

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Emily McDermott  
410.568.8814  
[emcdermott@nevinspr.com](mailto:emcdermott@nevinspr.com)

## **Maryland Council on Economic Education Announces New Associate Director**

BALTIMORE, February 24, 2016 – The [Maryland Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving economic and financial literacy in the state’s schools grades K-12, announced today the promotion of Program Specialist [Karen Kokernak](#) to Associate Director of the organization.

As Associate Director of MCEE, Kokernak will oversee the development of financial literacy training courses for teachers and K-12 students. Kokernak joined the team at MCEE in June 2014 as a program specialist and has since worked to launch, refine, and host a number of professional development workshops. She has also helped MCEE cultivate an online presence through the MCEE blog, *Knowledge Pay\$ Off*, and manages some of MCEE’s social media platforms.

With 20 years of experience in education, Kokernak began her career as a social studies teacher and soon took on the role of department chair at the high school level. She later served as senior economic education specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Baltimore Branch where she delivered economic and financial instruction to both K-12 students and educators. Kokernak also authored and co-authored lesson plans and teaching activities for the Federal Reserve Education website.

“Karen has demonstrated a commitment to developing rich, rigorous, and applicable content for MCEE’s professional development programs and finding new ways to serve Maryland teachers and students,” said [Mary Ann Hewitt](#), executive director of the Maryland Council on Economic Education. “I am so pleased to welcome her to the leadership team.”

Kokernak earned her bachelor’s degree from Fairfield University and a master’s from University of Maryland University College. She also earned her Social Studies Teaching Certification from Franklin Pierce College. Kokernak’s writing has been featured in nearly a dozen publications and she is a member of Maryland Council for the Social Studies, National Council for the Social Studies, and the National Association of Economic Educators.

“I am honored to be a part of the incredible team at MCEE,” shared Kokernak. “I look forward to continuing the effort to increase economic and financial literacy, with the hope of setting up the next generation to be successful business leaders and responsible financial citizens.”

### **About Maryland Council on Economic Education**

For over 60 years, the Maryland Council on Economic Education (MCEE) has worked to assure that Maryland’s school children leave high school equipped with the economic and financial literacy knowledge and decision-making skills they will need to make informed, rational decisions as consumers, workers, citizens, savers, investors, and participants in the global economy. MCEE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and affiliate of the national [Council For Economic Education](#).

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