From the Director

It is always encouraging to read the evaluations of our Indiana Council and University Center (http://www.econed-in.org/centers.asp) programs and to see the gratitude and excitement of the teacher participants. Here are some recent comments:

“These types of experiences help me to continue to be excited about teaching.”

“As I often say in my Hoosier Economist comments, your financial support makes these programs possible. Research has shown that these programs have a direct impact in helping our K-12 students gain a better understanding of economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship.

I also want to recognize the excellent financial support that Purdue University provides ICEE towards its mission of economic and financial literacy. A special thanks goes to the Purdue College of Agriculture, the Department of Agricultural Economics, and the Krannert School of Management (which helps support the Purdue Center for Economic Education). Purdue’s support, which fits its extension mission as a land grant university, has helped ICEE be one of the national leaders in economic education.

MainSource Bank Rewards ICEE for Field Goals and Free Throws

What do field goals, three point shots, and economic education have in common? Quite a bit - if you follow Indiana University or Purdue University football and basketball. MainSource Bank contributed $25 to ICEE for each field goal and $25 for each three point shot made in all Indiana University and Purdue University games this past school year. Andy (Bubba) Day, Harlan Day’s son, helped ICEE by hitting two 3’s for Purdue this past basketball season!

According to Daryl Tressler, Chief Banking Officer of MainSource Financial Group and ICEE Executive Committee member, these 33 field goals and 424 three point shots resulted in a contribution of $11,425 to ICEE. “MainSource Bank is pleased to support ICEE in order to enhance their abilities to keep economic education at the forefront of our educational system.”

ICEE thanks MainSource for this imaginative way to provide support for economic and financial education! If you’d like more information about how to support the ICEE, please contact Beverly Brewer at brewerb@mintel.net call 765-404-3835.
2011 Econ Challenge Results

Economics is anything but dismal at ICEE’s Economics Challenge! This year’s Challenge took place on April 12 in Mishawaka, Indianapolis, and New Albany. The 127 students from 14 Indiana high schools who competed in the annual competition were energetic and enthusiastic as they were tested on their knowledge of economics.

The students competed in two divisions - Adam Smith (advanced) and David Ricardo (regular). Students spent the morning taking written tests, with the two highest scoring teams in each division competing in an afternoon “Quiz Bowl” to determine the winner. During lunch, before the final Quiz Bowl, there was a lighthearted “practice” quiz bowl for most of the students – with winners receiving $5 Subway Sandwich gift cards. As always, win or lose, it was a very worthwhile experience for all the students.

David Ricardo Division

Indianapolis
1st Place Regional & STATE Winner: Carmel HS (Michelle Foutz, Teacher)
2nd Place: Fishers HS (Dave Turner, Teacher)

Mishawaka
1st Place: South Bend John Adams HS (Paul Kingston, Teacher)
2nd Place: Westville HS (Todd DeVries, Teacher)

New Albany
1st Place: Madison Consolidated HS (Meridith Murray, Teacher)
2nd Place: Columbus North HS (Steve Perry, Teacher)

Adam Smith Division

Indianapolis
1st Place: Fishers HS (Dave Turner, Teacher)
2nd Place: Carmel HS (Michelle Foutz, Teacher)

Mishawaka
1st Place Regional and STATE Winner: Penn HS, Mishawaka (Brian Liddell, Teacher)
2nd Place: St. Joseph’s HS, South Bend (Julia Chismar, Teacher)

New Albany
1st Place: Madison HS (Denise Corbin, Teacher)
2nd Place: Columbus East HS (Tony Pottorff, Teacher)
2011 Summer Graduate Credit Workshops

One of the main reasons the Indiana Council for Economic Education has been so effective in teacher training, as measured in contact hours by the Council for Economic Education in New York, is ICEE’s offering of graduate-credit workshops on a variety of economic topics. Teachers learn economic content and teaching strategies, creating teaching units to use the following school year. ICEE and our University Centers for Economic Education will host the following graduate-credit training workshops this summer. See http://www.econed-in.org/sworkshops.asp for more details.

