

## Conference Workshops

### Morning Workshops

#### **Fire Up Those Laptops: Using Technology to Teach Economics (Grades K-12)**

Now that the MLTI is expanding laptops to the high school classroom, it's the perfect time to use 21st Century tools to introduce fundamental economics concepts to your K-12 students.

But what kind of technology resources makes teaching economics fast, fun... and effective? A click of your mouse takes the grunt work out of curriculum planning and helps you quickly find hands-on lesson plans to teach K-12 economics.

You'll explore the latest CD- and Web-based programs that help you find and deliver lesson plans by concept, grade level and Maine state content standard.

During the workshop, you'll focus on a) building your comfortable level with sometimes intimidating economic concepts; b) finding activity-based lessons that apply economic principles to everyday situations; c) using multimedia content to deliver core content; and d) extending lessons using the Web

Resources you'll explore include Virtual Economics <http://ve.councilforeconed.org> and EconEdLink.org

#### **Even the Three Little Pigs Know Economics (Grades K-5)**

Could your students use economic reasoning to build a house that would outwit the Big Bad Wolf? Discover how the Three Little Pigs learned economics... the hard way, unfortunately, for two of them.

You don't need to learn the hard way, though. Using popular children's stories and active-learning strategies, you'll explore ways to teach your young students basic economics concepts like scarcity, opportunity cost and natural resources. Hands-on lessons make teaching the concepts fun and easy, and projects, simulations and activities keep your young students engaged and on-task.

Resources you'll explore include Play Dough Economics, <http://store.ncee.net/playdougheconomics.html>; Teaching Economics Using Children's Literature, <http://store.councilforeconed.org/teaching-econ-using-childrens-lit.html>; and EconEdLink.org

### **Making Economics Relevant to Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)**

Do economic concepts have to be taught in isolation from what you teach in history and geography? Economic concepts can seem difficult to teach, particularly in isolation, but history and geography are teeming with economic principles and can be taught in tandem with abstract economic ideas. Come and explore how to incorporate economic concepts into your social studies classroom through interactive exposure to a variety of lessons, classroom activities and online resources that will help you infuse economic concepts into your social studies classroom.

### **Curricular Bipartisanship: Bringing Economics and Government Together in the Classroom (Grades 9-12)**

Too often we teach Economics and Government as separate concepts. Frequently, economics gets left behind in our civics and government classrooms. The goal of this workshop is to help you begin the process of bringing economics into your civics and government classrooms through the use of activity-based lessons. Specifically, we will explore effective ways to teach students about the government's role in establishing monetary and fiscal policy, how foreign trade policies are established and implemented, and the manner in which the government seeks to promote economic equality, stability and growth. More importantly, how do these governmental decisions impact our lives as citizens and consumers? Please bring your laptop to this interactive session, as we will explore several web-based resources available to students and teachers.

### **Afternoon Workshops**

## **Use EconEdLink.org to Move Your K-12 Instruction to the Web (Grades K-12)**

Explore a treasure-trove of free online lessons available at EconEdLink.org. In addition to lessons plans that cover economics and personal finance, you dig into an extensive list of features for K-12 teachers, including a) Cyberteach tools that use interactive multimedia to engage your students; b) Current Events lessons that keep you on the cutting-edge of worldwide economic events; and c) lessons correlated to the Maine state content standards.

## **Economics, Easy as 1-2-3: A 3-step Personal Finance Program Helps You Apply Mathematics to Everyday Life (Grades K-5)**

When should your young students learn basic personal finance skills? Sooner than you think.

But with everything else competing with your precious classroom time -- math, science, language arts -- how can you infuse personal finance into your curriculum and still cover your STEM content?

Now you can beat the daily hum-drum of multiplication tables, subtraction and addition with hands-on lesson plans that teach your students to apply math to real-world financial situations: saving, spending, credit and money management.

With easy-to-understand teaching procedures, hands-on activities, classroom projects and interactive discussion questions, your students will apply mathematical problem-solving to the world of economics. You'll whip your students into tip-top shape with a saving activity that explores the functions of a bank, develops a savings action plan, and uses an account to deposit (and withdraws) money.

Resources you'll explore include Financial Fitness for Life, <http://fffl.councilforeconed.org>; Focus: Grades K-2 Economics, <http://store.councilforeconed.org/focusk2.html>; Focus: Grades 3-5 Economics, <http://store.councilforeconed.org/focus35.html>; and EconEdLink.org

## **Teaching U.S. History Through an Economic Lens (Grades 6-8)**

To many middle school social studies teachers, the thought of teaching economics to your students may seem daunting. Despite the fact that economic concepts are deeply embedded in U.S. history, economics is often treated as a distinct and separate entity. In this workshop, you will explore innovative ways to incorporate essential economic concepts into your existing U.S. history curriculum through a series of useful, activity-based lessons that are ready to implement. In addition, we will examine several web-based resources that will make teaching economics both

easy for you and engaging for your students. Please bring your laptop to this interactive session!

### **Understanding Economics through World History (Grades 9-12)**

Do history courses have to be out of sync with economic concepts? Despite our best efforts, the relationships between economics, history and geography can seem distant or abstract. History and geography, however, are teeming with economic concepts. After all, history is about people, at a certain place and time, making choices and weighing the costs and benefits of decisions. Explore how to infuse economic concepts into your social studies classroom and help your students become more integrative thinkers. In this session you will see a variety of lessons, classroom activities and online resources that will help you become a more integrative teacher of the social studies.