

**Center for Economic Education at Lynchburg College**  
**In-Services Ideas**

**Dragons Decide**

**Grades: K-3**

This workshop will feature the popular story/coloring book, *Dragons Decide*, in which a family of dragons experience real-life economics as they build a castle for their new home. This instructional unit has proven successful in teaching the economics SOL in grades K-3, including concepts such as jobs, needs, wants, scarcity, choices, decision-making, opportunity cost, saving, producers, goods, services, resources, specialization, and interdependence. Each teacher will receive a complete teacher's guide, classroom set of disposable coloring books, and box of crayons for each student.

**Do A Zoo**

**Grades: K-3**

Not enough time in the day to take your students on a field trip to the zoo? Then bring the zoo to your classroom! This collection of 12 lessons uses science, art, and language arts to plan and design a zoo for the classroom, with the option of opening for business. Students learn about animal classifications and animal habitats while actively learning about economic concepts including goods and services, resources, decision making, opportunity cost, work skills, and producers.

**Self-Directing, Self-Correcting Economics Games for K-3 SOL**

**Grades: K-3**

Need a way to reinforce the K-3 economics SOL with a few or all of your students without taking away from your classroom instruction time? Then these 11 self-directed, self-correcting games are for you and your students. Self-directing in the sense that they are designed to be used by students with little to no instruction from you. Self-correcting in the way that they include game pieces that only fit in one space on the game board, ensuring that students work their way to the correct answer. The games are visually entertaining and engaging which are necessary in improving students' retention of tough, abstract economic concepts. Perfect for learning centers or homework assignments. Once assembled, the games can be used year after year without further teacher preparation. Curriculum was created in the summer of 2007. Workshop participants will receive color copies of each game.

**Spotting Economics from Africa to Ice Cream**

**Grades: K-3**

Since most children's literature is about life, economic concepts are likely present in most storybooks used in classrooms everyday. This brand new collection of 20 lessons uses children's literature as a springboard for hands-on activities and simulations designed to help students understand how economics relates to everyday life. Students become "spotters" of economics, both in the stories they read and in their own daily lives.

**Personal Finance & Children's Literature**

**Grades: K-3**

This collection of 15 lessons actively engages elementary school students in learning economic concepts which are typically challenging for young people such as goods, spending, saving, opportunity cost, decision making, interdependence, specialization, etc. Economics comes alive through children's literature books as students participate in hands-on activities that coincide with storyline plots in such literature books as *Bunny Money*, *Doggone Lemonade Stand*, *I Shop with My Daddy*, and *How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?* All lessons are cross-referenced with the mathematics and economics SOLs for grades K-3.

## **Economics & Children's Literature**

### **Grades: K-3**

This collection of 15 lessons actively engages elementary school students in learning economic concepts which are typically challenging for young people such as scarcity, opportunity cost, resources, consumers, producers, trade, spending, saving, interdependence, specialization, etc. Economics comes alive through children's literature books as students participate in hands-on activities that coincide with storyline plots in such literature books as *Curious George Takes a Job*, *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, and *The Lorax*. All lessons are cross-referenced with the SOL's in K-3.

## **Teaching Economics Using Children's Literature**

### **Grades: K-3**

You're already using children's literature books to grab your students' attention. Why not make the most of your precious classroom time and sprinkle economics into the mix? This perennial bestseller is being offered for the first time in central Virginia and is updated with a wealth of teacher-friendly resources including:

- Introduction – shares a handy “how to” guide for integrating economics into your children's stories
- Student Glossary – includes unique “students language” definitions that boil each concept down to the bare basics
- Teaching Activities – gives you hands-on lessons and activities for popular children's books such as *The Three Little Pigs*, *Ant Cities*, *The Giving Tree*, *Lunch Money*, & *Beetles Lightly Toasted*.
- Econ Book Report – allows you to use a versatile template to assign book reports
- Generic Handouts – extends the core economic principles to any children's book
- Literature Connections – lists over 100 additional books used to teach economics and personal finance

Each lesson includes step-by-step procedures, key questions to test your students' knowledge, follow-up activities, and reproducible visuals, worksheets, and handouts. Storytelling...a perfect way to teach economic concepts!

