



February 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Dare we look ahead towards springtime? Whether snow returns or not, MCEE is warming up for a bustling semester packed with programs that enhance teaching and student learning of personal finance and economics.

We began the semester with some great news coverage. I hope you saw my interview last month on WBFF-TV. [Here's a link to view it.](#) This month, I was joined on WYPR's morning show, On The Record by Howard County educator Amy Cargiulo! Listen to our conversation [here](#).

No matter the month or subject, there is a place for personal finance and economics education in students' learning experiences! This month, we're gearing up to kick off student competitions like the Stock Market Game™ and the Personal Finance Challenge, and preparing to announce some winners from the Fall slate of programs. And as always, if you're in a class or conversation with young people, be on the lookout for ways to tie-in personal finance and economics lessons - no matter how brief. Every conversation counts.

Looking forward,
Julie Weaver
MCEE Executive Director

Celebrate Black History Month with Classroom Resources

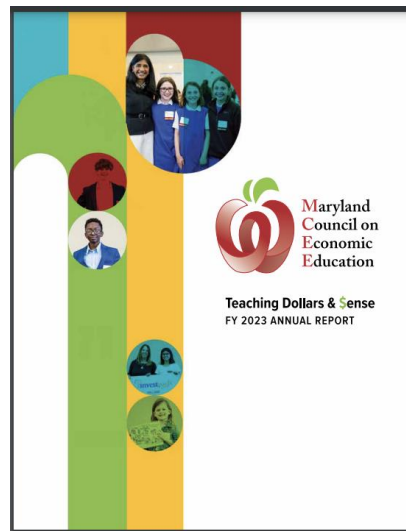
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To help families and classrooms celebrate and use Black History Month to have conversations about personal finance, MCEE has curated a wide variety of resources in which children can make meaningful connections to their communities and cultures.

These resources include a booklist with engaging and educational stories by Black authors that include financial themes, a calendar with classroom activities, helpful articles and professional development suggestions, and flashcards highlighting the contributions of Black entrepreneurs, economists, and leaders.

[Find the resources here](#)

2023 Annual Report Now Available



MCEE's comprehensive 2023 Annual Report chronicles a year of exciting student programs, helpful educator training, and impact on 200,000 Maryland students and 2,000+ of educators. The report powerfully illustrates what we do and why we do it: to ensure that all Maryland students graduate with the economic and personal finance knowledge and decision-making skills they need to achieve personal and professional success.

Read our annual report here

Student Program Deadlines Coming Up



February is filled with deadlines and opportunities to get your students involved in MCEE's programs and competitions.

- **Maryland Personal Finance Challenge:** The first round of this fun academic competition for high school students is April 8-12 so now is the time to learn more and register! Educators can participate in an info session on **Wednesday, February 21 at 5pm** to learn about this program, the process, and how to support students. This is a great in-class activity for personal finance courses, business classes, and more! [Learn more.](#)
- **Maryland Economics Challenge:** This academic competition program that allow high school economic enthusiasts to compete based on knowledge and application of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and knowledge of the world economy. Round one of the competition begins March 18-22. [Register your students today!](#)
- **Poster Contest:** Calling all young artists! Submissions for the Poster Contest are due March 15. Learn more and sign up [here](#) for this contest challenging K-8 students to create a poster illustrating their understanding of a financial concept.
- **Stock Market Game™:** The spring session of this popular student investment immersion learning program kicks off on February 12, but teachers can register student teams at any time! [Learn more and sign up here.](#) There is a full curriculum to guide you through this fun engagement program for students in grades 4-12.

Celebrating 70 Years of Impact



MCEE's 70th anniversary celebration continues! This month, we're looking back to 1980. Did you know that MCEE consulted on a series of economic episodes for the popular children's television show *Romper Room*?

This nationally syndicated show ran from 1953 to 1994 and was filmed in Baltimore. MCEE helped design more than 50 economics-focused segments for the show, covering economics and "what America is in the business of doing," including farming, mining, shipping and manufacturing! MCEE also created eight hands-on lessons for the program to distribute to educators on topics like division of labor, and goods and services. More than 1.4 million children watched Romper Room every day! [Learn more about MCEE's 70th anniversary here.](#)

Upcoming Programs for Educators



[Find our full calendar here](#)

- **Tuesday, February 13: PFC Speaker Series - Individual Retirement Accounts:** Join this virtual webinar guiding teachers on introducing students to retirement options, and how

they'll be tested on them in the Personal Finance Challenge. Featuring guest speaker, Greg Hobson from Greenspring Advisors. [Details](#).

- **Monday, February 26: AP Microeconomics: Cost-Benefit Analysis:** This Council on Economic Education webinar gives educators tools to teach students about economic thinking and decision making. [Learn more](#).
- **Tuesday, March 5: MCEE Book Talk - Vision of Beauty:** Educators, join an engaging discussion of this children's book about the life of Madame C.J. Walker by Kathryn Lasky. Receive a copy of MCEE's lesson plan to use in your classroom. [Register here](#).
- **Saturday, March 9 at AACPS Carver Center of Professional Development: Using Behavioral Economics Concepts to Teach the Maryland Personal Finance Standards:** 6th-12th grade teachers will earn 1 MSDE CPD credit for attending this thought-providing, in-person workshop that combines elements of psychology and economics to understand how people make choices and how the market nudges people towards products and services . Pre-event reading of *Predictably Irrational* is required! Learn all about it and register [here](#).

Educator Resource of the Month: Stock Prices and the Super Bowl

Are you ready for some football? Early February is all about the Super Bowl, so what better topic to get students excited about spending and saving.

Check out this resource created by MCEE's own Dr. Allen Cox that challenges students to analyze the stock prices of companies advertising during the Super Bowl. This lesson aligns with Maryland and national standards for financial literacy.

[Find the resource here](#)

Educator Spotlight: Jaci Drass Makes Personal Finance Relevant to Young Learners

Jaci Drass, a first grade teacher at Urbana Elementary in Frederick County, is always looking for ways to introduce her students to personal finance. And she's always looking to MCEE for inspiration and engaging programs. [Read more here.](#)