MainSource Bank Goes for “Three” to Support ICEE
by Bev Brewer

What do field goals, three point shots, and economic education have in common? If you have been following Indiana University or Purdue University football and/or basketball, you may already know this answer – MainSource Bank is contributing $50 to ICEE for each field goal and $50 for each three point shot made at all IU and Purdue University games during this school year!

According to Daryl Tressler, Chief Banking Officer of MainSource Financial Group, this has resulted in a contribution of $21,000 to ICEE (for 23 field goals and 397 three point shots). Mr. Tressler states, “We are pleased to be able to support an organization like the ICEE in this manner.” The check for $21,000 will be presented to ICEE at the May 29 Executive Committee/Directors Circle meeting.

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@purdue.edu or call 765-496-3780.
Why I Wouldn’t Want to Miss the Economics Challenge
by Todd DeVries, Westville High School Economics Teacher

Thomas Carlyle called economics the “dismal science,” but you would never think that if you watched the students at the Economics Challenge. My kids have a great time and I look forward to the Economics Challenge every year. The Indiana Council puts on a top-notch program complete with great food, T-shirts, and prizes that high school students really like. There is something special about spending the day with some of your brightest students while everybody else is back at school, especially as you approach the end of the school year.

My career was influenced by my economics teacher and his belief in academic competition. I did really well in a stock market game during my high school economics course, and that small success helped me choose a major that has opened many doors. My students have come back after graduation and told me that they have majored in economics simply because the Economics Challenge introduced them to a major they might be good at.

I teach at a small school and even the underclassmen hear about the eight seniors going to the Economics Challenge. It creates a bit of a buzz among the students and faculty. It’s the sort of positive buzz schools in America need more of, and I intend to continue to be part of it.

2009 Economics Challenge Results Are In

Economics is anything but dismal at ICEE’s Economics Challenge! This year’s Challenge took place on April 14 in Mishawaka, Indianapolis, and Sellersburg. The 200 students from 23 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. Students spent the morning taking written tests, with the two highest scoring teams in each division competing in an afternoon “Quiz Bowl.” After lunch, there was a lighthearted “practice” Quiz Bowl for most of the students – and their teachers! Each student received an Economics Challenge t-shirt. Win or lose, students gained much more appreciation for economics – and all had a great time.

**David Ricardo Division**

**Indianapolis**

1st Place: Carmel HS
2nd Place: Fishers HS

**Mishawaka**

1st Place: Goshen HS
2nd Place: Elkhart Memorial HS

**Sellersburg**

1st Place: Madison HS
2nd Place: Columbus East HS

**Adam Smith Division**

**Indianapolis**

1st Place: Carmel HS
2nd Place: Fishers HS

**Mishawaka**

1st Place: St. Joseph’s HS, South Bend
2nd Place: Penn HS

**Sellersburg**

1st Place: Columbus East HS
2nd Place: Madison HS

“I was extremely impressed with the organization and flow of events in Indianapolis. This is the first time that Ben Davis teams participated and it was a very positive experience for them. My students had a great experience and were opened up to the subject of Economics. I believe that the Econ Challenge sparks interest in students that may not otherwise be developed.” **Pete Riordan**, Economics Teacher
When I tell people this economic crisis has been good for business, I get a few puzzled looks. I explain that current events have always provided many teachable moments. For example, the volatile events in financial markets this past year have provided an excellent way to teach economics in a real world context. As I met with teachers throughout the year, several shared that they decided to integrate the SMG this year because it provided an opportunity to help explain some of the concepts students heard in the news. In fact, many teachers must have felt this way because 20,000 students participated in the Indiana Stock Market Game™ in 2008-09, a 75% increase over last year.

At the SMG State Awards program, I talked with a few parents of student winners. One mom shared, “Our kids loved this experience. They would be up late talking on the phone about their portfolios to the point where we had to tell them ‘enough’; it is time for bed!” Another proud father mentioned, “I absolutely enjoyed this. My daughter would come home from school and we would talk about SMG and other economic issues at the dinner table.”

On behalf of the 250 teachers from 200 schools across Indiana, I would like to thank all of the SMG sponsors, which are listed on the left.

Opportunity cost is something teachers consider every time they participate in a workshop or other professional development opportunity. While we would like to see teachers face to face, for many the opportunity cost to attend in person is just too high. ICEE has piloted several online “webinars.” A webinar is a workshop presented on the computer via a web browser. The programs offered during the 2008-09 school year included Introduction to the Stock Market Game™ (SMG), Introduction to the Classroom Mini-Economy, Investor Fraud Headlines, and Understanding Economics in US History.

Each of these one hour after-school sessions was presented using Adobe Connect, a web-based video conferencing program that allows participants to both see and hear the workshop instructor. The instructor uses a variety of tools to present and interact with the teachers. For example, in the SMG webinar, teachers were able to see in real time how to navigate and access features of the SMG website. Instructors can also engage participants by asking questions, then the participants can answer by typing into a “chat” box. One of the advantages of the program is that it can be accessed by simply typing the webinar URL into a web browser. Teachers can participate at any computer that is convenient for them.

Another advantage is that presenters don’t need to come to a central location. For the Investor Fraud webinar, Melanie Woods of the Indiana Secretary of State’s office presented from the conference room in Indianapolis, while the US History session featured Chris McGrew in Lafayette and Tony Pottorff in Columbus!

But even though technology is great for some aspects of instruction, some topics are not suited for distance education, and a one hour session limits the amount of content that can be covered. However, these sessions have been helpful in illustrating how this technology can leverage economic education efforts across the state.

