



*January, 2025 Newsletter*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were relaxing and rejuvenating. They certainly were for MCEE - and we've hit the ground running this year with new announcements, exciting program opportunities for educators, and as always, a firm commitment to the financial education of Maryland's students.

To kick things off, we're honoring educators, students, and organizations doing incredible work in financial education. Together with the Maryland State Department of Education and the CASH Campaign of Maryland, we're seeking nominations for the Maryland Financial Education & Capability Awards, which recognize inspiring educators, individuals and organizations making significant contributions to financial education. [Nominate here!](#) For students, we're celebrating the winners of our Fall Stock Market Game! Read below for details.

As we move forward, we're also celebrating our past impact. Check out our [FY24 Annual Report](#) to see our successes in the last year.

This work is only possible thanks to the many educators and partners who share our passion for equipping children with the tools they need for personal success. That's why we're asking you to share your expertise at workshops during our annual Educator Summit this coming summer - the *only* personal finance and economics educator conference for the Maryland education community! [Learn more and propose your workshop here.](#)

As you embark on the new year, I invite you to ask yourself: how can I elevate or strengthen personal finance and economics education for Maryland students, educators, and communities? Your continued enthusiasm contributes to our work and our success. Need ideas for how you can make a difference? You know where to find us!

Warmly,  
Julie Weaver  
MCEE Executive Director

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## **MCEE Poster Contest Partners with MD Comptroller's Office - Register Students Today!**



We're thrilled to partner with the Maryland Comptroller's Office to enhance this year's MCEE Poster Contest, in which K-8th grade students depict financial and economic concepts in creative poster presentations! This year, winners of the contest will have their posters displayed in the lobby of the Louis Goldstein Treasury Building in Annapolis for all of April! Winners, teachers, and families will also be celebrated at a March 27 reception at the Treasury Building.

**Teachers:** inspire your student artists to share their financial knowledge - and have fun doing it! **Registration is [now open](#).** The deadline for entries is March 1.

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### **Virtual Conference Recap: Using Economics and Finance to Teach Social Studies**

Last Saturday, January 11, educators from nine Maryland counties participated in an engaging day of explorative learning at the *Teaching the 6-7th Grade Social Studies Frameworks* virtual conference.

Co-sponsored by MCEE, the [Maryland Council of Social Studies](#), and the [Geographic Alliance](#), the program featured presentations from experts and hands-on activities that mimicked classroom experiences - all to support middle school social studies educators in teaching Maryland's new social studies frameworks.

Presenters included Todd Kenreich, Professor of Middle School Education at Towson University and the Director of the Maryland Geographic Alliance; Wicomico County teachers Julia Berg and Sarah Mason; and George Toepfer, MCEE's Director of Teacher Education. The sessions prepared educators to boost students' geographic thinking, combat erasure through archaeological stewardship, and use data and literature to learn economics.

Educators on hand acted as both teacher and student, experiencing first-hand what learning feels like through various teaching techniques. For example, attendees acted as advisors to the President of a country and created a report on how well that country is meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals - which relate to economic growth, poverty, education

and more. This activity strengthens students' research skills and builds knowledge of the global economy, scarcity, trade, and employment.

Thanks to all the educators who joined us. Interested in bringing economic and personal finance-focused professional development - from this program or otherwise - to your school? Reach out today!

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### **Fall Winners Announced!**



This past fall, thousands of Maryland students learned foundations of investing and the keys to lifelong wealth creation in the MCEE Stock Market Game, where teams of students research, invest and strategically manage a \$100,000 virtual stock portfolio. Teams that increase the value of their portfolio by the largest margin win!

There are two more opportunities to share this transformative and fun activity with your students this school year. The 10-week spring session begins on February 3rd. [Learn more here](#), and see below for events on how to guide students through this powerful program.

Congratulations to the 12 winning teams in the 2024 Fall Stock Market Game!

