

Kansas Council ON Economic Education

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



As our leaders strive to resolve the global economic crisis, the work of the Kansas Council on Economic Education could not be more essential. With many of the KCEE's current and prospective funding sources facing liquidity issues, the KCEE anticipates funding challenges. Your financial support as well as your assistance in leading us to new funding sources are crucial. We sincerely appreciate everything that you do for the KCEE!



Letter From the President...

At the time that this newsletter was written, our global economy was experiencing a crisis. This, of course, underscores the need for the services of the Kansas Council on Economic Education (KCEE). The KCEE's mission is to insure that our youth are literate in personal finance and economics. Such literacy will help to avoid future economic and financial

crises while contributing to more meaningful lives.

The KCEE will celebrate its 50th anniversary in May 2009. We sincerely appreciate your support—financial and otherwise. Your continuing support will enable us to provide our outstanding programs and, with increased support, to expand our outreach. This newsletter provides information concerning our achieve-

ments during the last year. In addition, we invite you to visit our website at www.kcee.wichita.edu. If you need additional information, please call me at (316) 978-5165 or send an e-mail message to jim.graham@wichita.edu.

Sincerely,
Jim Graham
KCEE President

What Is KCEE?

The KCEE is a non-profit educational organization. Therefore, all contributions to the KCEE are tax deductible. Although it is a separate legal entity, the KCEE is affiliated with all of the six state universities in Kansas and is based in the W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University.

The KCEE leverages its ability to reach as many youth as possible by teaching their teachers so they can incorporate the appropriate economics and personal finance concepts in their classroom experiences. The KCEE provides curriculum materials that meet the state and national standards and can

provide everything that is needed to teach economics and personal finance. In addition to the curriculum materials, the KCEE provides several programs that are very popular in the classrooms. These programs include the Stock Market Game, LifeSmarts, and Financial Foundations for Kids.

"KCEE is a non-profit educational organization."

KCEE Programs

The Stock Market Game (SMG) celebrated 30 years in Kansas with the SMG Tribute Dinner. This event brought many old and new faces together for a great celebration while hearing from teachers and students. The SMG is a fun and motivational tool used to teach concepts and skills that will be used for the rest of the students' lives. The SMG promotes a better understanding of our economic and financial systems while emphasizing math, social studies, and reading. After learning the basic concepts, the students form teams and invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in online portfolios with real companies and real prices. The SMG is available to students in fourth grade through college/adult.

The **LifeSmarts** program is known as "the Ultimate Consumer Challenge." It is provided nationally by the National Consumers League and is coordinated in Kansas by the KCEE. Students in middle and high school study and then compete in answering questions concerning personal finance, consumer rights and responsibilities, health and safety, technology, and the environment. In the process, they learn important decision-making skills as they prepare for adulthood. The team from Salina South High School won the state varsity championship and went on to finish in the top five in the national championship in Minneapolis.

Financial Foundations for Kids (FF4K) was developed and copyrighted by the KCEE. Designed for youth in grades kindergarten through 8, FF4K provides standards-based interactive computer courseware lessons. FF4K is one of the finest tools available for teaching personal finance and economics to its target audience.

The KCEE's **Poster Contest** allows students in grades K-8 to illustrate economics concepts. They compete against each other to win cash for classrooms.



Chris Biggs, David Brant and Jim Parrish receive an award for the long-term support of the Kansas Securities Commissioner at the SMG Tribute Dinner.



Olathe South High Students participate in the Stock Market Game as Congressman Dennis Moore looks on.



Salina South High School
2008 LifeSmarts State Champions

NEW
Initiatives



The KCEE has begun two significant new initiatives. First, through a request and with funding from Koch Industries, the KCEE is providing economic and financial literacy programs both after school and in the summer at the Boys and Girls Club of Wichita. This brings essential training to underprivileged youth. Moreover, it creates interest that should enhance the acceptance of the KCEE's programs in the schools attended by these youth.

Angela Howie, the KCEE's Program Manager, was invited to attend an organizational meeting for a new entrepreneurship magnet school in Wichita's USD 259. After discussing the need for economic literacy, economics will also be emphasized in the curriculum. The Adams Economics and Entrepreneurship Magnet School hopes to begin operation next August. The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City has advised that this will be just the fourth economics magnet school in the United States. Congratulations to Angela for this and all of her many accomplishments!

Teachers in Training



The KCEE trains teachers directly through work shops such as its Financial Fitness Institutes that are held in various locations around the state each summer. Also, increasing use is being made of webinars, which provide training in a timely and cost effective manner. In addition to direct training, the KCEE provides educational opportunities through its affiliated Centers for Economic Education on the universities' campuses. During its fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, the KCEE provided nearly \$24,000 in performance grants to the Centers and more than \$55,000 in tuition assistance for certified Kansas teachers who completed courses for graduate credit through the Centers.

Special Events

The KCEE staged several very important and successful events in recent months. The Foundation for Teaching Economics was asked to present its highly regarded Environment and the Economy course in May. This four-day course dealing with the economic analysis of environmental issues was held in Wichita and drew participants from as far away as Mexico City.

In June the KCEE joined with the Kansas State Department of Education and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to present the first Kansas Summit on Economic and Financial Literacy. This event brought school administrators, business and government leaders, and others to Topeka with the goal of increasing awareness of the need for education in personal finance and economics. Joe Peri, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the National Council on Economic Education, was the keynote speaker. Panel discussions with subject area experts as panelists were conducted. A video of Senator Pat Roberts stressing the need for economic and financial literacy was shown.



Joe Peri, NCEE; Jim Graham, KCEE; Lynn Vasquez, KSDE; Kevin Glendening, OSBC; Tom Foster, KSDE all pose at the 2008 Kansas Summit.



Mitch Holthus, the voice of the KC Chiefs, talks at Sports & Econ 101 in Wichita.

During June and July the KCEE presented three two-day workshops about the economics of sports. Entitled Sports & Econ 101, these sessions were held in Wichita, Hays, and Lawrence. The participants heard presentations about the economic impact of various sporting events and venues. After each presentation, KCEE's instructors discussed the economics concepts related to the presentation. A banquet was held during the evening of the first day of each event with Mitch Holthus, the Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs, as the keynote speaker. These events were designed to attract social studies teachers, many of whom also are coaches. They were successful in achieving the intent of getting teachers who had never participated in the

KCEE's programs involved for the future. For example, some teachers attended the Sports and Econ 101 event in Wichita and immediately enrolled in the following week's Financial Fitness Institute.

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Support?

You can sponsor economic education in schools in numerous ways. Through the Kansas Council on Economic Education, you can donate funds to LifeSmarts, Financial Foundations for Kids, The Stock Market Game, Financial Fitness Institute, Poster Contest, and Corporate Trivia Challenge. These are great ways to get involved with helping spread economic and financial literacy to students in Kansas.

Why?

More than ever, we need your help now. The economy has hit a crucial point, allowing teachers the best real world experience when teaching students about economics. By supporting a program, you are not only instilling children with the knowledge of economics, but helping them to become smart consumers. By helping now, we will help the youth of our country avoid the economic troubles we are currently facing.

Interested?

Just contact Jim Graham at Jim.Graham@wichita.edu or at 316-978-5165 for sponsorship opportunities.

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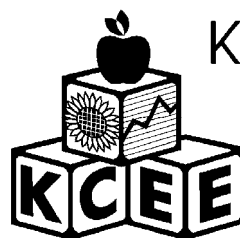
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