Key Teachers in Economics
Economics 519
Basic Economics for K-8 Teachers
Conflicts in Public Land Usage: The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
Energy, Economics, and the Environment
International Economics
Economics for Educators
Workshop in Personal Finance Economics
Energy, Economics, and the Environment
Economics for Educators
Energy, Economics, and the Environment

2011 Calendar Contest Winners
This year, 120 students submitted entries for the Economic Concept Calendar Contest. We are pleased to congratulate and recognize the following 12.

Jackie H. Sycamore School, Indianapolis, Teacher: Sheila Hyatt
Maggie M. St. Joseph Grade School, South Bend, Teacher: Joan Kraska
Laila G. Happy Hollow Elementary, West Lafayette, Teacher: Sheri Johnson
Teng L. Maple Crest Middle School, Kokomo, Teacher: Vicki Boles
Katie M. St. Simon the Apostle School, Indianapolis, Teacher: Rena Becher
Anne M. Royerton Elementary, Muncie, Teacher: Maryann Foltz
Ariel W. Zionsville West Middle School, Zionsville, Teacher: Stacey Behrens
Michael I. Zionsville West Middle School, Zionsville, Teacher: Stacey Behrens
Chloe G. Zionsville West Middle School, Zionsville, Teacher: Stacey Behrens
Andrew K. Happy Hollow Elementary, West Lafayette, Teacher: Sheri Johnson
Vinh L. Maple Crest Middle School, Kokomo, Teacher: Vicki Boles
Thomas P. St. Joseph Grade School, South Bend, Teacher: Joan Kraska

This year, we invite everyone to help select the poster that will go on the cover of our 2012/13 Calendar. Voting is open through June 1, 2011. You can view the winning entries on our website at: www.econed-in.org/calwinners.asp, and vote for your favorite poster!
Classroom Business Teacher Wins Golden Apple Award

Please join the Indiana Council for Economic Education in congratulating Mrs. Gina Boyd, 4th and 5th grade teacher at Mayflower Mill Elementary School in Lafayette. Mrs. Boyd recently won the prestigious Golden Apple Award presented by the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. The Golden Apple Awards recognize five Tippecanoe County educators who have had a positive impact on children’s lives. Teachers are nominated for the award by students, parents, and peers.

Mrs. Boyd credits her achievements and love of teaching to various people in her life. “I'm on a journey to be the best educator that God can help me to be. And I'm not here on this journey, accepting this honor alone......And while I am grateful to all the people I mentioned who have accompanied me on my journey, it's to God that I'm the most grateful.”

Mrs. Boyd has participated and presented in many of ICEE’s workshops including the Classroom Business Enterprise program.

Ms. Boyd’s class received an honorary membership from the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for their Classroom Business Enterprise program!

Congratulations Mrs. Boyd!

Herschel II Has Been Filmed

Have you ever heard of a puppet dog starting his own Doggie Treat business? Well, you have now! ICEE Executive Director Harlan Day and puppeteer Lynn Grebus teamed up again to film five new Herschel’s World of Economic lessons before a live student audience in the Purdue University TV studio. In the programs, Dr. Day interacts with Herschel and teaches him all about economics, personal finance, and business. Here are the titles of the five lessons:

Herschel Learns to Save and Invest
Herschel Starts His Own Business
Herschel Faces Competition
Herschel Produces More
Herschel Makes a Tough Decision

In these five programs, students are introduced to many concepts, including saving, investing, market price, costs of production, Law of Demand, supply, competition, productivity, specialization, and interdependence.

The new Herschel II DVD should be available by August 1. This project was funded by a grant from Teachers Credit Union.

A student practices with a new 12 inch Herschel puppet that will be available soon to help teach the Herschel curriculum.
ICEE will continue to promote economics and entrepreneurship by expanding the Classroom Business Enterprise (CBE) program into northern Indiana. The IU South Bend Center and ICEE will co-host an all day training program for K-8 teachers on Friday, August 5 in South Bend. Teachers will receive training, professional development points, the Economics and Entrepreneurship curriculum, KidsEcon Posters or the new Herschel II DVD, and $50 to spend when they start their classroom businesses. There is still room for more participants, but space is limited, so register now! For registration information, go to www.econed-in.org/workshop_details.asp?ID=479.

