



## **March 2025 Newsletter**

Dear Friends:

As I write this, I'm filled with excited anticipation. The arrival of Spring is a precursor to the joyful and momentous moments to come in the next month.

April is Financial Education Month, the national recognition of the importance of financial education. The article about the commemoration in this newsletter includes links to some great resources and events that will help you take advantage of this opportunity to engage students.

April is also the month for some of MCEE's most important events. We'll be hosting the finals of both the Maryland Economic Challenge and the Maryland Personal Finance Challenge. In the Economics Challenge, high school teams from across the state will demonstrate what they've learned about economics over six months in a one-day competition. During the Personal Finance Challenge, student teams will impress with what they know about concepts such as earning income, spending, saving, investing, and credit. The winning teams in both competitions will represent Maryland at the national competitions.

We're looking forward to great success in these competitions—last year, our amazing Maryland students swept all of the national competitions. Students from The Severn School in Anne Arundel County were the national champions of the Personal Finance Challenge, and teams from Mt. Hebron High in Howard County were the national champions in both divisions of the Economics Challenge.

Our annual *Evening at the Fed* event on April 24 is always a wonderful event for educators. This year's presentation is especially important to anyone interested in our children's future; the topic will be disconnected youth and why many high school students don't see a clear path forward in education or work—and what we can do to change that. Information and a link for registration are below. We're grateful to the Baltimore branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond for this ongoing partnership.

Check out our April Calendar of Events [here](#) - there are more than 25 seminars and workshops in April about timely personal finance and economic topics, as well as popular MCEE programs.

Pay special attention to the April 26 in-person workshop on cryptocurrency - it's a timely topic that students (and all Americans!) are talking about.

I invite you to join MCEE in our celebration of spring, Financial Education Month, and the success of students throughout Maryland as they blossom and grow their financial and economic knowledge.

With gratitude,

Julie Weaver, MCEE Executive Director

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### Teachers Honored with Capabilities Award



In conjunction with the CASH Campaign of Maryland and the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Council on Economic Education honored three public school teachers this month at the 12th annual Maryland Financial Education and Capability Awards. The three winners, who creatively integrate financial education into their classroom curriculums, are

**Elementary School Teacher Award: Michelle Classon, Cromwell Valley Elementary Magnet School in Baltimore County**

Michelle hosts Financial Friday, where she engages her students and families in understanding the global economy and encourages them to research investment decisions.

**Middle School Teacher Award: Dr. Amanda Price, Northern Middle School in Calvert County**

Amanda integrates financial education into her science classes and after-school programs, including encouraging students to develop elevator pitches with financial components in a competition judged by parents and staff members.

## **High School Teacher Award: Jeeva Ashok, Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Prince George's County**

Jeeva's innovative teaching methods in personal finance help students relate financial concepts and skills to real-life scenarios.

The Maryland Financial Education and Capability Awards recognize the dedication and success of teachers, community champions, and organizations that promote the importance of financial education to the lives of Marylanders. For a list of all the 2025 winners, click [here](#).

In the photo (left to right): Jeeva Ashok; Amanda Price; Senator Ben Brooks ,Co-Chair of the Maryland Financial Education and Capability Commission; and Michelle Classon

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## **It's Almost April: Get Ready for Financial Education Month**



MCEE—and educators throughout Maryland—know that being financially aware and smart is important every day and every month. That's why we're always pleased to celebrate Financial Literacy Month in April. This national recognition highlights the importance of financial education and resources in giving students and families the knowledge they need to be smart consumers and thoughtful decision-makers.

Thanks to MCEE, there are abundant resources for educators and families. We're a great source of ideas and inspiration—from seminars on introducing students to financial independence, harnessing artificial intelligence (AI), monetary fiscal policy, and the economics of war to fun family activities and curriculum guides.

Click [here](#) for MCEE's calendar of April events.

Click [here](#) for special Financial Education Month resources.

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### **Poetry Contest Deadline: April 10**

Teachers: It's time to get your students to rhyme! The deadline for MCEE's annual Poetry Contest is fast approaching; submissions are due by Thursday, February 10.

Students and teachers at all grade levels are invited to write a verse about a financial topic, such as spending, saving, budgeting, compound interest, stocks, the stock market, or building wealth. All entries must also include a video of the poem being recited or performed. Entries can be a rhyming poem, song, rap, slam, Haiku, or free-verse poem—whatever creative expression captures the financial concept.

For full information about the Poetry Contest, including videos of last year's winning entries, click [here](#).

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### **Educator Summit Workshops Announced!**



16 engaging workshops. Over 18 impressive presenters. Best practices and networking with more than 120 fellow educators.

And all on one day: Wednesday, June 24, 2025.

This year's MCEE's Annual Maryland Financial and Economic Educators Summit will inspire teachers and administrators new tools, techniques, and topics for creating engaging personal finance and economics lessons. The Summit will be held at the Hotel at Arundel Preserve in Hanover.

The topics for workshops at the Summit were recently announced. A special track for elementary-age educators includes "How to Use Bluey to Teach Economics" and "Banking For Kids: How to Help Your Students Start Saving." Personal Finance sessions include presentations

on scams and frauds, gambling, introduction to the Federal Reserve and maximizing student participation in the Stock Market Game.

As part of MCEE's partnership with the Maryland Council on Social Studies, Summit sessions will also include "What Does Money Do to Your Mind: Behavioral Economics" and "Historical Investigation: Teaching About the Economics of Fair/Unfair Housing Practices: Redlining and Blockbusting."

Summit registration includes a \$50 stipend (all-day participation required), breakfast, and lunch.

[Click here for Summit details and to register](#)

The Maryland Financial and Economic Educator's Summit is also a wonderful way for companies and organizations to introduce themselves to teachers and administrators. Summit sponsorships at all levels are still available. Please contact Nuala Rooney at [nuala@econed.org](mailto:nuala@econed.org) for sponsorship information.

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### MCEE Leads Sessions for Social Studies Teachers



At the Maryland Council for Social Studies (MCSS) annual conference on March 15, MCEE educators led four sessions for educators to connect innovative and thought-provoking classroom instruction to students' understanding of their unique histories. The sessions include MCEE-curated lesson plans, student activities, and additional resources. MCEE's participation at Salisbury University was part of our partnership with MCSS.

Pictured are MCEE Executive Director Julie Weaver, Director of Teacher Education George Toepfer, and Educator Flo Falatko

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## Upcoming Programs and Events



**April 5: Personal Finance Bootcamp: Building Financial Foundations for the Future:** This CEE-hosted virtual and in-person webinar from 10 am to Noon will equip high school teachers with the tools to teach students how to make smart financial decisions early in life. Information and registration [here](#).

**April 10: Poetry Contest Deadline:** Read above for details or click [here](#).

**April 24: Evening at the Fed - Missing a Clear Path Forward: Decision Making After High School:** Join the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and MCEE for a professional development seminar on trends in disengaged youth. A Richmond Fed labor economist will explore why many high school students do not see a clear path forward in education or work, and what human capital strategies can be used to address the situation. This program from 6 to 7:30 pm is in-person, and includes dinner and networking with teachers. Attendees are eligible for professional development credits. Information and reservations [here](#).

**April 26: Demystifying Cryptocurrency: A Beginner's Workshop for Educators:** Curious about cryptocurrency but unsure where to start? This hands-on workshop hosted by MCEE from 9 am to Noon is designed specifically for educators to understand the basics of cryptocurrency and blockchain technology. Learn how to incorporate discussions with your students about digital currencies and their impact on society. Information and registration [here](#).

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## **Educator Spotlight: Steve Metzger Opens His Student's Eyes**

Each year, Steve Metzger's students are hungrier for financial knowledge than his previous students. He knows that they're seeing stories online about how much money people make, and they may be getting a distorted image of bad advice from those posts.

"I want to open their eyes to the world and to money," says the Arundel High School Business Education teacher. "Aside from English, personal finance is the second most important thing we can teach kids. Every one of them will have to know about personal finance when they graduate high school. While all their other subjects serve a purpose, what they know—or don't know—about finance can hurt them or their families."

Steve credits MCEE for helping him open their eyes.

[Read more about Steve and his students here.](#)

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## **Sponsor in Focus: Maryland Society of Accountants and Tax Professionals**



The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSTAP) provides educational programs, timely resources, and advocacy on important issues. And while these benefits are intended for finance professionals, it's also Maryland's educators and students that benefit from MSATP's mission—through MSATP's support of MCEE.

[Read more about MSATP and its partnership with MCEE here.](#)

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