

# THE ECONOMICS EDUCATOR

News from the Kansas Council for Economic Education

## Sign up now for this year's Personal Finance & Econ Competitions

- LifeSmarts
- Economics Challenge
- Economics Poster Contest
- Personal Finance Challenge
- Stock Market Game

See Page 2 for Details



**Save the Date!**  
Financial Fitness  
& Social Studies  
Workshops  
June 9-11  
WSU Campus

## ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS WITH OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCES

KCEE, through our affiliation with the national Council on Economic Education, has the free resources you need to make personal finance and economics fun, engaging and relevant!  
<https://econedlink.org/collections/>

### NEW COLLECTION - Eco-Economics: Energy & The Environment

#### High School lessons:

• How Does One Energy Policy – a Ban on Gas-powered Cars – Affect So Many People Differently?

Concepts: Decision Making, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Opportunity Cost

• So, You Want to Build a Nuclear Power Plant?

Concepts: Capital Resources, Decision Making, Factors of Production, Regulation

• The Future of Batteries

Concepts: Economic Efficiency, Productivity

#### Elementary lessons:

• From Power Plant to PlayStation™: Electricity's Journey from Producer to Consumer

Concepts: Consumers, Human Capital, Productive Resources

• Watts Up with Electricity Prices?

Concepts: Goods and Services, Markets and Prices

## Upcoming Teacher Workshop

Stipend Included!

Exploring Econ in  
Entertainment:

Taylor Swift, the NFL & More

October 24

Federal Reserve Bank of  
Kansas City

Limited Attendance

RSVP now!

Details on page 4

Be sure to follow us online!



@KansasEconEd



kcee.wichita.edu



@KansasEconEd



@KSecon

# KCEE'S STUDENT ACTIVITIES ALL AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE! 2024-25 Event Calendar



**SMG sessions will be starting soon.** The five sessions for this year are...

**Fall:** September 3 - December 6 & October 7 - December 6

**Spring:** January 13 - May 3 & February 3 - April 11

**Full year:** October 7 - April 11

Remember...there are prizes for the top 3 teams in each division (elementary/middle school/high school) for each session. Learn more and sign up at

[www.stockmarketgame.org](http://www.stockmarketgame.org)



InvestWrite®, an innovative national writing competition, is a program of the SIFMA Foundation offered exclusively to teachers and students participating in The Stock Market Game™. The fall essay prompt and deadline will be announced soon. Learn more at [www.investwrite.org](http://www.investwrite.org)



LifeSmarts, the nation's premier consumer program, provides real-world education for students who learn about core consumer topics and develop critical thinking skills. **Participants focus on five key topic areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, personal finance, and technology.** The Kansas Varsity champion will represent the state, with travel expenses paid by KCEE and our generous donors, at the national competition in San Diego. **New this year...there will be an online JV national championship!** Learn more at [www.lifesmarts.org](http://www.lifesmarts.org).

### **Kansas Varsity Competition Schedule:**

November 1 - January 15 - Capstone Test Period

January 29 - Kansas Championship

April 24-27- National Championship in Chicago

### **Kansas Junior Varsity Competition Schedule**

November 15 - January 31 - Capstone Test Period

TBD - Kansas Championship

TBA - National Championships

## **K-8 Economics Poster Contest**



No student is too young to learn basic economic concepts! And, we can't think of a better way to teach K-8 students than through an engaging learning exercise. Give your students an opportunity to illustrate their understanding of an economic concept using their creativity and art skills in a colorful drawing. The contest starts on October 1. Entry deadline: April 1



The National Personal Finance Challenge (NPFC) is a nationwide competition that provides high school students the opportunity to build and demonstrate their knowledge of money management. Teams showcase their expertise in the concepts of earning income, spending, saving, investing, managing credit, and managing risk.

The top HS teams from the Fall and Spring sessions will be invited to regionals in the spring, with the top performing regional teams competing for the state championship. The Kansas High School champion will represent the state at the National Personal Finance Challenge in Cleveland, with travel expenses paid by KCEE and our generous donors.

Top Middle School teams from both challenge sessions will be invited to the state championship. Regionals will only be held at the High School level.

### **Kansas High School Competition Schedule**

Fall Online Challenge: November 11 - December 20

Spring Online Challenge: February 10 - March 21

State Championships: April 9

National Championship: June 1-2, Atlanta

### **Kansas Middle School Competition Schedule**

Fall Online Challenge: November 11 - December 20

Spring Online Challenge: February 10 - March 21

State Championships: TBA

Learn more online at

<https://financechallenge.unl.edu/Kansas/Welcome>



The National Economics Challenge (NEC) is the country's only economics competition of its kind for high school students. It tests micro and macroeconomic principles as well as knowledge of the world economy. High school students compete in two divisions: David Ricardo for students new to economics and the Econ Challenge, and Adam Smith, for AP, IB and Honors students or those who have competed previously in the Econ Challenge.

