Northwest Rankin High & Clinton High Win 2012 Economics Challenge

Northwest Rankin High School captured first place in the Adam Smith division and Clinton High School captured first place in the David Ricardo division at the 2012 Mississippi Economics Challenge. Twenty teams qualified to compete for the State Championship title in the competition held at Millsaps College in Jackson on March 29. Teams competed in two separate divisions: David Ricardo for one-semester Economics students and Adam Smith for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate students.

Northwest Rankin High faced off with students from another Northwest Rankin team and Clinton High faced off with students from Starkville High during a quiz bowl event to determine the winners. The winning students each won $1,000 scholarships for the college of their choice. The teams went on to compete in a regional/national competition in April for the opportunity to win cash prizes.

“A superb economics education is critical for our students because it prepares them to be successful and productive stewards of our global, national, and state economies. The MS Economics Challenge allowed my students to showcase their knowledge and network with adults and peers in MS who share a common interest in economics education.

The Starkville High Yellow jackets came into the Challenge as novices, but we left confident in our ability to be competitive with other schools in MS and with an excitement about economics that will drive our preparation for next year. Also, the Mississippi Economics Challenge validates the emphasis our local district places on economics education."

Ginger Tedder (coach of 2nd place team)
Master Teacher of Economics
Starkville High

The Adam Smith winners from Northwest Rankin High are shown above: Johnny Ray, President, BankPlus; Rush Sweeney, Master Teacher of Economics, NWRHS; Taylor Bolland (2012 Economics Student of the year), Josh Bedi, Sarah Price, and Ronald Lacour; Mark Blackwell, SVP, Area Private Wealth Executive, Regions Bank and MCEE Chair-elect.

The David Ricardo state winners from Clinton High are shown above: Johnny Ray, President, BankPlus; K. V. Singh, Matthew Tucker, and Adam Jorgeson; Charlotte Walker, Master Teacher of Economics, CHS; Mark Blackwell, Regions Bank and MCEE Chair-elect.

Rush Sweeney, Master Teacher of Economics, Northwest Rankin High and coach of the first place team in the Adam Smith division stated, “This event gives students a chance to show what they learned throughout the year and Economics helps you understand the world we live in while becoming a more astute participant in the economy.”

The MS Economics Challenge is sponsored by BankPlus, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of MS, the Council for Economic Education, State Farm Insurance & Millsaps College.
Mississippi Teacher Testifies on Capital Hill

Sharra Jones, a Master Teacher of Economics and a third grade teacher at Oak Park Elementary School in Laurel, was among the witnesses invited to testify at a “Financial Literacy: Empowering Americans to Prevent the Next Financial Crisis” hearing called by the Oversight of Government Management Subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

“I am pleased that Sharra Jones has given the Senate testimony on the positive effects that financial literacy is having on students in Mississippi. Our state and the nation has a whole would benefit from a citizenry that understands their finances more clearly,” said U. S. Senator Thad Cochran, who is the lead Republican sponsor of the Financial and Economic Literacy Improvement Act (S.865) to authorize a federal grant program to support the teaching of financial literacy in K-12 and two and four-year colleges.

Jones provided testimony on the benefits of incorporating financial literacy instruction into classroom curriculums at multiple grade levels. The mathematics teacher also discussed the training provided by the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE), as well as the follow-up training provided to teachers.

“The information I received at the professional development workshops helped me to make a real world connection for my students. They were able to understand the importance of why financial literacy and mathematics were useful in real life,” Jones said. “Students scored 48 percent on a test of knowledge of personal financial issues before our training and scored 86 percent after completing the program.”

“Students who learn financial literacy at an early age are more likely to become productive students in high school and college. They will be more capable of going into a career that will be beneficial to them. When they get out in society they are more likely to make better financial decisions that will help decrease the nation’s debt situation,” Jones concluded.

Jones is pictured on the left with Evan Richards and Mike Martin (both from Maryland) at the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Hearing on Financial Literacy: Empowering Americans to Prevent the Next Financial Crisis.

Belzoni Teacher Wins Economics Teacher of the Year

Eskkillekka Gibson, a sixth grade Mathematics teacher from O. M. McNair Upper Elementary School in Humphreys County, has been awarded the 2011 U.S. Senator Thad Cochran Mississippi Economic Teacher of the Year Award. Her award is based on a financial literacy unit she taught titled, “If It Doesn’t Make Money, It Doesn’t Make Sense”

Her students showed over a 100% increase from their average pre-test score of 39 to their average post-test score of 87. The goal for her project was to educate students on decision making, choices and goals that would impact their future.
O. M. McNair Upper Elementary & St. Vincent De Paul Catholic School Win 2012 Financial Literacy Challenge

O. M. McNair Upper Elementary in Humphreys County captured first place in the College Knowledge division and St. Vincent De Paul Catholic School captured first place in the MCEE division of the Mississippi Financial Literacy Challenge on April 12 at Millsaps College in Jackson. They emerged from a field of 20 middle school teams to claim the state championship.

