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CommunityONE Bank Supports Financial Literacy Efforts

CommunityONE Bank Sponsors 154 Teams of Students in the Stock Market Game™

Raleigh, N.C. — The North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE) announced today that it has received a \$3,000 contribution from CommunityONE Bank in support of the NCCEE's Stock Market Game™ (SMG) program for North Carolina's educators and students. The SMG program is an online stock market simulation used to teach the financial concepts of saving and investing; reinforces core concepts like math and economics; and teaches the 21st Century Skills of critical thinking, teamwork, communication, and many others.

"Providing financial literacy to students is something CommunityONE feels strongly about," commented Michael C. Miller, President and CEO of CommunityONE Bank. "Many of our employees volunteer in classrooms each year, teaching lesson plans on saving money and understanding credit. We are happy to support the North Carolina Council on Economic Education and the worthwhile curriculum they offer to young people."

"The funding provided by CommunityONE Bank made participation in the SMG program possible for more than 700 students in CommunityONE Bank's service area," said Sandy Wheat, Executive Director of the NCCEE. "We applaud their efforts in bringing this outstanding program to students in communities where they conduct business, especially now, when program budgets are being cut or are non-existent in many of our schools."

The SMG program and the NCCEE, which administers the program in North Carolina, were recommended resources by the Honorable Janet Cowell, State Treasurer of North Carolina in her report to the State Board of Education on November 5. "Given current budget constraints, I understand the difficulties of initiating new programs to help students, no matter how worthy the focus area," stated Cowell. "The North Carolina Council on Economic Education, the National Endowment for Financial Education, and the College Foundation of North Carolina are available to help high schools and colleges provide financial education to their students."

About the North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE):

The North Carolina Council on Economic Education was founded in 1970. NCCEE is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization working with K-12 teachers statewide to give our students a better understanding of economics and to prepare them for personal financial decision-making. With support from private businesses and foundations, and through partnerships with state agencies, the NCCEE is a tremendous example of an effective public-private partnership. More information on is available at www.nccee.org.