

Good Afternoon. My name is Susan Bistransin and I am the coordinator for the Financial Education program in Prince George's County. I am here to speak in favor of a bill to provide MCEE with additional funding

Like so many before me, I had to learn about handling my money the hard way. As a new high school teacher 25 years ago, I was assigned to teach the Financial Literacy class in my school and had no background in finances. I needed graduate credits to renew my certification and found Financial Literacy courses at Towson State Univ. I was introduced to the Council on Econ Ed and things opened up for me. I have utilized the many programs and resources available from MCEE throughout my teaching career. Here are a few examples of what they did for me:

- Offered me a scholarship to attend the National Council on Economic Education (for 10 years)
- Provided support to me and my students to implement the Stock Market Game and Personal Finance Challenge
- Provided amazing resources at their annual Teacher Summit (the networking is amazing)
- Allowed me to be a presenter at their summit on numerous occasions
- Helped me to connect with the Federal Reserve Baltimore branch and participate in their Teacher Collaborative Committee
- Provided free professional development on numerous topics including the Basics of Bitcoin
- Was a member of the panel discussion on Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement and the MCEE Financial Education Network.

MCEE has been the "go-to" resource for me and many of my teachers. The programs that they offer to enhance Financial Education are amazing and create great opportunities for our students such as the Stock Market Game Field trip to Towson Univ., The Girls in Finance and Invest in Girls programs, Investrite essay contest and the Stock Market Game, the Personal Finance Challenge, the MD Economic Challenge, the Poster contest for k-8., and EconEdLink. The MD CEE has a program for everyone, k-12 and provides support for all of their resources. These programs bring econ and personal finance to life for our students and allow them to find opportunities they would otherwise not have. The Stock Market game is offered K-12 and you should see how well the elementary students do - I would like to have some of their portfolios! I love that they have a special focus on middle school and high school girls. These programs mirror what is being taught in our econ and personal finance classes and show the students real-life applications of their knowledge.

For the many thousands of econ and personal finance teachers in the state of MD, connecting with MCEE is a must. We have so many new teachers and teachers who are new to this content area who need this support. Schools rely on outside sources to provide their teachers with professional development and resources in the subject matter areas. Currently, MCEE staff is stretched to the limit. It is of the utmost importance that they are able to reach those teachers with materials and services to assist them in their roles.