

# **Middle Tennessee State University Center for Economic Education 2008-2009 Annual Report**

**Dr. Robert B. Blair, Director**  
**Ms. Maria L. Edlin, Assistant Director**

Robert B. Blair, director, and Maria L. Edlin, assistant director, worked diligently to fulfill the CEE mission to promote economic education across Tennessee, emphasizing Rutherford and surrounding counties. Major funding for the CEE's programs is provided by the Jones College, Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation, First Tennessee National Corporation, and the Foundation for Teaching Economics. Over \$123,000 was contributed to the CEE through grant or matching grant sources during 2008-2009 to promote economic education.

**The Tennessee Stock Market Game (SMG)** stimulates learning about economics, finance, and the American economic system. In a 10-week simulation, participants invest a hypothetical \$100,000. State coordinator Maria Edlin conducts nine SMG workshops hosted by seven regional newspapers annually. The program is funded through a partnership with First Tennessee Bank, which also sponsors an internship program for each of the newspapers supporting Newspapers in Education's promotion of the SMG in grades 4-12. The Securities Industry Association Southern/South Central District Grant provided additional funding. In 2008-2009, a total of 2,908 teams (13,191 students) and 304 teachers from 344 schools across the state participated in the SMG. Tennessee's SMG continues to be ranked eighth in the nation.

**The Foundation for Teaching Economics** provided two generous grants for the CEE to co-sponsor The Right Start Institute in January and HSBC Institute on the Environment & the Economy in February. The programs incorporate a blend of practical learning activities, including hands-on classroom activities and simulations. Two hours of graduate credit in economic education for each program was available for participants through Florida Gulf Coast University. Forty-one teachers participated in these institutes.

**Personal Financial Literacy** the CEE partnered with several agencies to provide the required personal financial literacy training necessary to become qualified to teach Personal Finance in secondary schools across Tennessee. Training was conducted in Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Nashville. Ms. Edlin co-presented additional workshops with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Nashville Branch, National Endowment for Financial Education, and UT Extension Service.

In keeping with MTSU's mission, the CEE maintains active **partnerships** with the following organizations not previously mentioned: Council on Economic Education, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Nashville Branch, Jump\$tart Coalition, Belmont University College of Business, Foundation for Investor Education, Tennessee Talented and Gifted, UT Extension Service, TVA Credit Unit, Tennessee Department of commerce and Insurance, and the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies.