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## Grants to fund economic teaching programs

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Two grants recently awarded to Eastern Kentucky University will allow teachers to participate in an Economics Extravaganza workshop and a stock market game.

Cynthia Harter, director of the ECU Center for Economic Education, recently received a \$15,000 grant to conduct a teacher-training program this summer entitled "Economics Extravaganza: Something for Everyone" for teachers in grades K-12.

The two-day program, which will be conducted July 17-18 at Model Laboratory School, will cost \$20 for registration and participating teachers can earn a professional development credit or one credit of graduate instruction at ECU.

"We have the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank as a partner in the project," said Harter. "They are going to come down and present information about the Fed, what they do and the current state of the economy on the first day. On the second day, we're going to have speakers come in and train the teachers in different kinds of economic curriculum that the National Council on Economic Education is providing."

Along with receiving free curriculum and materials, the teachers will learn how to use games and activities to introduce economic concepts in the classroom, how to pretest and posttest students using the Kentucky Center on Economic Education (KCEE) online e-Learning Center and find out about Web resources and lesson plans to use in the classroom.

In order to participate in "Economics Extravaganza," a \$20 check made payable to Eastern Kentucky University should be sent to: Elizabeth Tipton, 106 Beckham Hall, 521 Lancaster Ave., Richmond, KY 40475. The teacher's name, grade(s) and subject(s) taught, the school's name and an e-mail address also should be included.

The registration deadline is June 15, and once registration is confirmed, a multiple-choice pretest will need to be completed online before July.

Harter and her husband, John Harter, an associate economics professor at ECU, also were awarded a more than \$21,000 Excellence in Economic Education grant from the National Council on Economic Education in collaboration with KCEE to conduct a research program titled "Is Financial Literacy Improved by Participating in a Stock Market Game?"

High schools in the ECU area will be randomly selected and invited teachers will be trained this summer using a "Take Stock in Kentucky" game.

Forty high schools — 20 as a test group and 20 for the control group — will be chosen for the research program, Harter said.

"It gets students to pick stocks that are important to the state of Kentucky," she said. "The teachers will be trained on how to use the game and then, they will pretest their students with the game for a semester (during the fall). They will then post-test them so we can do a statistical analysis of the results to see if there is improved learning from the game."

Harter said she is excited about both programs that the grants will fund because it enables more teachers to be reached with financial and economic education.

"With the stock market game research, in particular, we had read the results of a survey that said that students who participated in some type of active learning, stock market simulation did perform better on a financial education quiz given to high school seniors," she said.

"We're just excited to have the resources and the funding to be able to offer these types of things to the teachers," Harter said.

The ECU Center for Economic Education, one of seven university-based Centers for Economic Education affiliated with and supported by the Kentucky Council on Economic Education, also recently was granted a full five-year affiliation with the NCEE.

For more information about the programs, e-mail [Cynthia.Harter@ecu.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Harter@ecu.edu).

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