Promoted initially in central Indiana through a Workforce Innovation Grant, CBE has enabled hundreds of Hoosier students to start their own classroom businesses – and learn the economics concepts in the state standards at the same time.

ICEE to Benefit from ICHDA Golf Tournament

Good news! The Indiana Council will again be the beneficiary of the annual Golf Outing of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA). This golf event is part of the Indiana Affordable Housing Conference, held each summer at the beautiful Heartland Crossing Golf course just south of Indianapolis. IHCDA’s Executive Director, Sherry Seiwert, is very supportive of ICEE’s mission. “We are very pleased to designate ICEE as the beneficiary of our annual golf outing. ICEE’s mission of educating students to make sound financial decisions is now more important than ever in light of the issues that have occurred in the housing market.”

Thanks, IHCDA, for your support of financial and economic education!
The Coach’s Dilemma and Comparative Advantage

By Harlan Day

Every youth coach knows the difficulty of coaching players of differing ability levels. On the day of the big game, the coach faces this basic dilemma: What line-up will produce the best overall team play and provide the best chance for victory? When tackling this problem, coaches, whether they realize it or not, intuitively use the important concept of comparative advantage, initially developed in the early 1800's by the great British economist, David Ricardo.

According to the Law of Comparative Advantage, "the total output of a group of individuals (including youth sports teams!), an entire economy, or a group of nations will be greatest when the output of each good is produced by the person (or firm) with the lowest opportunity cost." (Economics - Private and Public Choice, Gwartney and Stroup, p. 42)

Now what does this have to do with coaching kids? Quite a lot, actually. As every coach and parent knows, a team is composed of players with a variety of skills, and invariably, one or several highly skilled players are better at every position than the other players. The trick for putting the best team on the field is deciding the best position for these skilled players. For example, suppose John is a natural athlete who is absolutely better than all the other players on my soccer team - regardless of position. I can play him at forward, where he has the best chance of scoring, or at a defender position, where he is best at keeping the other team from scoring. So where do I put John?

The key to solving this dilemma is the skill level of his teammate, Joe, who is a good scorer from the forward position, but only average at defense. Applying the concept of comparative advantage makes my decision obvious - I place John in defense and Joe at forward. John has an absolute advantage over Joe in both scoring and defense, but John's comparative advantage is in defense. In other words, I give up defense with John as a forward and I give up offense with him at defender, but I give up less (i.e. less opportunity cost) when he plays defense.

In reality, it is more complicated for the coach because he must do the same mental calculations when placing the other nine players, all of varying skill levels, on the soccer field. All eleven players will play, but the coach must determine the best positions to maximize the team's effectiveness.

Likewise, comparative advantage applies to trade among nations. All nations will produce, just as all eleven players will play in the soccer game. The key to maximizing a nation's standard of living (i.e. "putting the best team on the field") is allowing individuals and firms to produce and freely trade those goods and services in which they have a comparative advantage. In this way, productive resources are used most efficiently and all nations benefit, even those which are economically less efficient in an absolute sense.

So the next time you coach your son's or daughter's team, remember to apply the concept of comparative advantage. Who knows, it may win you the championship!

Congratulations Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend

Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend has done it again! On May 17, 2011 they once again won the Midwest Fed Challenge Competition - defeating teams from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The competition was held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Unfortunately, there will be no National competition in Washington D.C. this year.

The winning team includes coaches Julia Chismar and Phil DePauw as well as students Joe Watkins, Ellen Bachmannhuff, Tim Bradley, Nick Wawrykow, Gracie Gallagher, and Austin O'Brien. Congratulations! To see more information go to http://www.chicagofed.org/webpages
Stock Market Game™ Winners

Fall and spring state winners of the Stock Market Game™ were recognized at the Garrison Conference Center, Fort Benjamin Harrison, on May 13, 2011. See the list of winners in the sidebar. Students were given certificates and plaques for their school to celebrate their achievement. Each team shared the strategies they used to select the assets for their portfolio. Teams used many sources of information, including business news and family suggestions. With their selection of Revlon, one team even tested the “lipstick theory,” which suggests that sales of lipstick increase in challenging economic times! (See May 1, 2008 New York Times article, Hard Times, But Your Lips Look Great). Overall, students were enthusiastic in describing the experience.