The Kansas champions in each division compete in an online semi-finals, with the 4 top teams invited to the national finals in Atlanta, with expenses paid by the Council for Economic Education

### **Kansas Economic Challenge Schedule**

Fall Online Challenge: November 11 - December 20

Spring Online Challenge: February 10 - March 21

State Championships: April 2

National Semi-Finals: April 21-24

Learn more online at:

<https://econchallenge.unl.edu/Kansas/Welcome>

# NEWS & UPDATES

Stay up-to-date with everything KCEE has to offer!

## Celebrating Success

*Congratulations to the following students and teams on their success during the 2023-2024 academic year!*

- **Quinnlan D**, Cheney Elementary School, 6th Place, National InvestWrite Competition
- **Olathe North High School**, Semi-Finalists, National Personal Finance Challenge (Cleveland, OH)
- **Morgan Allen, Centralia High School**, 1st Place, Kansas Insurance Department Financial Literacy Essay Contest (\$10,000 Scholarship Winner)
- **Trail Ridge Middle School**, National Runners-Up, Inaugural LifeSmarts Junior Varsity Championship
- **Junction City High School/FCCLA**, LifeSmarts National Varsity Championship (San Diego), 3 team members placed in the Top 10 individually in category testing.

## Help us improve KCEE and enter to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!

In our ongoing effort to improve the programs and services that the Kansas Council on Economic Education provides, you are encouraged to fill out a brief survey between now and November 15. On November 18, 3 winners will be selected at random to receive \$100 Amazon gift cards! You can find the survey here <https://forms.gle/StF9iegN7s5fxVFM8>

Have other suggestions not covered on the survey? Send them to [kcee@wichita.edu](mailto:kcee@wichita.edu)

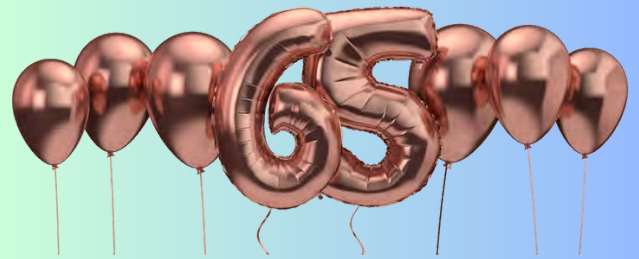
## DON'T MISS THIS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

### KCEE Financial Literacy Essay Contest

*Up to \$15,000 to be awarded*

Kansas High School students who have participated in any one of KCEE's financial literacy programs (see page 2 for full list) during high school (past or current years) are invited to enter a Financial Literacy Essay Contest **sponsored by the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner, a division of the Kansas Insurance Department**. Scholarships will be awarded in the following amounts: 3rd place: \$2,000; 2nd place: \$3,000 and 1st place: \$5,000. Additionally, the first place recipient will be considered for an additional scholarship in the amounts listed above in an overall state-wide competition with entries from other Kansas agencies. That means the KCEE winner will be in contention for up to a \$10,000 scholarship!

**Entry forms and essays due February 15.** Contest details will be released soon.



## KCEE is 65! Help us celebrate!

Did you know that KCEE was founded in 1959 at Kansas State University? You can learn more about our story on our social media channels throughout the month of October.

In fact, you can be part of the story! Tell us about why you choose to participate in KCEE sponsored student activities and teacher workshops or how you incorporate lessons from EconEdLink into your curriculum.

On November 1, we'll randomly draw 5 winners for the responses to each receive a \$65 Amazon gift card. The survey can be found at this link <https://forms.gle/fSUdgZ57CXx6aqqT8>

## October is Economic Education Month

Check out the calendar of activities on page 5

## Mark Your Calendar



FEB  
01

**KANSAS SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE**

↳ Eisenhower Library, Abilene

JUN  
9-10

**FINANCIAL FITNESS EXTRAVANGANZA**

↳ Wichita State University

JUNE  
11-12

**SOCIAL STUDIES EXTRAVANGANZA**

↳ Wichita State University



# In Person Teacher Workshop in Kansas City



## Exploring Econ in Entertainment: Taylor Swift, The NFL and More



**THURSDAY**  
10/24/24



**TIME 9 AM - 4 PM**  
BREAKFAST AT 8:30



**DETAILS & RSVP:**  
<https://shorturl.at/BksiV>

- \$50 Amazon Gift Card Stipend
- \$20 reservation fee refunded at workshop
- Free, fun economics lessons with expert presenters
- Limited seats available - RSVP today!