We’ve recently expanded the ICEE network using technology. Become a fan of ICEE on Facebook. And don’t forget to check out the ICEE blog (http://econed-in.blogspot.com/), which shares resources, news, and events of interest to teachers. Also, look for the ICEE Ning community coming this fall!
One of the main reasons the Indiana Council for Economic Education has been #1 in teacher training, as measured in contact hours by the Council on 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. Please see [http://www.econed-in.org/sworkshops.asp](http://www.econed-in.org/sworkshops.asp) for more details.

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A New Set of KidsEcon Posters® Is Coming!

Thanks to funding from Teachers Credit Union, ICEE is developing a new set of eleven KidsEcon Posters that illustrate important financial literacy concepts. Lafayette artist, Vivian Morton, is creating the colorful pictures that will appear on the posters. The posters are targeted for middle school students, but ICEE expects that teachers at many grade levels will find the posters helpful. Below are samples of the poster artwork. To see all of the KidsEcon Posters curriculum materials, go to [www.kidseconposters.com](http://www.kidseconposters.com). The posters should be ready at the beginning of the school year.
Classroom Business Is Quite a Showcase!

On April 20, teams of students and their teachers came to Purdue and displayed the classroom businesses that they had developed and operated during the school year. It was a gala event, with everyone treated to a celebration luncheon after the display time. For most students it was their very first visit to Purdue, and the teachers said their students were just thrilled with the opportunity. Dr. Vic Lechtenberg, Vice Provost for Engagement at Purdue, spoke to the students and encouraged them to study hard and continue their entrepreneurial endeavors.

The Classroom Business Enterprise (CBE) program had a goal to create a “culture of entrepreneurship” in Indiana communities. Based on the creative businesses developed by the students, this is indeed happening. The CBE program was supported by the North Central Indiana WIRED Network, dedicated to bringing together partners and resources to accelerate economic growth and change. WIRED stands for Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development and targets 14 north central Indiana counties.

The quotes below are from teachers who participated in CBE and are a clear indication of just how much the program benefited their students.

Please go to the Indiana Council website (www.econed-in.org) to see a slideshow of most of the student displays.

“The kids benefited from the whole process and seeing everything that goes into setting up and running a business.”

“The kids loved the program!”

“I teach special education, so this project was pretty difficult and time consuming for me at first. However, once I figured out how to tailor it to my students and their ability, it was awesome!”

“It was an awesome opportunity for the kids to put learning into action!!”

I think my students got valuable information from all sections of the program. They loved it!
Newly Revised Financial Literacy Posters

ICEE’s colorful, newly revised Financial Literacy Posters have just been printed. The posters cover these critical topics:

- Basic Principles of Economics
- Steps to Save and Build Wealth
- Watch Out for Investment Scams
- Financial Planning Pyramid
- The Power of Compound Interest

The posters will be available to teachers in ICEE training programs, or may be purchased at ICEE’s KidsEcon Posters web site: http://www.kidseconposters.com

The Financial Literacy Posters were initially developed in partnership with the office of Todd Rokita, Indiana Secretary of State. “I created the program, Indiana Investment Watch, to educate people in our state about the various types of investment fraud and to promote financial literacy in Hoosiers of all ages. I believe it’s never too early to teach children about good money management habits. Today’s youth are tomorrow’s spenders, savers, and investors, and the Financial Literacy Posters emphasize concepts that are fundamental to their success later on in the ‘real world.’”

Dr. Tony Bennett Joins Directors Circle

The Indiana Council is very pleased that Indiana’s new Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Tony Bennett, has joined ICEE’s Directors Circle, a group of influential Hoosiers who support ICEE’s mission of K-12 economic, financial, and entrepreneurship education in schools. Dr. Bennett said, “I am honored to be a part of the Indiana Council for Economic Education’s Directors Circle.

The need for individual economic and financial literacy has never been clearer, and I look forward to working with other Hoosier leaders on ways to impart these skills to our students.”

The Directors Circle will meet on May 29 in Indianapolis for its annual meeting. Welcome aboard, Dr. Bennett!

Dr. Tony Bennett
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Indiana Department of Education
watched the video over and over, and it still moves me, not just because she sings well, but because the video portrays the fact that both the judges and audience misjudged her by her appearance. It shows the transformation in their faces as they put aside their preconceived notions and listen to the real person inside. (Google Susan Boyle if you haven’t seen this yet!)

Economic education is a lot like that – many teachers are reluctant to attend a workshop or in-service program, unsure of what is involved and having a preconceived notion that it will be dull, boring, and impossible to handle. Ask teachers who have attended one of our workshops, however, and you find that they are eager to learn more and take it back to their students. Economics can be fun as well as educational!

To encourage attendance, ICEE offers workshops at little or no charge, and in many cases, teachers receive graduate credits or professional development points for their efforts. Every year during budget time, we discuss whether or not we should begin charging for these professional development opportunities, and every year we come to the same conclusion: We want as many teachers as possible to take advantage of our training and resources. That’s why we need you to give – what these teachers take back to their students is invaluable as they learn real life lessons and applications that will shape their future. In today’s difficult economy, these lessons are more crucial than ever.

It is imperative that ICEE continue to function at a high level, so we are planning our summer graduate credit workshops and next fiscal year’s programming. **We need your help to keep these workshops and programs available for teachers and students.** If you have already given this year, won’t you consider another gift? And if you haven’t given yet, please use the form below to return your contribution today.

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

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Please make checks payable to the **Indiana Council for Economic Education** or visit our website [www.econed-in.org](http://www.econed-in.org) to give online. Gifts are tax deductible.