Richard L. Guffey Scholarship Program Announced

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska has announced a new scholarship fund that will help educate Nebraska teachers in cooperation with the Nebraska Council on Economic Education. The board of directors of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska has pledged $10,000 per year for 10 years to fund the Richard L. Guffey Memorial Scholarship program. Mr. Guffey, the company's longtime chairman and CEO who died last summer, served as a member of the NCEE Board of Trustees and Executive Committee for more than 10 years.

"We are pleased that Blue Cross has chosen to remember Richard in this fitting manner," commented Guffey's widow, Elaine. "Richard dedicated his entire career to Blue Cross Blue Shield and the insurance business. Helping to better educate our teachers on the economy and the business world is a wonderful tribute."

Dick Guffey."

The program will provide scholarships covering tuition and course related expenses for teachers enrolling in college credit programs sponsored by NCEE. Half the scholarship dollars will be allocated equally between the five Centers for Economic Education; the other half will be allocated on a statewide basis. Teachers may receive scholarships of up to $1,000.

Roger Atwood, President of NCEE, said the new scholarship fund will help enable the Council to fulfill its mission. "We are very grateful to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska for funding this scholarship in memory of Dick Guffey."

Teachers interested in obtaining more information on the Richard L. Guffey Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, should contact the Nebraska Council on Economic Education at (402) 472-2333.

Coming This Spring...

Nebraska's Entrepreneurs: Creating Your Own Career

Look for more information this spring on how to obtain a free copy of this new set of classroom lessons designed to assist teachers interested in helping their students learn more about successful Nebraska entrepreneurs and to see if they have what it takes to be one themselves.

Contact the Center for Economic Education closest to you for more information on upcoming workshops and courses on Economics and Entrepreneurship.
Mark Your Calendars for the 2002 Economics Challenge

Saturday, April 20, 2002 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus will be the time and the place for the second annual Economics Challenge. High school students will have the opportunity to compete as a team for the title of State Champion in the area of economics!

Form your teams now to compete in this event that will test students' knowledge in microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics and current economic events. There will be two divisions in this event. The "David Ricardo" division will be restricted to students enrolled in a one-semester or less high school course not labeled as AP, IB, honors, or college level. The "Adam Smith" division is restricted to students enrolled in a two-semester course labeled as AP, IB, honors or college level (taught as separate microeconomics or macroeconomics courses).

The winners of each division will be crowned at the end of the competition and the State Champion teams will advance (all expenses paid) to the regional level of competition in Minneapolis, MN held shortly thereafter.

Contact Tammie Fischer at the UNL Center for economic education for more information or to register your school for the competition. (402-472-2333 or tfischer1@unl.edu. The exact names of the team members are due April 1, but please register your team by March 15. At this time only one team, per division, per school is allowed. The competition is limited to 25 teams total so sign up today!

Saturday, April 20 is the 2002 Economics Challenge at UN-L.

News from the Centers

UNK

The Center for Economic Education - UNK and Ten Thousand Villages are presenting to several elementary schools in Kearney. The purpose of these presentations is to increase students' awareness of different cultures and give them some understanding of why we trade. Today, international understanding and education is increasingly important for students to learn. John Gosswein, Pastor at the Family of Christ Lutheran Church, will demonstrate the musical instruments from many countries. We are also in the process of developing this presentation and others to be done via distance education. We have some other exciting activities planned for this Spring and Summer check us out at: http://www.unk.edu/acad/econ/center.html

Wayne State College

On Nov. 11, approximately 80 people attended the second “Where in the World is Wayne?” International Education Program. Area K-12 educators and members of the Wayne State College community heard UN-L's Dr. Craig Macthee explain the myths and realities of globalization and international trade.

UNL

On Nov. 7 over 250 students from 19 Nebraska high schools attended the fall "Economics Day for Students" at UNL. Students brought their questions related to microeconomic, macroeconomic and international issues, and they spent the morning discussing these questions with Economics faculty. Following a lunch provided by the Admissions Office, students toured the campus and visited with faculty. This was the event’s fifth year, and it is sponsored by the UNL Center for Economic Education, the Economics Department and the Office of Admissions. "Economics Day for Students" will again be held Wednesday, November 6, 2002. Look for information in the fall or contact Tammie Fischer at the UNL Center.
UNO

International Economic Education

James Dick, Co-director of the UNO Center, was a faculty member for the NCEE’s Economics International Training of Trainers seminar in Kyiv, Ukraine in early December. This seminar is the first in a series of four seminars to be conducted in Ukraine, Belarus, and Bulgaria for economics professors and high school teachers from the former communist bloc. In this first seminar the 50 participants were introduced to basic economics concepts and four related teaching strategies; the participants, from 13 countries, also demonstrated their current teaching skills in a microteaching lab.

Jim will be a faculty member in the upcoming seminar in Minsk, Belarus in late January and also in the seminar in Sofia, Bulgaria in early June.

This project, designed to assist in the economic transformations taking place in Central and Eastern Europe, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its goal is to prepare individuals who can design and deliver training programs in economics education for elementary and secondary teachers in the various nations represented in the 2001-2002 program.

Conestoga Magnet School
Students Meet Gates, Buffett

The sixth graders playing the Stock Market Game this fall have something that no one else has, some very successful advisors.

As part of the activities, economics teacher Michele Wulff planned for her students to write letters to Warren Buffett telling him about their ideas. The students had researched several companies and told Mr. Buffett about their choices and ideas and why they thought they were winners. They invited Mr. Buffett to attend their fall open house where they had displays for the parents.

