



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LOCAL TEACHER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

**Raleigh, N.C. — The North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE) announced today that Kathy Heyse of Union County has won the 2012 Economic Educator of the Year in the elementary education division. Heyse is a third grade teacher at Sun Valley High School in Monroe.**

Kathy Heyse, who teaches third grade at Sun Valley Elementary School in Monroe, NC, is this year's elementary Teacher of the Year for GATE, the Global Association of Teachers of Economics. Heyse, a longtime proponent of economic and financial education, was nominated for the award by Sandy Wheat, executive director of the North Carolina Council on Economic Education, NCCEE.

"Kathy has always done a great job of helping her students understand economic principles," Wheat said. "And, she literally wrote the book on *Teaching Economics Using Children's Literature*. We are delighted that Kathy works with NCCEE to provide staff development sessions for NC teachers. She is an outstanding teacher and presenter who consistently receives the highest evaluations from her peers."

"I don't think there is another teacher in the nation who has done as much to impact economic education at the elementary level," said Stephen Day, programs director for NCCEE. "She has trained hundreds of teachers and her work has influenced thousands of teachers over the past couple of decades."

Heyse was recognized in Kansas City at the October meeting of GATE, during the annual joint meeting of GATE, the Council for Economic Education and the National Association of Economic Educators.

Mrs. Heyse said, "It was both an honor and a blessing to win the GATE Elementary Economics Teacher of the Year Award presented by the National Council for Economic Education in Kansas City, Missouri. I want especially thank the North Carolina Council for Economic Education for nominating me. I truly believe that economics and personal finance skills needs to begin at the elementary level. I view economics as the glue that holds my curriculum together. Economics can be easily integrated into reading, math, writing, social studies and science. For children to learn and retain basic knowledge, they have to be taught how to apply it to real life

situations. Math takes on a whole new meaning when you teach students how to be good consumers in the market place, what is supply and demand, interdependence (import & export), how to spend money wisely, long term and short term goals, scarcity, opportunity cost and so much more. Mrs. Heyse also said, “I teach a cereal economics unit where my students learn how to read labels, how to measure servings, calculate price per serving, many of the natural, capital, and human resources that are needed when producing cereal. I also discuss price minus cost equals profit. Economics is everywhere!! Students get excited about learning when you teach economics. Econ is fun, essential, relevant and easy to integrate into almost everything. Economics, you can't leave home without it!”

**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](http://www.nccee.org).



Left to right: Sandy Wheat, Executive Director of NCCEE and Kathy Heyse, Union County Elementary teacher, at the Council for Economic Education Awards Dinner in Kansas City.