



Searching for Equilibrium

Greetings!

This is the first newsletter for the IUP Center for Economic Education, so it will be one of introductions. The IUP Center for Economic Education has actually existed for a long time, so you may already be aware of some of our services. Whether you are an old friend or a new acquaintance, keep reading to learn more about our ongoing Search for Equilibrium.

As background, the IUP Center is affiliated with both EconomicsPennsylvania (formerly the Pennsylvania Partnership for Economic Education) and the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE). The central purpose of each local Center, state level organization, and NCEE is to provide a nationwide network to promote economic literacy. The network strives to develop curricula and programs to equip teachers with the necessary tools to get economics and personal finance into K-12 classrooms and to motivate students to apply sound decision making to their lives.

Staffing of the IUP Center has changed in

recent years. Past co-directors have retired or moved to other positions within the university. Now Dr. Jim Jozefowicz and Dr. Stephanie Brewer Jozefowicz serve as the co-directors. We both are associate professors in the Department of Economics and have been at IUP since 1999. As might be expected from a pair of economists, we attempt to gain from specialization and trade. Thus, Jim handles many of the Center's administrative functions, so I can focus more on program delivery. We are absolutely elated to welcome Carol Occhuizzo this fall as a Field Consultant for the Center after the passage of several years since Liz Gates left the position. Carol brings abundant talents, first-hand high school teaching experience, and a charming personality.

There are 14 Centers across Pennsylvania. As of this fall, the IUP Center services Cambria, Indiana and Westmoreland Counties. Annual programs include The Stock Market Game (SMG) (fall/spring), the Business Plan Competition (spring), and the Econo-

SPRING 2006 WORKSHOPS:

January 27	<i>The Stock Market Game</i>	9 am - 3 pm	IUP, main campus
February 8	<i>Business Plan</i>	3 pm - 6 pm	IUP, main campus
February 22	<i>Virtual Economics</i>	9 am - 3 pm	Indiana County Country Club
April 7	<i>Elementary Economics</i>	9 am - 3:30 pm	Indiana County Country Club
April 26	<i>Bringing Home the Bacon</i>	3 pm - 6 pm	IUP, Northpointe

From Carol's Desk:

(cocchuizzo@economicspa.org)

Carol Occhuizzo, a former high school economics teacher, joined the IUP Center for Economic Education staff in September. She brings with her more than 17 years experience in the public school system, working locally in the Indiana, Blairsville-Saltsburg, and Homer-Center School Districts. Prior to teaching economics, Mrs. Occhuizzo held the positions of Executive Director of the Warren County American Cancer Society and Executive Director of the Indiana/Armstrong County Lung Association.

While Carol will be taking on a new role at the Center, she is not a complete stranger to the program. For the last seven years, Carol taught the Center's Stock Market

Game Workshop for teachers each spring and fall. During the summer, she taught the Stock Market Game sessions to students enrolled in the Economics Department's Summer Honors Program.

As a teacher, she attended numerous IUP Center for Economic Education Workshops. She credits these workshops for helping her to develop an economic curriculum in her classroom that not only met the Pennsylvania Standards in Economics, but provided her students with the skills necessary to be financially literate investors, knowledgeable consumers, and productive citizens. "My school district encouraged professional development, so I took advantage of the opportunities provided by the Center."



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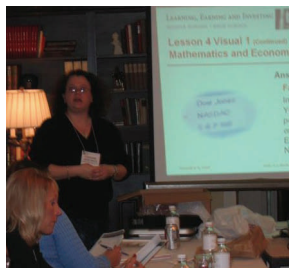
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Teacher Workshop Opportunities

mics Challenge (spring). Teacher workshops are planned throughout the year at various sites in our service area and in conjunction with nearby Centers. Act 48 credit is granted to workshop attendees. Workshops feature interactive lesson demonstrations, and we often **give** showcased curricula to participants.

Recent workshop activity includes partnering with the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank to deliver two days of workshops held in Johnstown in August, SMG workshops held at IUP and at the *Indiana Gazette* in September, EconFest and Economics in Action workshops held in Upper St. Clair and Butler in October, and district in-service workshops held at Ligonier Valley School District and Southmoreland School District in October/November.

Our Spring 2006 workshops are slated to provide training on a variety of curricula. The SMG workshop will include information specific to participating in the SMG, as well as, sample lessons from NCEE's *Learning, Earning, and Investing* and an overview of NCEE's *Financial Fitness for Life* curricula. The SMG is adaptable to high school, middle school, and elementary school environments.



Bringing Home the Bacon and the Business Plan workshops are designed primarily for high school economics and family and consumer sciences teachers who desire to build labor market, entrepreneurship, and small business operation discussions into their classrooms. There is a statewide Business Plan competition in which teachers may choose to have their students participate.

The Virtual Economics (VE) workshop will demonstrate the extraordinary power and number of resources of the newly released VE version 3.0 CD-ROM by NCEE. Educators can use VE to match the lessons they want to teach to identified economic concepts or standards. The VE workshop is open all teachers in grades K-12, who want to integrate economics into their curriculum. As many as ten participants will receive a "free" VE CD-ROM.

Elementary Economics is primarily for elementary school teachers. This workshop will answer the question, "How do I meet the Pennsylvania Economic Standards in my already full elementary school curriculum?" by showing teachers how to integrate economic concepts into their present curriculum. More details will be forthcoming.

Additionally, we are excited that February officially has been declared "Economic Literacy" month in Pennsylvania.

Contact us for more details or to register for any workshop.