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## **Maryland Council on Economic Education Hosts Belarusians to Exchange Financial Literacy Knowledge**

BALTIMORE, August 5, 2015 – 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, today announced it will welcome ten professionals from Belarus to discuss best practices in improving financial literacy on Friday, August 21, 2015 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at MCEE.

The [World Trade Center Institute](#) (WTCI), through the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) [Community Connection Program](#), will host the Belarusians for three weeks. The program is a reflection of the Belarusian government’s commitment to financial literacy and seeks to improve the participants’ understanding of U.S. methods in the field so they can influence change in their communities.

“We train Maryland teachers who impact Maryland students by teaching them economics and personal finance,” said [Mary Ann Hewitt](#), executive director of the Maryland Council on Economic Education. “In order for our students to become fully-functioning members of the global economy they must be taught these crucial lessons. It’s inspiring to see Belarus share the same dream for their students and country. After all, one day they will be working with Maryland students as the frontrunners of our global economy.”

The USAID has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- Introduce participants to American business culture, policies, programs, and practices in implementing financial literacy programs targeting broad population groups;
- Examine U.S. federal and state legislation as pertains to providing financial education to masses;
- Become familiar with the educational and non-formal financial training programs for training audiences that would focus on recognizing the need for long-term financial planning; acquiring skills to manage saving, borrowing and investing; evaluate risks; balancing a checkbook, comparing prices, planning for retirement, the ability to create a budget, etc. Combining economic education contents with the promotion of entrepreneurial attitudes;
- Examine training and methodological materials for trainers in financial literacy;
- Explore the collaborative effort of the variety of state, private, and nonprofit stakeholders, the network and infrastructure that support developing and implementing financial literacy programs;
- Learn about a variety of finance products delivered by banks and non-banking institutions to individuals and households including those targeting marginalized populations unable to access mainstream services;
- Examine various instruments informing the adult population and young people about existing banking and other finance and credit institutions’ services and the conditions of using these services.

Belarusian Participants:

- **Mrs. Anastasiya Anikeyeva**  
Head of Division on Afterschool Education, Department of Education and Science, Youth and Sports at the Kyiv City Council
- **Ms. Natalia Bazanova**  
Assistant Professor, National Pedagogical University and Head of Afterschool Club, the Kyiv Center of Non-formal Education
- **Ms. Natallia Dzianisava**  
Director, District Lyceum of Ivankiv
- **Mr. Mikalai Khvatsik**  
Head, Heart in the Palms
- **Ms. Olga Kouptchinova**  
Lecturer, Institute of Pedagogy and Psychology, National Pedagogical University
- **Mrs. Rehina Krumkach**  
Deputy Director, Postgraduate Teacher Education Institute of the Kyiv University
- **Mrs. Katsiaryna Paltarzhyskaya**  
Head of Division, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
- **Mrs. Tatsiana Runkevich**  
Senior Researcher, Institution of Pedagogy of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine
- **Mr. Ihar Slinko**  
President, Klitschko Brothers Foundation
- **Mrs. Lidziya Smirnova**  
School Media Coordinator, Kyiv Palace of Children and Youth

**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 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](#).

**About WTCI Professional Exchanges Program**

For over 20 years, WTCI's Professional Exchanges Program has designed and delivered exchange programs for foreign professionals from around the world, featuring topics that cover a wide array of technical and educational subject areas. This program continues to provide match making for exchanges of best practices, professional and cultural itineraries for over 650 leaders globally, and promotes citizen diplomacy and increased global understanding.

The Community Connections Program, managed by USAID's Bureau of Economic Growth and Trade (EGAT)/Office of Education and administered by World Learning, is designed to promote public diplomacy through the exchange of cultural ideas and values among participants, U.S. families and local community host organizations. It seeks to establish and strengthen links between U.S. communities and communities in Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

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