Local Teacher Awarded Prestigious National Teaching Award

October 19, 2009 Ms. Tina Hayes from Farley Elementary School in Paducah, Kentucky was presented with the John Morton Excellence in the Teaching of Economics Award by the Global Association of Teachers of Economics (GATE), a program of the Council for Economic Education (CEE) during the 2009 annual conference in Washington, D. C. this month.

Tina Hayes, an elementary education graduate of Murray State, has taught in public schools for 15 years. Hayes co-authored economic curriculum and has been recognized in Kentucky for high standards and consistent delivery of economic instruction. This spring, Hayes was recognized by the Kentucky Council on Economic Education for her work with the Stock Market Game, innovative entrepreneurship classroom activities and devoting her entire teaching day to economics for her fifth grade students. She was named the Kentucky Ag in the Classroom Teacher of Year in 1998. She received the National Leavey Award for Entrepreneurship in 2001 and named the Port of Paducah’s Maritime Person of the Year in 2002. She was also awarded the honor of Kentucky Colonel in 2002.

Hayes’ trip to Washington, D.C. was sponsored in part by Murray State University’s Office of Regional Stewardship and Outreach. This office, developed by KY’s Council on Postsecondary Education, strives to address the needs of west KY and plays an integral role in educational attainment. Hayes is employed part-time through the Center for Economic Education by the Office of Regional Stewardship. There, she works to promote entrepreneurialism to young people in the region.

For the past five years, Hayes has served as a Toyota Teacher Advocate with the Kentucky Council on Economic Education (KCEE) to demonstrate practices in teaching economics, personal finance and entrepreneurship to other Kentucky teachers. KCEE President, Jan Mester said, “If we could multiply Tina Hayes in every Kentucky school district, all of our students would be taught dollars and cents as part of their school experience.”

Hayes is a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis-Louisville Branch Teacher Advisory Board, a member of the River Discover Center’s Board of Directors; and a member of her schools Decision Making Council. Tina is also part of her school district’s Technology Leadership Academy and works with Murray State Center Directors Barry Brown and Janice Vaughn delivering professional development to teachers in western Kentucky.

“I strive to create life-long learners and challenge students to think outside the box in order to create, communicate, and collaborate in a global economy,” said Hayes. “I see my role in the classroom as a facilitator to learning and believe in making students take ownership of their personal learning experiences. Economics remains the central core of my classroom, requiring students to analyze costs and benefits in order to make informed decisions and recognize that every choice can result in an opportunity cost.”

The awards were started in 2005 and named to honor one of the leading figures in the development of economic education. The John Morton Excellence in the Teaching of Economics Awards recognize excellence in teaching of economics and financial literacy. The awards honor teachers whose innovative teaching methods improve and stimulate understanding of economics, financial literacy, and/or entrepreneurship.
About KCEE

The mission of the Kentucky Council for Economic Education (KCEE) is to champion the teaching and learning of economics and personal finance with academic integrity, creativity and responsiveness. The Council is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to economic literacy across the Commonwealth. KCEE has been the leader in teacher education for 35 years through a network of university-based Centers for Economic Education. KCEE is an affiliate of the national Council on Economic Education.

MSU Office of Regional Stewardship and Outreach

The Regional Stewardship Program is a state legislative initiative that seeks to promote regional and statewide economic development, livable communities, social inclusion, creative governance and civic participation through public engagement activities initiated by comprehensive university faculty and staff. Its purpose is to link the resources and knowledge of our public universities to the needs and challenges of their respective regions. KY is the first state in the nation to launch a statewide stewardship program.

Center for Economic Education

The MSU Center for Economic Education aims to develop in K-12 students the economic knowledge and decision-making skills they will need throughout their lives as family members, workers, citizens and business, labor, government and community leaders.

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