## **Economics Thru the Year**

### **Grades: K-3**

Superb graphics are contained in this collection of 14 lessons that use children's literature to teach the K-3 economic concepts required by the SOL. Divided into the four seasons, these lessons provide differentiation strategies; incorporate cross-grade level vocabulary; integrate reading and math skills with economics; and, utilize a variety of activity formats (picture sorting, game boards, classifying and categorizing, graphs, etc.). Literature books referenced include *Apple Picking Time*, *Oh What a Thanksgiving*, and *Dollars and Cents for Harriet*.

## **Petonomics – The Purr-fect Economics Primer**

### **Grades: K-3**

These are the “*Purr-fect*” lessons to get your students ready for the Standards of Learning test. The unit has a pet friendly theme young children will love. Students will learn the D.O.G.S. model of economic decision making to help them make good choices, like picking the perfect pet and discovering what goods and services are needed to own a pet. Laugh along as Alex tries to convince his mother that he is responsible enough for a pet iguana. Economic concepts covered include choice, scarcity, opportunity cost, goods and services, resources, wants vs. needs, specialization, consumers, producers, and more. Children's literature books and cooperative learning are incorporated into each lesson.

## **Puppet Economics**

### **Grades: K-5**

Is it possible that students can learn economics through the puppets they create? Through a script they write? Through a performance they give? Yes! Yes! Yes! This five part curriculum teaches students to develop their own original puppet show and learn basic economic concepts in the process. Students learn about economic decision making when planning the plot and characters for their show; about production and resources through creating puppets; about specialization and interdependence when organizing for production; and about human capital as they rehearse and present their show. The curriculum is interdisciplinary and emphasizes language arts, math, art, science, music, creative thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and self-esteem. The puppet show does not have to be television quality for students to learn about economics and have fun!

## **Econ & Me**

### **Grades: K-5**

This award-winning video series stars 4 children and their invisible friend, who helps them solve real-life economic problems. Five 15-minute videos, with animated reviews, impart lessons of scarcity, opportunity cost, consumption, production, and interdependence. Accompanying Teacher's Guide includes video program summaries, teaching plans, discussion questions and activities, tests, and student activity forms.

## **Economics, Geography, & Children's Literature**

### **Grades: K-6**

Economics, geography, and children's literature are combined in this dynamic unit of 36 activities which address the economic concepts in grades K-6. Students "book a trip around the world" as hands-on activities help them understand that people all over the world are buyers and sellers; that resources are combined to produce goods and services; and, that people have been trading to get the things they want for centuries. Students track their journey in a special student passport. Unit includes a thorough overview of economics for teachers.

## **The Buck Starts Here! Economics, Money, & Children's Literature**

### **Grades: K-6**

Are you a "moocher" like Matilda, or are you creditworthy? Can you identify money and safe places to store it, or would you keep it in a pouch like Beatrice? If you wanted to buy pepperoni pizza in France, what would it cost you? Follow the money through these exciting new lessons produced by the authors of *Chocolate Economics* and *Around the World the Econ Way*. This journey will show students the importance of understanding money and its history, the importance of saving, ways to be a smart spender, opportunities created from trade/exchange, and investing. Wonderful connections to children's literature books are incorporated. Activities are easily adaptable to meet different age groups.

## **Classroom Mini-Economy**

### **Grades: K-8**

This hands-on, economics unit offers students an opportunity to "learn by doing" by participating in a classroom economy which simulates real-world economic activities. The program includes a comprehensive teacher's guide to provide step-by-step instructions on how to start and expand a mini-economy, creating such things as classroom money, jobs, banks, businesses, and personal income/expenses. Students act as both producers and consumers and are motivated to learn important life skills in economics, entrepreneurship, and personal finance while reinforcing basic academic skills in math, language arts, art, etc.

## **Chocolate Economics**

### **Grades: K-8**

Whet your appetite with this tasty curriculum unit designed to sweeten your economics lessons with engaging student activities. All ten lessons were innovatively designed by two experienced Virginia educators and directly correlate to the SOL. Topics are taught using one of children's favorite snacks (chocolate) and include scarcity, choices, tradeoffs, decision-making, trade, production, specialization, circular flow, entrepreneurship, marketing, and costs. Teachers will satisfy their sweet tooth and economic education needs.

## **Free Lunch Economics**

### **Grades: K-12**

With education budgets being notoriously tight, finding affordable, entertainingly educational resources to teach economics can be a challenge. This workshop is geared towards showing teachers exactly where they can find SOL-compliant, classroom resources needed to effectively teach economics in the classroom. Imagine getting videos, games, lessons, and online activities without spending a dime. Workshop participants will leave with many of these resources.

## **Virtual Economics**

### **Grades: K-12**

A \$100 value, this CD-ROM contains more than 1,200 lessons which can be searched by key words, publications, grade level (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) and Virginia SOL. An active, hands-on lesson can be printed for almost every K-12 economics SOL. Also featured is a "Browse Economics Concepts" menu option which allows teachers and students to brush up or learn for the first time about 51 economic terms by viewing an overview, multimedia presentation, teaching tips, and lesson suggestions. This CD-ROM is a "must have" for every teacher who is required to teach any strand of economics and neatly condenses 79 publications into one small space. Workshop participants will be taught the basic, absolutely essential economics foundation on which to build all required economics SOL instruction. They will also have plenty of time to explore the CD-ROM and print ready-to-use lessons appropriate for their grade levels.

## **Economics & Sustainable Development**

### **Grades: K-12**

How can teachers better prepare students to make wise environmental decisions which enhance the quality of life for all and improve science and economics SOL scores? Easy. Attend this workshop made possible by American Electric Power. The curriculum includes instructional activities which teach valuable principles intended to guide students' decisions in sustaining the quality of our environment. Field experiences, reinforcing science and economics SOL for both teacher groups (K-5 and 6-12), will be conducted by Dr. Jeff Corney, assistant professor of environmental sciences at Lynchburg College.

## **Play Dough Economics**

### **Grades: 1-8**

The 15 economics lessons in this curriculum unit are designed for elementary and middle school students and uniquely feature the use of Play Dough modeling clay in teaching economic concepts. Lessons may be used as a complete unit of instruction or individually to supplement other curriculum materials in economics, mathematics, and art. Each lesson transforms abstract economic concepts into concrete experiences with Play Dough formations. Lesson topics include goods and services, production, scarcity, opportunity cost, trade, money, specialization, saving and investing, supply and demand, profit, inflation, and GDP.

## **Economics in Ancient Civilizations**

### **Grades: 2-3**

Kill two birds with one stone by blending economics and history to help students understand the economies of ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, China and Egypt, as well as the changing face of Mali. This workshop will be taught by a seasoned elementary school teacher and will utilize hands-on activities and children's literature to help students master these interesting yet difficult SOL concepts.

## **Using Elementary Math to Teach Economics**

### **Grades: 3-5**

Designed for math and social studies teachers, this collection of 12 hands-on, engaging lessons gives teachers ammunition for the age-old question, "Why do we have to learn this?" Students creatively apply mathematical skills and thinking to solve economic and personal finance problems they are sure to face in life. Examples of activities include comparing income and expenses in a budget to make a choice necessitated by scarcity, calculating costs and revenues in a production process, and computing interest on savings. Economics explanations are provided for teachers who need a brush up; and, each lesson includes a web address for further connections to other disciplines, additional suggestions for math and economics activities, and links to interesting information and resources.

## **Steps to Financial Fitness**

### **Grades: 3-5**

Directly correlated with the English, math, and social studies SOL's, this collection of 15 action-oriented lessons engage students in making strategic decisions about earning an income, saving and spending money, using credit, and budgeting. Sample activities include role playing the buying of goods and services with different methods of payment and analyzing a fable to determine the opportunity cost of not saving. Each participant will receive a teacher's guide, student workbook, and parent's guide (allowing for reinforcement in the home).

## **Economics Lessons for Virginia and U.S. History SOL**

### **Grades: 4-6**

Workshop participants will receive a collection of lessons that address the economics SOL in *Virginia Studies*, *United States History to 1877*, and *United States History: 1877 to Present*. Each lesson engages students in active learning and applies the economic way of thinking to events in history. A variety of instructional strategies will be demonstrated to enhance students' retention of abstract economic concepts.

## **Economics & U.S. History (Volume I: Colonial America)**

### **Grades: 4-8**

This new publication contains 15 hands-on lessons, using games, children's literature, and simulations to assist in teaching the new social studies and U.S. history SOLs. Economic concepts such as scarcity, resources, opportunity cost, barter, investing, saving, credit, types of economies, roles of government, trade, specialization, interdependence, and economic freedoms are cleverly taught through colonial American history. History topics include New World travel/trade, colonial occupations/marketplace, eighteenth-century technology/industrialization, Jamestown, King James, Indians, etc.

## **Economics & U.S. History (Volume II: A Young Nation 1765-1877)**

### **Grades: 4-8**

Workshop participants will receive a brand new publication containing active, hands-on lesson plans that use games, children's literature, and simulations to assist in teaching the social studies and U.S. history SOLs. Economic concepts such as opportunity cost, scarcity, resources, trade, taxes, role of government, supply and demand, U.S. economic freedoms, and investment are cleverly taught through American historical events (i.e., Declaration of Independence, Lewis and Clark expedition, Civil War, Gettysburg Address, American Revolution, U.S. Constitution, slavery, cotton industry, etc.).

## **Online Stock Market Game**

### **Grades: 4-12**

In addition to being a true-to-life playing field for buying/selling stocks and teaching about the U.S. economy, the Stock Market Game™ (SMG) is correlated to the SOL in math, business/marketing, language arts, social studies, and technology. Teachers DO NOT need any knowledge of the stock market to attend this workshop or play the game! Teachers begin the workshop by learning (or reviewing) basic investment terms and strategies for personal and classroom use. After observing the SMG website navigation, teachers practice navigating the website on their own using a self-guided tour. Game participants gain access to a wealth of online curriculum materials designed to make playing the game almost effortless. Participating teachers and winning students will be recognized at the annual Economics Education Awards Reception in May. A numerous-time SMG winning teacher will share her tips on winning and enhancing the students' learning experiences.

## **Using Economics to Solve Everyday Mysteries**

### **Grades: 4-12**

Unsure what economics is all about? Unsure how to teach the economics in your content area? Then this workshop is for you! All teachers in grades K-12 who are required to teach any economics will learn how to think like an economist to “decipher” the economics SOL. This collection of 17 lessons uses short, engaging activities to build a logical framework in which to understand and analyze the economic impact of events. Student “sleuths” use clues and the economic-way-of-thinking to solve common “mysteries” including *Why Stay Up Late When You Know It Will Wipe You Out the Next Day?*, *Why Is the School Lunchroom Always Dirty?*, and *How Can You Have Seashells When You Don't Live By the Sea?* While the workshop content will be useful to all teachers in understanding basic economics, the lessons are best suited for students in grades 4 – 8.

## **Personal Decision-Making**

### **Grades: 4-12**

Workshop participants will learn stock market basics and investment strategies for personal and classroom use. Teachers will then practice navigating the Stock Market Game (SMG) web site, which provides students a true-to-life playing field for buying and selling stocks. Teachers DO NOT need prior knowledge of the stock market to play the game! The game is correlated to SOL in math, business/marketing, language arts, social studies, and technology. Game participants will gain access to a wealth of free curriculum materials. SMG student-teams and teachers will be recognized at the Economic Education Awards Reception in May.

## **Mathematics & Economics: Connections for Life**

### **Grades: 6-8**

A \$1,000 grant from *3M Foundation* and *National Council on Economic Education* has made it possible for the Center to offer (free of charge) this 12-lesson curriculum unit to mathematics, social studies, work and family studies, and business/marketing teachers. Participants will become better equipped to empower students as effective savers, investors, consumers, producers, and informed citizens while reinforcing the mathematics and social studies SOLs. Each lesson contains background information about economics content and ways in which it relates to mathematics. This hands-on, interdisciplinary approach to classroom instruction is sure to enhance student interest and comprehension.

## **Financial Fitness for Life**

### **Grades: 6-8**

FREE! All workshop costs are paid by the Bank of America Foundation. Directly correlated with math and social studies SOLs, this collection of 17 action-oriented lessons engage students in applying economics and decision-making skills to real world personal finance topics including: correlation between education and income; cost of spending vs. saving; financial goal setting and budgeting; inflation and interest; and, effects of taxes on consumers. Each participant will receive a teacher's guide, student workbook, parent's guide, and CD-ROM.

## **Risky Business - What Every Teenager Needs to Know About Living Smart**

### **Grades: 6-12**

What are the skills your students need to confidently face challenges in their futures regarding higher education, credit, insurance, and healthy lifestyles? There are no easy answers, but *Risky Business* shows your students how sound economic decision-making can empower teenagers to enter their adult years with skills to be healthy, wealthy, and secure. This complete DVD teaching resource contains four 15-20 minute video segments that are complemented by 12 lessons and activities (3 for each video). Students enjoy a rich mix of audio, video, teacher instruction, and in-class activities. Each video segment takes an entertaining look at various challenges your students face on a regular basis. Then, the integrated lesson plans and activities help reinforce and extend these crucial concepts. Workshop participants receive the DVD (a \$99 value) which is also a wonderful resource for meeting several of the newly mandated Economic Education & Personal Finance Literacy Objectives.

## **Issues of International Trade**

### **Grades: 6-12**

As a classroom topic, international trade has the great advantage of providing ready-made materials for teachers wanting to engage students in current events such as the global market, sweatshops, child labor, trade deficits, the Euro, sanctions, tariffs, embargoes, and the EU, NAFTA, WTO – the seemingly endless alphabet of interest groups, treaties, organizations, and trade agreements. On the other hand, the complexity of the issues surrounding trade is daunting. While economic reasoning doesn't guarantee resolution of the issues, it is a powerful tool of critical thinking that brings clarity to the discussion of current events. The ability to determine comparative advantage through opportunity cost, the ability to identify incentives and predict resulting behavior, and the ability to use supply and demand analysis of particular labor and resource markets, help students to set aside the emotion of international trade issues and cut through the rhetoric of media reports. Workshop participants will receive a collection of lessons that help students build a foundation for their opinions on the news of the day. *Cosponsored by the Foundation for Teaching Economics.*

## **Personal Finance Know-How - Give Your Students What They Will Definitely Need as Adults**

### **Grades: 6-12**

As most of you probably know, economics and personal finance is now required to be taught to all Virginia public school students by the time they graduate (as per Senate Bill 950). So, now is the time to start collecting and using the “best of the best” personal finance lessons which is exactly what you will get at this workshop. Hands-on activities from several of the 15 newly mandated Economic Education and Personal Finance Literacy Objectives will be demonstrated including an activity where balls are tossed in a circle to symbolize the challenges of maintaining a budget and an activity where lima beans are collected in a jar to explain compound interest. The hand-picked lessons featured in this workshop will cover all 15 objectives and are suitable for middle and high school teachers of all disciplines. Empower your students to obtain a secure financial future!

## **New NEFE High School Financial Planning Program**

### **Grades: 6-12**

Now that the 15 Economic Education & Financial Literacy Objectives are required in Virginia, finding the right curriculum which is proven, comprehensive, tested, and yes, FREE, is the brass ring for which educators are looking. The National Endowment for Financial Education's (NEFE's) all new High School Financial Planning Program curriculum improves on the best of the old material, delivering practical resources for instructors, students, and even parents. And as before, the Instructor's Manual and unlimited Student Workbooks are still free and shipped at no cost year after year. The updated curriculum alerts students to financial pitfalls that did not even exist several years ago - identity theft, electronic funds transfer, debit card use, and more - while still focusing on the importance of mapping out a solid financial plan and keeping a budget. A corresponding website will also be accessible to curriculum users which will be continuously updated with new resources. Best of all, the new material is correlated to the SOL to make implementation in your classroom as easy for you as it is fun for students. Units include: Your Financial Plan; Budgeting; Investing; Good & Bad Debt (credit);

Keeping Money Safe; Insurance; and Career. Empower your students by teaching them the financial skills they need for today's world.

### **Civics & Economics**

#### **Grades: 7 or 8**

This collection of lessons was compiled by economic education experts specifically designed for middle school civics and economics courses in Virginia. Lessons include hands-on activities and simulations necessary in turning abstract economic concepts into experiential learning opportunities. Lessons are correlated to the civics and economics SOL and can also be used in other middle and high school social studies courses.

### **Economics Lessons for Middle & High School SOL**

#### **Grades: 7-12**

This collection of lessons has been compiled to specifically address economics taught in middle and high school social studies courses. These hand-picked lessons turn abstract, often challenging economic concepts into active learning experiences for students. Participants will gain a better understanding of the economic concepts required by the SOL as well as innovative instructional strategies for teaching economics in the classroom.

### **Financial Fitness for Life Grades**

#### **Grades: 7-12**

Are you and your students financially fit? Get in shape with this hands-on curriculum which firms the financial footing students need to face tough decisions about paying for college, applying for auto loans, and investing their earnings. Fifty-two exercises focus on five major themes: the economic way of thinking, earning income, saving, spending and using credit, and money management. Workshop participants will receive curriculum materials valued at \$80-plus, including a teacher's guide, student workbook, parent guide, and a CD-ROM from which handout copies can be legally made. This workshop was made possible by the National Council on Economic Education through funding from the Bank of America Foundation.

### **Economic Strategies for Teaching Civics & Government**

#### **Grades: 7-12**

This collection of lessons was hand-picked specifically to meet the economics SOL in *Civics & Economics* and *Virginia & U.S. Government*; however, the lessons are also useful in terms of basic economics understanding necessary for any K-12 teacher, personally and professionally. Often not so obvious to students (and teachers) is the connection between civics/government and economics; but, to fully understand real-world politics, economics is often a prerequisite. Students who later become contributors of the U.S. economic and political systems are ill-prepared if they do not have a clear picture of the symbiotic relationship shared by these two systems. The solution? This workshop featuring integrated lessons that incorporate a variety of instructional strategies (instead of memorization and theory lectures) which include cooperative learning groups, skits, debates, simulations, and other interactive, highly personalized activities.

### **abc News & John Stossel's Macroeconomics, Government, & International Trade**

#### **Grades: 7-12**

Invite students to generate discussion on social and economic issues such as unemployment, government spending, outsourcing, and economic freedom before and after watching 15 DVD clips, previously featured on abc News. John Stossel weaves current events with timeless economic principles to provide students with new insight into U.S. history, economics, government, and international trade. Stossel will motivate students to analyze, investigate, and form their own opinions as they explore the answers to questions like these:

- Are gas prices at record highs?
- Do the rich pay their fair share of taxes?
- Are boycotts of sweatshop products helpful?
- Is life in America today better or worse than it was 50 years ago?

In addition to the 63-minute program with 15 clips, the DVD also features scene selection, NCEE's Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics, and a printable Instructor's Manual which contains discussion questions, multiple-choice assessment questions, and a related exercise or activity.

### **abc News & John Stossel's Microeconomics**

#### **Grades: 7-12**

Invite students to generate discussion on social and economic issues such as wealth creation, price controls, poverty, and entrepreneurship before and after watching 16 DVD clips, previously featured on abc News. John Stossel weaves current events with timeless economic principles to provide students with new insight into U.S. history, economics, and government. Stossel will motivate students to analyze, investigate, and form their own opinions as they explore the answers to questions like these:

- Are prescription drug prices too high?
- Does food get to us because farmers care about our welfare?
- What does it mean to be poor in America?
- What serves people better: private ownership or public ownership?

In addition to this 70-minute program of 16 clips, the DVD also features scene selection, NCEE's Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics, and a printable Instructor's Manual which contains discussion questions, multiple-choice assessment questions, and a related exercise or activity.

### **Using World Geography to Teach Economics**

#### **Grades: 8-12**

Teachers can meet the challenge of teaching more in the same amount of time by using these 9 integrated lessons that emphasize content in economics and geography while providing opportunities for critical thinking about real-world problems. Students today are faced to a greater degree than before when it comes to overpopulation, environmentalism, and global economies which require higher levels of competency in economics and geography to understand the world in which they live. This collection of active-learning lessons employ graphic organizers, data, charts, maps, and graphs while giving students opportunities to read, write, speak, and reason. Correlated with the geography and economics SOL, this workshop will benefit all social studies teachers with a clear connection between geography and economics – two social sciences that rely on critical thinking skills to analyze human behavior.