An independent study by Learning Point Associates found that students who participated in the Stock Market Game™ scored significantly higher on mathematics and financial literacy tests than their peers who did not participate. They also found that teachers who taught SMG reported that the program motivated them to better plan for their future and to engage in financial planning, research, and use of investment products and services. The Stock Market Game™ has been named the only program that successfully increased scores on the Jumpstart Coalition’s test of high school students’ financial literacy.

Thanks to the over 16,000 students and their teachers who participated and the sponsors who supported the program.

State Stock Market Game Winners

FALL 2010

Elementary Division
Lancaster Elementary School, Huntington
Advisor: Cindy Paul
Portfolio value: $113,210.83

Middle School Division
St. John Evangelist School, St. John
Advisor: Alexander Bodak, III
Portfolio value: $115,203.31

High School Division
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
Advisor: April Moss
Portfolio value: $135,442.05

SPRING 2011

Elementary Division
Carroll Elementary, Flora
Teacher: Michael Hyman
Portfolio value: $110,570.40

Middle School Division
Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School, Indianapolis
Teacher: Robin Swartz
Portfolio value: $106,833.22

High School Division
Manchester Jr/Sr High School, North Manchester
Teacher: Michael Schlitt
Portfolio value: $121,722.82

InvestWrite Essay Winners

FALL 2010
National and State Winners
James H. – 1st Place State
Grades 4-5
Scott Elementary, Evansville
Teacher: Natalie Bunnell

Elise H. – 1st Place State
Grades 6-8
Perry Heights Middle, Evansville
Teacher: Dawn Kracker

Orry W. – 2nd Place National
Grades 9-12
North Posey High School
Teacher: Matthew Wadsworth

SPRING 2011
National and State Winners
Abigail T. – 1st Place State
Grades 4-5
Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville
Teacher: Beth Huston

Aditi S. – 1st Place State
Grades 6-8
Central Middle School, Kokomo
Teacher: Mary Page

Bailey B. – 6th Place National
Grades 9-12
Castle High School, Newburgh
Teacher: Sharon Odom
Why Give?

by Bev Brewer

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

While I know the familiar saying goes – “nothing is sure but death and taxes” - I think it should also include “change.” Events are rapidly changing internationally, nationally, and locally, even on the home front here at ICEE. We have been attempting to adapt to the changes in the economy by downsizing staff and reallocating funding to continue to provide materials and resources to Indiana teachers. For example, we did not replace the office secretary upon her retirement; my position has gone from full time, to half time, to contract (in part to save money, and in part to accommodate my wishes); and we are now seeking a new Executive Director to take over in late November when Harlan retires from the position.

It is imperative that the new director feels that he or she has taken the reins of a vital, vibrant organization, and that the new director is poised to enter the next several years as a leader in the field of professional development for Hoosier educators. This can only be accomplished if you and others like you continue to support the ICEE financially. We are constantly seeking new funding sources, with the understanding that the changes economically and socially have impacted the funds available.

Won’t you take this opportunity to use the form below and send in your contribution to help us continue the quality programming that the ICEE has become known for? Help us welcome the new Executive Director with adequate funding to accomplish the mission and goals of the organization! Change is inevitable, but it can be good in the long run!

Yes, I believe in the work of the Indiana Council for Economic Education and want to support economic education in Indiana.

Amount Enclosed $_____________

Name ___________________________________________________

Company ________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________

City _____________________ State/Zip ______________________

Phone ___________________ Email _________________________

Please make checks payable to the Indiana Council for Economic Education or visit our website www.econed-in.org to give online. Gifts are tax deductible.