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## **Howard County's Applications and Research Laboratory Wins National Personal Finance Challenge**

- Maryland Council on Economic Education Sends 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team to Demonstrate  
Financial Education Learned in School -

TOWSON, Md., May 9, 2016 – The [Maryland Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving economic and financial literacy in Maryland's schools, today announced that Howard County's [Applications and Research Laboratory](#), its 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the High School [Maryland's Personal Finance Challenge](#), has won the National Personal Finance Challenge.

The National Personal Finance Challenge was hosted by the Missouri Council on Economic Education on Friday, May 6, 2016 at the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City. MCEE's winning team was one of 24 that participated in the National Challenge final round. A total of 3,979 teams participated in the online round that was a qualifier for the National Challenge in Kansas City. Maddy Halbach is the advisor of the Applications and Research Laboratory's National Winning team comprised of students Austin Adamczyk, Brooke Rankin, Johnathan Taylor, and Matthew Poltorak.

On Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 28 teams made up of 111 students from across the state participated in the High School Maryland's Personal Finance Challenge, hosted by MCEE. The Maryland's Personal Finance Challenge is an opportunity for middle and high school students to demonstrate their personal finance knowledge on topics such as spending, credit, savings, investing, income, and money management while also meeting students from other areas of the state. [M&T Bank](#) sponsored Maryland's Personal Finance Challenge. Members of the first and second place middle and high school teams received cash prizes sponsored by M&T Bank. As the high school first place state winners, students from Applications and Research Laboratory went on to the national competition in Missouri.

"M&T Bank supports the Personal Finance Challenge as part of our commitment to education in our communities. We believe a good education is a key to the future success of our young people," said Augie Chiasera, president of M&T Bank's Baltimore and Chesapeake regions.

Click [HERE](#) for the High School Personal Finance Challenge Manual which includes details about how the Maryland competition works, practice tips and resources, a non-comprehensive list of content and vocabulary to help the teams prepare, sample questions, and more.

"Having one of our teams from Maryland win the National Personal Finance Challenge speaks volumes to the success that can be achieved when the Maryland Council on Economic Education provides educators with content knowledge and resources that enable them to effectively provide economic and personal finance education to their students," said [Mary Ann Hewitt, executive director of Maryland Council on Economic Education](#). "Building financial skills and deliberate decision-making strategies while in school, through engaging programs like the Personal Finance Challenge, will only improve the likelihood of Maryland students achieving financial well-being in adulthood and therefore being productive members of society."

**About Maryland Council on Economic Education**

For more than 60 years, the Maryland Council on Economic Education (MCEE) has worked to assure that Maryland's children leave 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](#).

**About M&T Bank Corporation**

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