

Professional Development Opportunities for K-12 Teachers

Virginia Council on Economic Education (VCEE) and its affiliated university-based Centers for Economic Education provide Institutes and workshops for teachers to assist them in teaching economics and personal finance, K-12. Programs focus on both content knowledge and engaging ways to present it to their students, all at *no charge* to the teacher.

Institutes have been designed to cover an entire content area and provide teachers with classroom-ready lessons and activities. They can be scheduled as a unit or over a period of time. Institute attendance and passing the post-test results in recognition as a *VCEE Certified Economic Educator*. Institutes include:

Economics Institute (Online, in person or hybrid) (42 hours)

This program focuses on economics content in the high school Economics & Personal Finance SOL and provides resources for teaching it. Participants learn how the “economic way of thinking” turns basic economics concepts into life skills that enable them to make more meaningful and productive day-to-day decisions. A detailed analysis of how market economies work and the personal and societal implications of economic indicators (inflation, unemployment, and economic growth) will also contribute to more informed decision-making as consumers, producers, savers, investors, employees and citizens. A broader analysis of economies as a whole allows participants to make better sense of world situations.

Personal Finance Institute (40 hours)

Includes detailed content instruction and methodology for the personal finance topics included in the high school Economics & Personal Finance SOL and competencies including banking, credit, consumer rights and responsibilities, insurance, taxes and financial planning. Content instruction is delivered by experts from the various fields. Teachers take the WISE Financial Literacy test and have the opportunity to earn this Teacher Certification at no charge.

Civics and Economics Institute (30 hours – 24 in class and 4 out of class)

Designed to assist middle school CE teachers with all the economic content in the SOL for this course as well as provide creative lessons and resources, modules include: (1) Economics is About Making Choices (2) Why Do We Need an Economic System?; (3) How Our Economy Flows (4) Markets and Prices (5) How Does Government Relate to the Economy? (6) What is Globalization and How Does It Affect Me? (7) Banks and the Federal Reserve System; and (8) How the Economy Affects You Financially.

Mini-Economy Institute (18 hours)

Project-based learning at its best! Tap into the endless creativity of young students using a time-tested template that makes setting up your classroom economy simple. The Mini-Economy is an experienced-based program used to teach entrepreneurship, economics and government. Students immerse themselves in a classroom economy: applying for jobs, running businesses, paying taxes and making investments. Students master essential economics principles while getting cross-curricular exposure to

math, reading and writing. On top of invaluable teamwork and negotiation skills, students learn their role in the global marketplace.

This program identifies easy-to-use activities which directly assess 3rd grade SOL while building toward a project goal: the creation of a flourishing classroom business. Although the Mini-Economy Portfolio Assessment is focused on grade 3, this program can be a fun and effective learning tool in grades 4 and 5 and middle school.

K-3 Institute (12 hours)

This Institute allows teachers to experience methods for teaching all of the K-3 elementary economics related SOL in a manner that is hands-on, effective and fun. Designed to strengthen and deepen a teacher's understanding of these concepts, it also provides a variety of resources ready for use in the classroom, including lessons, simulations and demonstrations linked to children's literature, both classic and new.

Also available: AP Economics Institute (30 hours)

This institute focuses on identifying the content of the AP Economics exams as well as approaches to teaching the course content and preparing students for the AP Economics exams. It is interactive and emphasizes the desired information and content identified by participants. Recent changes to the exams and a mock exam grading are included.

Workshops of shorter duration are also available and can be found at vcee.org.

Contact **Sarah Finley** (shfinley@vcu.edu) or the Center near you to schedule an Institute or workshop.

Institutes are provided at no cost to teachers or school divisions with the generous support of the following through the [Fund for Teaching Excellence in Economics and Personal Finance](#):

BB&T · SunTrust Foundation
Virginia Bankers Association Education Foundation · Wells Fargo

Allianz Foundation for North America
Genworth Foundation · State Farm

Bank of America · Capital One · Dominion Foundation
Virginia Credit Union · Virginia Lottery

Scott & Stringfellow Educational Foundation

Towne Bank · Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants