



Good afternoon. My name is Julie Weaver, and I am the 7th Executive Director to lead MCEE since our founding in 1953. When I joined MCEE five years ago I found a document from 1955 that states “if Americans are to cope successfully with problems ranging from the family budget to the national budget, the teaching of economics in schools must be strengthened”.

Seven decades later this still holds true. Today, MCEE is annually reaching more than 2,000 teachers and more than 228,000 students across Maryland! And that number is growing every year.

For educators, we offer meticulously curated resources that transform financial content into an engaging and enjoyable learning experience. Collaborating with school systems statewide, we strive to expand the reach of financial education beyond traditional boundaries. Our efforts extend beyond developing personal finance and economics courses; we integrate financial content seamlessly into math, reading, social studies, business, and family and consumer sciences. The hands-on learning activities we provide, the Stock Market Game, the Personal Finance Challenge, and more, create lasting behavioral change in students, fostering a generation capable of making informed financial decisions.

Our commitment to professional development is unwavering, hosting over 100 workshops annually and an educator's summit that brings teachers together to share ideas, explore innovative teaching approaches, access new resources, and build confidence in introducing personal finance and economics into their classrooms.

From its inception, MCEE has thrived as a public/private partnership. While the state has supported our mission with funding for two full-time positions, the bulk of our programmatic funding comes from the business and philanthropic community. However, the unpredictable nature of these funding sources poses challenges, particularly when it comes to overhead expenses like salaries and benefits for additional staff, hindering our ability to meet the growing demand for our resources.

The need for MCEE resources and courses is growing as more counties embrace adding financial education to their curriculums. And we need to grow our staff in order to meet that need. We're asking for funding so that we can add additional staff to serve more students and teachers.

Over the past seven years, nearly 15,000 teachers have attended our courses, integrating our programs into their classrooms. Our student impact last year alone reached 228,000, contributing to an estimated total of 6 million students over the past seventy years. This, I believe, is a testament to the significant return on the state's investment.

As the state invests billions in ensuring students are college and career ready, I believe that this includes equipping them with the skills and knowledge to make informed financial decisions. I urge you to support this bill, equipping MCEE to expand its reach and effectively meet the evolving needs of our school systems, teachers, and most importantly, our students.