



## *June 2023 Newsletter*

Dear Friends,

As we head towards the end of the school year, we have much to be inspired by and thankful for. We're thankful for the learning on display at May's MCEE Student Achievement Awards, for the educators giving students access to life-changing personal finance education, for the focus given by local news outlets on our work (see below!), and for YOU. Whether you're a teacher, a partner, a supporter, a parent, or a student, your interest in and advocacy for personal finance education is improving the future for our young people. Thank you!

The school year may be winding down, but learning continues into the summer. We'll welcome hundreds of educators to our annual [Summit](#) later this month. And this summer we're working with Maryland school districts to create professional development experiences that give teachers the tools to deliver high quality personal finance education. Read on for a recap of the Student Achievement Awards, a summary of our recent media coverage, and a re-introduction to the amazing educators we highlighted this past school year.

Warm wishes for a wonderful summer!

Julie Weaver  
MCEE Executive Director

---

## MCEE Student Achievement Awards Celebrate Maryland's Best



Our awards event on Wednesday, May 17 at Towson University was a celebration! More than 325 students, family members, educators and community leaders came together at the 37th annual MCEE Student Achievement Awards to honor exceptional student performances in MCEE's statewide personal finance and economics competitions, including the [Stock Market Game™](#), [Personal Finance Challenge](#), [Economics Challenge](#), [Investwrite Essay Competition](#), and the [Poster Contest](#).

The winners hailed from every region in the state: Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Calvert County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Queen Anne's County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County!

The event's keynote speaker was Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, who offered inspiring words to the winners:

*"Money is important in our life, but it's not everything. There's a saying - either you master money, or money is going to master you. For you to master money, it's important to understand and educate yourself on the power it has and that it can be a detriment in your life if you don't know how to use it, invest in it, spend it, save it, and return it back to society. That's what it's all about."*

Some of the winning students also shared the lessons they learned and the strategies they used in the competitions. Said Johnny Bond, fifth grader from The Gilman School, whose team won the yearlong Stock Market Game:

*"The Stock Market Game taught me how to make connections between math and a quickly-changing world around us."*

Check out just a few clips of the many inspiring remarks and moments from the Summit:

- [Lt. Governor Aruna Miller](#)
- [Towson Interim President Melanie Perreault](#)
- [Gilman School Winners](#)
- [Arundel High Winners](#)

---

## Mt. Hebron High School Wins Economic Challenge National Championship



They came (to New York City), they saw (the Economics Challenge before them), they won (the national championship)! A huge congratulations to the team of Mehin Pandya, Joseph Phelps, Satvik Marrupalapu, and Nathaniel Ritter, and advisor Vann Prime from Mt. Hebron High School in Howard County on winning the National Championship - beating out nearly 10,000 students from across the country! Learn more about the Economics Challenge [here](#).

---

## MCEE in the News! Check Out Recent Coverage

Good news in the news! MCEE was recently featured in both the Baltimore Sun and the Baltimore Banner!

The Baltimore Banner published a Commentary by MCEE Executive Director Julie Weaver with a perspective we all share: “Our schools teach algebra and chemistry, poetry and world history. Isn’t

teaching our children about personal finance -- developing skills they'll use every day of their lives -- just as important?" [Find the full Community Voices Commentary here.](#)

The Baltimore Sun highlighted teachers who won the Maryland Financial Education and Capability Awards for their work delivering personal finance education. Congratulations to Karen Yancey and Michelle Coates for being featured, and to Kurt Marx of Stephen Decatur High School, the other educator along with Karen and Michelle to win the Financial Education and Capability Awards! [Read the Sun story here.](#)

We hope you'll share these articles with anyone you know who may be interested in the future of Maryland's children!

---

## Poster Contest Winners Inspire



A picture is worth a thousand words, but when that picture is a poster created by Maryland students to demonstrate their knowledge of economics and personal finance, it's worth even more! This year's poster contest submissions were compelling, informative, and fun! Check out a few above, and find the full slideshow of the 21 winners - *chosen out of more than 950 submissions* - [here.](#)

---

## Maryland Financial and Economic Educators Summit Registration is FULL!

The MCEE Maryland Financial and Economic Educators Summit is coming up on June 28 - and educators across Maryland have filled our registration to capacity! We're so thankful for the interest. For those still interested, there are waitlist spots available.

The Summit is a fantastic opportunity for educators to share information and tips with like-minded educators and learn new strategies for infusing personal finance learning in their classroom instruction - no matter the subject.

[Join the waitlist here](#)

---

### Educator Spotlight: School Year Recap

The important financial education lessons that students receive is because of the commitment of talented, dedicated educators throughout Maryland. They understand the value of this education, and they creatively and effectively deliver it in a wide variety of classroom subjects. This past school year, we highlighted a few of these amazing educators:

- **Dr. Maddy Halbach, Application and Research Laboratory, Howard County Public Schools:** [Leveraging a passion for personal finance into student learning](#)
- **Flo Falatko, Cromwell Valley Elementary, Baltimore County Public Schools:** [Incorporating personal finance education into STEAM \(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math\) education](#)
- **Julius Prezelski, Mount Saint Joseph High School, Baltimore County Private School:** [Connecting personal finance concepts to students' lives](#)
- **Ed Keeler, Easton Middle School, Talbot County Public Schools:** [The power of money, history, and engaging students in games for learning](#)
- **Karen Yancey, Marley Elementary, Anne Arundel County Public Schools:** [At Marley Elementary, the personal finance learning continues after school](#)
- **Kurt Marx, Stephen Decatur High School, Worcester County Public Schools:** [Leveraging the Stock Market Game™ for Personal Growth](#)

- **Amy Cargiulo, Waverley Elementary School, Howard County Public**  
**Schools:** [Encouraging reflection through personal finance education](#)
- **Kimberly Jackson, Gaithersburg High School, Montgomery County Public**  
**Schools:** [Bringing personal finance learning to students through clubs, conversations](#)