#### **State Champions:**

- Elementary: Ring Factory Elementary School, Harford County; Portfolio: 21% growth. Sponsor: APGFCU
- Middle: Easton Middle School, Talbot County; Portfolio: 27% growth. Sponsor: FINRA Investor Education Foundation
- High: Northwest High School, Montgomery County; Portfolio: 82% growth. Sponsor: ESFCU

#### **Regional Champions:**

##### *North Region:*

- Elementary: Ring Factory Elementary School, Harford County; Portfolio: 16% growth. Sponsor: APGFCU

- Middle: Nottingham Middle School, Baltimore County; Portfolio: 26% growth. Sponsor: FFFCU
- High: Southern Garrett High School; Garrett County; Portfolio: 46% growth. Sponsor: ESFCU

*Central Region:*

- Elementary: Deep Run Elementary School, Howard County; Portfolio: 15% growth. Sponsor: FINRA Investor Education Foundation
- Middle: Easton Middle School, Talbot County; Portfolio: 22% growth. Sponsor: FINRA Investor Education Foundation
- High: Northwest High School, Montgomery County; Portfolio: 55% growth. Sponsor: ESFCU

*South Region:*

- Elementary: Pemberton Elementary School, Wicomico County; Portfolio: 19% growth. Sponsor: FINRA Investor Education Foundation
- Middle: Wicomico Middle School, Wicomico County; Portfolio: 15% growth. Sponsor: FINRA Investor Education Foundation
- High: Chesapeake Science Point High School, private; Portfolio: 60% growth.

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**Upcoming Programs and Events**



[Find our full calendar here](#)

- **January 21 and February 5: Personal Finance Challenge Intro Webinar:** Teachers, interested in guiding your students through the [Personal Finance Challenge](#) this spring? Learn the ropes and processes to make the most of this powerful program. [1/21 Registration](#). [2/5 Registration](#).

- **January 22 and 28: Getting Started with the Stock Market Game:** Unsure of how to use the Stock Market Game in your classroom? Worried you don't know enough about investing to teach this activity? We're here to help! Learn more and access to a step-by-step guide at this virtual information session. [1/22 Details](#). [1/28 Details](#).
- **January 22: Building Economic Literacy:** Partners, supporters, and educators -tune into this compelling panel discussion featuring economic education thought leaders exploring the status of economic literacy in the US, why it matters, and how we can make progress through education. [Register](#).
- **February 5: Economics Challenge Intro Webinar:** Learn how easy it is to give your students the opportunity to compete against other Maryland high schools in the only statewide competition event that tests knowledge and application of economics concepts and theory. There's plenty of time to get students involved before the competition begins in March! [Register here](#).

*Educators! If you have an engaging topic you'd like to share or learn more about in the future, let us know.*

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

Super Bowl Sunday is right around the corner, and the big game has big financial and stock market implications that serve as a perfect real-world classroom learning experience.

For January's Educator Resource of the Month, check out the *Stock Prices and the Super Bowl* lesson. This interactive set of activities challenges students to examine the impact of Super Bowl advertising on business' stock market performance.

[Find the resource here](#)

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**Welcome new Board member Liz Frediani**

We're excited to announce the election of Liz Frediani to the MCEE Board of Directors.

Liz is Chief of Staff and Vice President of Operations at the Maryland Bankers Association (MBA), a longtime partner and supporter of MCEE. She brings MCEE a deep understanding of personal finance and economics, as well as expertise in strategic organizational efficiency. Liz has a passion for ensuring Maryland's young people are equipped to lead productive lives; she coordinates MBA's financial education programs and is on the board of the National Safe Space Network.

Said Julie Weaver, MCEE Executive Director, "Liz is a fantastic addition to our Board of Directors. Her experience and knowledge will help us expand MCEE's impact on hundreds of thousands of Maryland students and educators a year. We're excited for the positive impact she'll have on our organization moving forward."

Welcome, Liz!

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### **Support MCEE**

Giving to MCEE ensures that thousands of students across Maryland have the knowledge necessary to make sound financial decisions and achieve their goals throughout their lives. If you feel that financial education is important or you, your family, your students, or your community, please consider making a donation.

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