Keira King from O. M. McNair Upper Elementary was named the 2012 Personal Finance Student of the Year, an honor given to the student with the highest individual scores. Students competed on the topics of Spending & Credit, Saving & Investing, Income & Money Management, and a Quiz Bowl.

This was the second annual in-person Financial Literacy Challenge offered by the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) and the first year where students from around the state were eligible to participate. The College Knowledge division of this event was made possible by funding from The College Knowledge Project which is a higher education initiative of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant program. The MCEE division was funded by Security Ballew, the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, and Wells Fargo with support from BancorpSouth.

Each member of the first place teams received a $400 scholarship, with an additional $500 going to the 2012 Personal Finance Student of the Year. Students on the 2nd place teams from O. M. McNair and Germantown Middle School each received $200 scholarships. This scholarship money will be placed in a MACS account. MACS is the state-sponsored education savings program that specifically helps Mississippi families save for future college expenses.

Coaching the winning team and student of the year was middle school teacher, Eskkelilka Gibson. When asked for her thoughts on the Financial Literacy Challenge she stated, “The American Dream begins with understanding how to manage your finances. I have truly enjoyed teaching my students about preparing for college, as well as, strategies needed to meet future financial goals.”

NEW MCEE BOARD MEMBERS NAMED

Two new education leaders and business persons now serve on the Board of Directors making the Mississippi Council even stronger: Dr. Brent Hales, Interim Chair and Professor, Economic Workforce and Development, University of Southern Mississippi; and Chris Purvis, District Manager, Central Mississippi, Wells Fargo.

“Participating in the Financial Literacy Challenge was a very rewarding experience for my students. Throughout the year, I strive to incorporate real-life learning experiences in my classroom. The programs sponsored by MCEE help me to design lessons to reach this goal. Students enjoy the hands-on activities and the competitions offer an extra incentive that encourage my students to remain focused and on task.”

Deborah Morali (coach of 2nd place team)  
Master Teacher of Economics  
Germantown Middle School (Ghuckstadt)
PROGRESS THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS—FY2011
Highlights of Mississippi Council on Economic Education Support

Teachers are achieving remarkable measurable results in economic, financial and entrepreneurial education as a result of programming from the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. Those listed below have made a real commitment to the cause of improving economic & financial literacy in the state of Mississippi in the past year. Every dollar raised, 90 cents goes to direct programming of teachers and students. In Mississippi through teachers who have the tools their students need to succeed.

Our most recent audit indicates that for every dollar raised, 90 cents goes to direct programming of teachers and students. Economic and financial literacy is possible in Mississippi through teachers who have the tools their students need to succeed.

$90,000 and Above
Institutions of Higher Learning
Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation
Mississippi Department of Education

$40,000 - $89,999
Council for Economic Education*
Mississippi State University*

$20,000 - $39,999
Foundation for the Mid South, Inc.
Investor Protection Trust
Merrill Lynch*

$15,000 - $19,999

$10,000 - $14,999
BankPlus*
Entergy*
Security Ballew*
State Farm Insurance Company*

$5,000 - $9,999
AT&T*
BancorpSouth*
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MS*
Community Foundation of Greater Jackson
C Spire Wireless
Mississippi Power Company*
Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges *
Wealth Management Consultants*
Wells Fargo Foundation *

$2,500 - $4,999
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Gannett Foundation
Home, LLP*
James A. Lowe, III
Mississippi College Center for Economic Education and Development
Mississippi Geographic Alliance

$1,000 - $2,499
Barksdale Management Corporation*
Community Bank of Mississippi*
First Commercial Bank*
Mississippi Business Journal*
Metropolitan Bank*
Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security*
New Perspectives *

North Mississippi Health Services
Parkway Properties, Inc.
Peoples Bank of Mendenhall*
Rotary International
SIFMA Southern/South Central District
St. Dominic Health Services*
Taggart, Rimes & Usry, PLLC*
University of Mississippi*
University of Mississippi Medical Center*
Waggoner Engineering, Inc.*
Wise Carter Child & Caraway*