One Hour of optional Graduate Credit available through Wichita State University



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY  
W. FRANK BARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
Center for Economic Education



**BARTON**  
School of Business  
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY



**Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 1 Memorial Drive, KCMO**






**FEE** FOUNDATION for ECONOMIC EDUCATION  
est. 1946



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of KANSAS CITY

**KANSAS**  
Council for Economic Education

# OCTOBER 2024 - ECONEDMONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	RESOURCES
		1 <u>WHAT IS ECONOMICS?</u>	2 <u>TEACHING ECONOMICS WITH BASEBALL</u>	3 <u>IN ECONOMICS, WHY DO WE SAY NOTHING IS FREE?</u>	4 <u>WHAT KIND OF JOBS DO ECONOMISTS HAVE?</u>	5 <u>WEEKEND! PLAY A GAME!</u>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
6 <u>WEEKEND! PODCAST TIME!</u>	7 <u>WHAT IS THE INVISIBLE HAND IN ECONOMICS?</u>	8 <u>WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEFLATION AND DISINFLATION?</u>	9 <u>INTRODUCE ECONOMICS CONCEPTS WITH CURIOUS GEORGE</u>	10 <u>HOW DOES THE US CALCULATE UNEMPLOYMENT?</u>	11 <u>HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT IS INCLUDED IN GDP?</u>	12 <u>WHAT GOODS DOES THE UNITED STATES IMPORT?</u>	
13 <u>WEEKEND! PODCAST TIME!</u>	14 <u>WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KEYNES AND HAYEK?</u>	15  <u>Exploring Econ in Entertainment: Taylor Swift, The NFL and More</u> <small>Registration Deadline</small>	16 <u>WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAL AND NOMINAL GDP?</u>	17 <u>HOW DOES THE FEDERAL RESERVE IMPACT INTEREST RATES?</u>	18 <u>WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE THE HIGHEST GDP?</u>	19 <u>WEEKEND! PLAY A GAME!</u>	
20 <u>WEEKEND! PODCAST TIME!</u>	21 <u>WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN ENTREPRENEUR?</u>	22 <u>WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF TRADE?</u>	23 <u>HOW DOES SCARCITY INFLUENCE DECISIONS?</u>	24  <u>Exploring Econ in Entertainment: Taylor Swift, The NFL and More</u> <small>Workshop at the KC Fed 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advanced Registration Required</small>	25 <u>WHY IS \$1 WORTH \$1?</u>	26 <u>WEEKEND! PLAY A GAME!</u>	
27 <u>WEEKEND! PODCAST TIME!</u>	28 <u>SHOULD BUSINESSES GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?</u>	29 <u>HOW MUCH HAVE PRICES GONE UP DURING YOUR LIFE?</u>	30 <u>HOW CAN YOU INCREASE YOUR HUMAN CAPITAL?</u>	31 <u>WHAT PRODUCTS SEE DEMAND SHIFTS DURING HALLOWEEN?</u>	 National Economics Challenge a CEE program   National Personal Finance Challenge a CEE program		

[KCEE.WICHITA.EDU](http://KCEE.WICHITA.EDU)



Thanks to our friends to the north at the Nebraska Council on Economic Education for the original development of this calendar in celebration of Economic Education Month.





# National Economics Challenge

a CEE program

## DO YOU LOVE ECON?

You may have what it takes to compete in the Nation's only high school economics competition!



The **National Economics Challenge** (NEC) is the country's only economics competition of its kind for high school students. It tests micro and macroeconomic principles as well as knowledge of the world economy.

This motivating and fun team learning experience begins with competitions at the state level. The winning team from each state moves on to the National Semi-Finals. The top teams in the semi-finals will advance and receive an **all-expense paid trip (excluding travel) to compete in the National Finals in New York City** this spring.

### Why Play?

- Fun team learning experience
- Great for your college application
- No other challenge like this!

### CASH PRIZES



For each team member in National Finals:

1st place:	\$1,000
2nd place:	\$500
3rd place:	\$250
4th place:	\$125

## HOW IT WORKS: STEP-BY-STEP



### TWO DIVISIONS BASED ON EXPERIENCE LEVEL

**David Ricardo Division:** For first-time competitors who have taken no more than one economics course.

**Adam Smith Division:** For returning competitors, AP, International Baccalaureate, and honors students.

REGISTER FOR THE KANSAS COMPETITION!  
NationalEconomicsChallenge.org/Kansas





# National Personal Finance Challenge

a CEE program

## THE NATION'S PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION



2024 Kansas Champions  
Olathe North High School

The National Personal Finance Challenge is a competition that provides high school students with an exciting and motivating opportunity to build, apply, and demonstrate their knowledge of money management.

Through online exams and a personal finance simulation, teams showcase their expertise in **earning income, spending, saving, managing credit, investing, and managing risk.**

Teams of 3-4 students, with one teacher/coach, can qualify to represent their state at the National Personal Finance Challenge by winning their local competition.

## HOW IT WORKS: STEP-BY-STEP



### CASH PRIZES

Top teams in National Finals receive a cash prize for each student team member and an all expense paid trip to the site of the 2025 nationals  
1st place: \$2,000 | 2nd place: \$1,000 | 3rd place: \$500 | 4th place: \$250

**REGISTER TODAY FOR YOUR LOCAL COMPETITION!**  
[personalfinancechallenge.org](http://personalfinancechallenge.org)

The National Personal Finance Challenge is sponsored in Kansas by:







Life-changing

Confidence

Knowledge

Leadership

Motivation

# Get to know



# LifeSmarts

*Learn it. Live it.*

LifeSmarts is a free, national consumer literacy program that gives young people the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills they need to become successful adults. LifeSmarts offers curricula for teachers, and exciting scholarship opportunities for students.

## Why LifeSmarts?

LifeSmarts prepares the next generation of consumers and workers to take control of their lives and make more informed life decisions. In recent years, food, clothing, and entertainment purchases accounted for a majority of teen spending and an increased number of teens shopped online. Also, teens have become increasingly active in the workforce.

## What makes LifeSmarts different?

**Critical Thinking | Competition | Success**

LifeSmarts provides teens with the skills and knowledge they need to evaluate risks and opportunities and make informed decisions for themselves and their families. LifeSmarts pushes students to use critical thinking skills, introduces them to new experiences, and allows them to forge new friendships with students from across the country. LifeSmarts also improves the quality of life of students who participate, instilling confidence and leadership skills that last a lifetime and have a positive impact on their communities.



## By the numbers

# 125,000

Teens reached a year online and in classrooms nationwide

# 50 states

Where LifeSmarts is active (in the District of Columbia too!)

# 3.5 million

Consumer literacy questions answered each program year

## It works!

Pre- and post-tests of students who participate in LifeSmarts show an increase in scores from a C average to a B+/A- average

## At a glance

- An educational program
- A scholarship opportunity
- A learning resource for students
- A teaching toolbox
- A resource for current consumer topics
- A program full of opportunities with many different partners
- A program that creates life long connections and experiences for everyone involved

to learn more about the educational strategies behind the LifeSmarts content and approach, visit [lifesmarts.org/about-us/](http://lifesmarts.org/about-us/)



## What's in it for students?

As the nation's premier consumer program and competition for 30 years, LifeSmarts teaches students about core consumer topics and develops confidence, leadership, and teamwork. Students learn to succeed individually and with their teams.

Students credit LifeSmarts with making their high school years compelling and their adulthood a success. LifeSmarts alumni boast professionals in an array of fields including: elected officials, lawyers, entrepreneurs, pharmacists, military personnel, and more.

## What's in it for educators?

LifeSmarts curriculum-based foundation has evolved in recent years to complement curricula already in place in middle- and high-schools and can also be used as an activity for classes, groups, clubs, and community organizations.

LifeSmarts excels at bringing real-world skills to students, building strong literacy skills and practical knowledge about core consumer topics that include:

-  **Personal finance** (credit & debt management, financial planning, taxes, and career planning)
-  **Consumer rights and responsibilities** (fraud, contracts, and marketplace economics)
-  **Health and safety** (disease & medicine, healthcare, first aid, and nutrition)
-  **Technology & workforce prep** (social networks, privacy and career planning)
-  **The environment** (waste management, water & land, energy, and atmosphere)

## Who operates LifeSmarts?

LifeSmarts is a program of the National Consumers League, the country's oldest consumer advocacy organization. National partners include FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders America), and 4-H. LifeSmarts partners with agencies and organizations to run state programs, including attorneys general, JumpStart Coalitions, Councils on Economic of Education, Better Business Bureaus, Extension Agencies, 4-H leaders, and others.

**For more information about LifeSmarts, contact Cheryl Varnadoe, [cherylv@nclnet.org](mailto:cherylv@nclnet.org).**



## From the students

LifeSmarts is the most enjoyable academic competition I have ever participated in, with the chance to meet awesome people from all across the country.

—Albert Enyedy, Massachusetts

LifeSmarts has provided me with skills that I will use in high school, college, and beyond.

—Tiffany Olson, North Dakota

Knowledge of this caliber is priceless at any age, let alone in youth. The knowledge I took away from Lifesmarts completely prepared me for the real world. This program changes the trajectory of students' lives.

—Andrew Gryskovicz, Pennsylvania



## Educators say LifeSmarts:

Challenges students to show they have the skills to make it in the "real world"

Motivates students with its interactive competition format

Provides educators with new and challenging material for students

Fosters excitement in the classroom

Presents an opportunity to work with students at a rigorous level

Is flexible

Teaches the teachers as much as the students



for sample questions, visit [lifesmarts.org/resources/](http://lifesmarts.org/resources/)