



## *May 2025 Newsletter*

Dear Friends -

The waning days of the school year are filled with celebration—especially for MCEE.

Students, families, and educators are now enjoying graduations and end-of-year festivities. They feel proud of their students' success and the part they had in it: the hard work by students, the encouragement and support of parents and families, and the dedication and leadership from teachers and school administrators.

MCEE celebrated all those accomplishments two weeks ago at our annual Student Achievement Awards. While we honored the 160 students who excelled in MCEE's personal finance and economics student programs during the 2024-2025 school year (read more about our winners below), it was also a time to honor their communities.

Parents inspire and motivate their children, so seeing them walk across the stage to accept their awards was a moment of immense pride. For educators, MCEE's Awards is well-deserved recognition of their commitment to their students—not just in delivering compelling curricula but in providing the experiences and tools that learners need to learn, grow, plan, and succeed. We were delighted to share our celebration of students with the adults that have an impact on their lives.

MCEE's Achievement Awards event was also our opportunity to thank the sponsors, advocates, and friends who make our work possible. It is only through their support that we can fulfill our mission to make sure that every Maryland student has the knowledge and decision-making skills they will use to make informed, rational decisions as consumers, workers, citizens, savers, investors and participants in the global economy.

MCEE's work and impact doesn't end when the school year does. In June, more than 100 educators from around Maryland will gather at our annual Educator's Summit to get ideas and insight for how to incorporate economics and financial education into their classrooms and school activities. (It's not too late to sign up for the Summit! See details below.) Over the summer, MCEE's staff will be collaborating with school district leaders, department chairs, and teachers of all subjects to help them prepare to engage students in learning these critical life

skills during the coming school year. This includes offering teacher professional development sessions to enhance teacher knowledge, offering curriculum consulting, and curating classroom resources that make learning fun. The school year may be ending but our work for next year is just beginning!

As *you* prepare for the summer, I invite you to prepare to include MCEE! Teachers: How can we help you bring important financial and economic lessons into your classroom next year? What financial concepts do *you* need to know before you introduce them to your students? Business leaders: what services and resources can your company offer to benefit teachers and students? Friends of MCEE: What can you do to support our work and Maryland students? (We have an idea for that - see the end of this newsletter.) We're eager to help you answer these questions. Let me know where we fit in.

With appreciation,

Julie Weaver

Executive Director

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## Announcing the Personal Finance and Economics Competition Winners



Sunny Chang from Waverly Elementary School shares her winning InvestWrite essay



Winning team from Indian Creek School

More than 160 students from 42 elementary, middle, and high schools across Maryland were honored at MCEE's annual Student Achievement Awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 15, 2025 at Towson University. Awards were presented to winners of the [Stock Market Game](#), [Personal Finance Challenge](#), [Economics Challenge](#), [Poster Contest](#), [Poetry Contest](#), and the [Investwrite Essay Competition](#).

A record number of students participated in this year's MCEE programs; more than 20,000 students from 17 Maryland counties competed on teams or as individuals in statewide and regional competitions. Over 6,000 teams created and managed an virtual \$100,000 portfolio while learning about the stock market and economic systems in the Stock Market Game; one winning high school team grew their portfolio to \$233,675! More than 500 students created colorful images of financial and economic concepts in the "A Picture is Worth a Thousand

Words" Poster Contest. More than 60 students submitted original poems and songs about financial and economic concepts in the Financial Education Month Poetry Contest.

The winning teams and students represent 42 schools, including public, independent, and home schools.

[Click here to see a list of all the winners.](#)



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### Students Share their Knowledge in Rhyme and Song

A dollar earner, a dollar planned  
Two nickels gained, one is canned.  
Perilous spending, no hasty buys  
Only mindful steps and careful eyes.  
Each paycheck split with careful thought  
Some for needs and a little for a want.  
A little saved and a little spent  
The future built with ease and content.

- Ethan Dosey, 12th Grade, Arundel High School



Last May, MCEE introduced the Financial Education Month Poetry Contest in celebration of the annual observance promoting the importance of personal finance education. *This* year, more than 60 students—and some teachers!—at all grade levels rhymed and wrote, composed and created original poems and songs highlighting such concepts as saving and spending, budgeting and benefits, income and interest.

Some of the winners, including Ethan Dosey, read their compositions at the recent Student Achievement Awards ceremony. You can watch all the Poetry Contest winners read their original works [here](#).

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### **Time is Running Out! Only a Few Spaces Left for the Educators Summit**

In a few weeks, educators from across Maryland will gather for MCEE's annual Financial and Economic Educator Summit—a full day of workshops, speakers, and interactive programs with practical and proven ways to improve classroom instruction. You should be one of them!

Tuesday, June 24

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Hotel at Arundel Preserve

Hanover, MD

The 2025 Summit includes dedicated tracks for elementary and secondary educators. Session topics include best practices for incorporating personal finance and economics into classroom lessons, financial frauds and scams, global citizenship, and online gaming and gambling. Workshops on behavioral economics and the economics of housing practices will be offered through MCEE's partnership with the Maryland Council on Social Studies.

Registration includes a \$50 stipend (all-day participation required), breakfast, and lunch—and a fantastic opportunity to share ideas with and learn from fellow educators.

[Click here for Summit details and registration](#)

The title sponsor for this year's Summit is SECU. Thank you SECU for your support!

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### **Welcome to our New Program Director**



MCEE is pleased to welcome educational leader Richard (Rick) Jester as our new Director of Programs. Rick works with educators around the state to develop innovative ways to incorporate personal finance and economics education into their classrooms. He also identifies opportunities for and creates new MCEE programs supporting educators and students.

Rick has over 30 years of classroom and administrative experience, most recently as principal at schools in Harford and Baltimore Counties over the past two decades. He began his career as a Social Studies teacher.

Rick understands the importance of MCEE's work. "Equipping students with personal finance and economic knowledge is essential to preparing them for stability and success in life," he says. "When young people understand how money, markets, and economic systems work, they are empowered to make informed decisions that shape their futures—from budgeting and saving to understanding local and global issues. This kind of education isn't just important, it's foundational."

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## Resource of the Month



Want to keep students engaged over the summer? Want to keep reminding them that learning about and understanding personal finance is *always* important, even when school's out? Then invite your students to read this summer!

Our colleagues at the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education have put together a Summer Book List of great titles with personal finance and economic themes. There are separate lists for Pre-K-2 students, 3rd-5th grade, middle school, and high school.

Check out all the lists [here](#).

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### YOU Make Financial Education Possible

As an independent, nonprofit organization, MCEE can only fulfill its mission and deliver its important work through the support of our friends and advocates. If YOU believe that personal finance and economic education are important... and if YOU are committed to making sure that

Maryland children get that education... then we invite you to make a donation to the Maryland Council on Economic Education.

[Click here to make your contribution and show your support.](#)



## OUR IMPACT

2023-2024

**118**  
Workshops  
Delivered

**2,250**  
Teachers  
Served

**8,916**  
Teachers Served  
in the Last 5 Years

**206,796**  
Students Reached

**ADDS UP!**