$500 - $999
HOPE Community Credit Union
S.A. McInnis

Up to $499
Ada Lauderdale
Amanda Parish
Andi Epes
B&B Concrete Company, Inc.*
Barry Planch
Bill Moak
BKD, LLP*
Carole Lynn Meadows
Cathy Mason
Charlie Williams
Charlotte Mitchell
Cindy Elder
Denise Good
Dixie Electric Power Association*
Dr. Billy Moore
Dr. Marcelo Eduardo
Dr. Susan P. Lee
Dr. Ted Alexander
E.J. Roberts
Elvis Gates
First State Bank*
Fred Walker
Gloria Johnson
Gloria Kellum
Hilda J. McGee
Hinds Co. Economic Dev. District*
Illinois Council on Economic Education
IMPACT MS Education Consulting*
Indiana Chamber of Commerce*
Jackson Medical Mall Foundation*
Jackson State University*
Jane Klinck
J.B. Darnell
Jim Richmond
Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc.*
John Burnett
John Dorsa
Kay Venable
Kelly Riley
Madison County School District*
Mark Blackwell
Marli Stark
Mississippi Ctr for Education Innovation*
Mississippi College*
Mike McKennon
Mike Meyers
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
Oxford Investment Advisors, LLC*
Oxford School District*
Pamela P. Smith, Ph.D.*
P.J. Williamson
Pope Bell
Ricky Price
Rob Rice
Robin Covington
Ron Applewhite
Rosenthal Real Estate Management*
Sean Suggs
Specialty Contractors & Associates, Inc.
Stacy Clark
Steve Hill
TEC*
Teri Eaton
Thomas Solomon
William Flatt
William B. Strong

In-Kind
Breazeale, Saunders & O’Neil, Ltd.
DSU Center on Economic Education
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, New Orleans Branch
Hederman Brothers Printers
Millsaps College Center for Economic Education
Mississippi College Center on Economic Education and Development
Mississippi Business Journal
Mississippi Department of Education
Mississippi Economic Council
Mississippi Professional Educators
MSU Center for Economic Education & Financial Literacy
Security Ballew, Inc.
The Clarion Ledger
The Godwin Group
The Jackson Marriott
USM Center for Economic & Entrepreneurship Education

*Denotes Contributor to the Forum on American Enterprise honoring U.S. Senator Thad Cochran
Nearly 650 students from 23 Mississippi middle and high schools participated in the International Economic Summit program at Mississippi College on November 31 and at Delta State University on December 1. The purpose of the Summit program is to provide students with a practical, hands on learning experience in globalization, international relations and economics. Participating students were pre and post tested on their knowledge of International Economics. Average test scores increased from pre to post test by 18%. This indicates that a significant amount of learning takes place through participation in the Summit.

Development of mathematics, reading, writing, speaking, listening, language, media and technology skills are all part of the Summit. Through required activities, Mathematics and English Language Arts Common Core Standards are met.

The global economic simulation was sponsored by State Farm Insurance, the College Knowledge Project, and the MS Geographic Alliance.

**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SUMMIT**

Summit Champs — “United Kingdom” - Clinton High
Teacher: Charlotte Walker, Master Teacher of Economics

Top High Income Country — “South Korea” - Magnolia Heights School
Teacher: Barry Coleman, Master Teacher of Economics

Top Middle Income Country — “Turkey”
Top Low Income Country — “Pakistan”
Madison Central High School
Teacher: Brett Mayfield, Master Teacher of Economics

**DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY SUMMIT**

Summit Champs—“Jamaica” - Itawamba Agricultural High
Teacher: Sandy Prestage, Master Teacher of Economics

Top High Income Country — “Australia” - Columbus Middle School
Teacher: Sylvia Collins

Top Middle Income Country — “Iran”-Itawamba Agricultural High
Teacher: Sandy Prestage, Master Teacher of Economics

Top Low Income Country (tie) — “Afghanistan” - Itawamba Ag High
Teacher: Sandy Prestage, Master Teacher of Economics
And
“Ukraine” - Tremont High—Teacher: Kristin Holley, Master Teacher of Economics
WINNERS OF ONLINE FINANCIAL LITERACY COMPETITION

Teams from across the state competed in an online competition to test their skills of financial literacy. The fourth annual Online Financial Literacy Challenge was held at the end of each nine weeks with 540 teams of 3-4 students in each team. Demonstrated financial literacy of students is a goal of the MS Council on Economic Education. The competition is sponsored by BankPlus and BlueCross/Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Winners in each of the six regions were selected based on the team’s scores and high school winners are shown in the box below. A team from Pearl/Rankin Career & Technical Center (pictured above) took top honors and was named the State Champion. They competed in the National Financial Literacy Challenge in Kansas City in May. Their teacher is Tammie Brewer, Master Teacher of Economics.

High School first place winners each received $100 at the Winners’ Reception on May 15th at MS College.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Claire Rogers</td>
<td>Cleveland High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bob Wingo</td>
<td>North Pontotoc High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tammie Brewer</td>
<td>Pearl/Rankin Career &amp; Tech Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Melissa Rives</td>
<td>Kosciusko/Attala Vocational Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Melenese Sibley</td>
<td>Natchez High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Stacey Pierce</td>
<td>Perry County Vo-Tech</td>
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MCEE Board Members and Master Teachers of Economics (MTE) provided information on financial readiness education to legislators and the public at the “2012 MCEE Day at the Capitol”. Pictured from left to right: Kelly Riley, Dr. Edward Jordan, Christy Walker (MTE), Tommie Gillispie (MTE), Cory Wilson and Dr. Ricki Garrett.

GIVING OUR CHILDREN THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED!