,615
Awards/Prizes	\$10,533
Total	\$213,637

NET **\$88,172**

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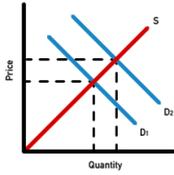
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The EconChallenge Online!

High school teams from Bellevue and Omaha outpaced other competitors in the annual Nebraska Economics Challenge State Championship hosted by the Nebraska Council on Economic Education on Friday, March 27 at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

The challenge began with over 600 students competing through the online challenge. The state final pitted 19 teams from ten high schools from across the state in a competition to determine who has the greater knowledge of economics.

“It was very encouraging to see such statewide diversity and participation. This year’s competition was a testament of the teachers in our communities across Nebraska working hard to ensure students are given the economic skills they need to lead informed, productive lives,” said Jennifer Davidson, President of the Nebraska Council on Economic Education.

The winning team in the Adam Smith Division for advanced placement, international baccalaureate and honors students was from Millard North High School in Omaha. Team members included Raymond Thai, Sukarn Chokkara, Priya Kukreja, Neil Band. The team was coached by Jeff Gustafson.

The winning team in the David Ricardo Division for single semester economics students was from Bellevue East High School. Team members were Andrew Godwin, Colton Patrick, Greyson Kreis, Zachary Correll. The team was coached by PK Simmons.

Both state championship teams went on to compete in the national semi-finals on April 14. Millard North–Adam Smith Championship team placed 8th in the competition, making them the highest ranked team to-date to come from Nebraska. The Bellevue East-David Ricardo Division Champs placed 20th in the national semi-finals.



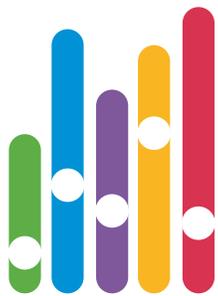
In School Savings Program

Lakeview Elementary is the latest school to join the “In School Savings Programs” with community partner West Gate Bank. This program is a way for students to begin learning the habit of saving early. The Lakeview Branch opened on Thursday, January 22, 2015. It is the seventh program in Lincoln Public Schools and the 21st overall. Council President Jennifer Davidson along with Lincoln Center Director Tammie Fischer were on hand to celebrate the students as they began the savings program. The tellers were selected from the student body through an interview process. They processed \$244.60 in their first day of depositing. West Gate Bank matched each student's first deposit up to \$5 for a first day deposit total of \$417.60, a very successful start!





State Treasurer Don Stenberg, Michael Easley, Jackson Grasz, Mathew Kernen, Trevor Grimm, Jennifer Davidson-NCEE President, and teacher Rebecca Schaaf.



THE STOCK MARKET GAME™

The Stock Market Game (SMG) is a comprehensive educational program based on a real life simulation of the stock market. Students in grades 4 through 12 work in teams to manage a \$100,000 virtual portfolio for 15 weeks of competition.

The program teaches about the US economic system, investing, and teamwork, while reinforcing basic concepts in math, business, social studies, and personal finance. Studies show the SMG increases students' tests scores in personal finance, math, economics, and college and career readiness.

This year over 700 teams competed for the title of State Champion. The 2014-2015 state champions hail from Wahoo High School in Wahoo Nebraska. Marcus Jones and Matthew Dobesh turned \$100,000 into \$126,818 in 15 weeks of trading



The council is proud of its continuing partnership with Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg's office in hosting the Finance Challenge regional competition and again offering \$14,000 in scholarship prize money for the top teams.

887 students participated in the online round of competition. The top five teams in each region then continued on to the regionals to determine who would be named Nebraska State Champions. Teams endured an intensive preparation and presentation of a financial plan based around a detailed fictitious family scenario.

Concordia High School took first place and competed in the National Competition in St. Louis. Each member of the team received a \$2,000 NEST savings account, each member of the second place-team received a \$1,000 NEST savings account and each member of the third-place team received a \$500 college savings account.



Kiewit

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Upcoming Events

November:

4th - 13th
Fall Finance Challenge

9th - 15th
Money Smart Week

12th
Adam Carroll-Author of “Winning
the Money Game”
Location: UNL

19th – Dec 4th
Fall EconChallenge ONLINE!

January:

16th
Active Strategies for Teaching
Economics
Location: UNL

19th - April 17th
Spring Stock Market Game

March:

24th
Econ Challenge State Finals
Location: UNL

April:

16th
Regional Finance Challenge
Competitions
Location: UNL, UNO, North Platte

May:

4th
Stock Market Game Banquet of
Champions
Location: UNL

Please visit nebraskacouncil.unl.edu
for complete details and to register for
upcoming events.



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