Imagine their surprise when he called to say he would stop by and bring a friend. The friend was Buffett’s pal Bill Gates who was in town for a meeting. The pair heard a report from the sixth graders about their stock picks including their plan to stay away from tech stocks, which got a big laugh from the audience. Both Gates and Buffett praised the students and their teacher for studying about stocks. Gates advised the students to learn math too. He said it was one of the things he loved in school.

Conestoga students presented the pair with ball caps from the school at the end of the short visit. Omaha Public School’s Conestoga is an economics and mathematics magnet school featuring special curriculum in grades 2-6. The UNO Center for Economic Education is Conestoga’s Adopt-A-School partner working with curriculum and staff development.

International Trade Workshop

The Foundation for Teaching Economics will be returning to the UNO Alumni Center for a workshop cosponsored by the UNO Center for Economic Education. Thursday, March 28th from 3:30-8:00 pm, FTE trainer Kathy Ratte will be teaching “Issues in International Trade.” FTE was in Nebraska two years ago to host a workshop on the former Soviet Union, which was very well received. Teachers attending will receive a binder of lessons and activities. Dinner will be included.

There is no cost to attend but because attendance is limited, teachers can reserve a place by sending a refundable deposit ($25 check) to Mary Lynn Reiser at the UNO Center. Questions call 402-554-2357 or reiser@unomaha.edu.

Bill Gates and Warren Buffett took time out to listen to Conestoga students’ stock picks and encourage them to continue their studies, especially in economics and math.
Economics For Teachers, Part 1 (3 credits)
June 11-29, 2002 Monday through Friday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
This is an introductory economics course especially designed for K-12 teachers to strengthen their understanding of how our economy works and introduce innovative ways of making economics more interesting to students of all ages through a variety of teaching and evaluation methods. No prerequisites in economics are required. Analysis of current economic issues and field trips to area industries will also be included. Course location is forthcoming.

Economics For Teachers, Part 2 (3 credits)
July 9-27, 2002 Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to noon
This course is a follow-up to Economics for Teachers, Part 1. Anyone who has ever participated in Econ 850 will enjoy this! The course will also bring educators up to date on materials for teaching economics in a variety of subjects. Analysis of current economic issues and field trips to area industries will also be included, along with handouts and great teaching ideas. Course location is forthcoming.

For more information or to register for the UNL courses, please contact Tammie Fischer at 402.472.2333 or by email at tfischer1@unl.edu.

Econ 460/560  Personal Finance
3 semester credit hours
June 3, 2002 through June 20, 2002
Noon to 3:45 p.m.
Burkhiser 160a
A course designed to develop and integrate the basic theories and concepts of personal finance, savings and investing, decision making, budgeting, record keeping, financial planning and achievement of goals. The course deals with various savings, investing, financing, time value of money, risks and returns for various alternatives. The course will involve the development and completion of a practical instructional unit, using the team approach, which integrates the theories and concepts with the various academic areas.

For additional information about Chadron State College programs, contact:
Ron Burke, 1000 Main Street
Department of Business and Economics,
Chadron State College
Chadron, NE  69337
Phone 308-432-6255
e-mail: rburke@csc1.csc.edu
Summer Course On-line

Wayne State College

ECO 600 Studies in Economic Education
3 semester credit hours
On-line during the month of July
Students are expected to have access to the internet. The course will consist of the study of the 20 basic content areas listed by the National Council on Economic Education. Emphasis will then be placed on where these standards are infused into the Nebraska Social Studies and Business Standards.

For additional information, contact:
Chuck Parker
Department of Business and Economics,
Wayne State College
Wayne, NE  68787
Phone 402-375-7036
e-mail: chparke1@wsc.edu
Summer Economic Education Courses

UNO

Economics for Secondary Teachers (3 credits)
June 17-July 3, 2002
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily
ESU #3

This course will cover basic economic concepts that can be integrated in all social studies classes at the secondary level. A variety of teaching resources will be introduced. The materials will correlate with the economic concepts contained in the Nebraska State Social Studies Standards. No previous knowledge of economics is required. This course will help prepare teachers to teach economics courses in high school or add more economic concepts to business, government, history, or civics classes.

Instructors are Jim Dick and Mary Lynn Reiser. Registration will be through the UNO Center for Economic Education, not BRUNO. Call 554-2357 or email reiser@unomaha.edu to obtain information and registration forms.

UNK

Economics for Teachers (3 credits)
June 10-July 19
UNK at the West Center

Welcome to “Economics for Teachers.” Every day, the news contains some items on an economic issue or controversy (e.g. will interest rates go up? Should we have choices when it comes to our utilities? Are we losing out to international companies?). Because economics is such a vital part of our everyday lives, students need to become educated in the “economic way of thinking.” Since you are here, you must share a concern that teachers need to understand economic concepts and issues and learn about new economic education materials in order to relate these important ideas to their students.

The class will focus on fundamental economic concepts at macroeconomic, microeconomic and international levels. This class is designed primarily for educators with little or no academic training in economics. However, the class will also provide up-to-date information on economic issues and ideas for teaching economics that should be valuable even to those who already have a background in economics.

More Photos from Bill Gates and Warren Buffett’s Visit

Left: Mary Lynn Reiser from the UNO Center visits with a parent and child at Conestoga about books for children that incorporate economics. Above: Conestoga principal Linda Placzek visits with Warren Buffet as Bill Gates listens in.