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St. Vincent de Paul Takes Top Middle School Honors at the 2017 International Economic Summit

Jackson, MS, December 13, 2017-St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School captured the top middle school honor at the 2017 International Economic Summit (IES) on December 5, 2017 at Mississippi College in Clinton, MS. Representing the country Ghana, the four middle school students emerged from a field of over 100 teams to bring home the title of 2017 Middle School Summit Champions. The team also achieved a perfect score on the geography test, which is one portion of the event. This year's summit was made possible by The MS Attorney General's Office, Atmos Energy, Mississippi College, and the Mississippi Geographic Alliance. In addition, a large number of volunteers serving as bankers and score keepers were from BankPlus and Ballew Wealth Management.

The winning team was coached by St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School teacher, Tara Meleones. The Prior to the Summit, students spent 10 weeks in class preparing for the events of the day. IES provided an opportunity for middle and high school students to flex their knowledge of the global economy. Through the simulation of an international assembly, teams of students represented their designated countries, complete with native garb, in a global economic competition. The brainchild of Boise State University and hosted by the local MS Council on Economic Education (MCEE), the purpose of the IES is to provide students with a practical, hands-on learning experience in globalization, international relations, and economics

“During the competition student teams were evaluated on practical skills like planning, problem solving, critical thinking, adapting to change, teamwork, budgeting, investing and negotiating. Through the IES experience, students develop attitudes of integrity, responsibility, professionalism and accountability,” stated Selena Swartzfager, President of MCEE. Students learn about economics, finance, technology, math, marketing, writing, public speaking and video production. Their goal is to raise the standard of living by scoring points in 20 objectively measured Summit skill challenges and academic exams. “This event supports learning in the manner required by the Mississippi College and Career Ready standards,” stated Swartzfager.



2017 Middle School Summit Champions, Ghana: Top Row L to R: Shan Montgomery (MCEE Board Member) Gloria Johnson (MCEE Board Chair), Ricki Garrett (MCEE Board Member), David Johnson (MCEE Board Member), and Tara Meleones (Teacher) Bottom Row (Students) L to R: Anamaria Perez, Jaden Tran, Kaelyn Welch, Alexander Mink, and Ella Nguyen

The MCEE partners with the MS Department of Education, is affiliated with the national Council on Economic Education, and aims to produce an emerging generation

armed with the financial competence to improve the economic climate for the State of Mississippi. MCEE equips educators of students K-12 to teach how economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship relate to their lives as a worker, citizen, and consumer.

If you are interested in supporting the efforts of the MS Council on Economic Education through programs such as the International Economic Summit, please contact MCEE at mscee@millsaps.edu or 601-974-1325. Economic and financial literacy education is all of our business.

About the Mississippi Council for Economic Education The Mississippi Council for Economic Education (MCEE) envisions a world in which people are empowered through economic, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy to make informed and responsible choices throughout their lives as consumers, savers, investors, workers, citizens, and participants in our global economy.

The MCEE offers comprehensive, K-12 economic, personal finance and entrepreneurial education programs, including the basics of entrepreneurship, consisting of teaching resources across the curriculum, professional development for teachers, and nationally-normed assessment instruments. Programming is delivered largely through the six Centers on Economic Education at Delta State University, Millsaps College, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education. In 15 years, the Council's programs have reached more than 10,000 K-12 teachers and over 1,000,000 students in Mississippi. The MCEE was awarded the “Outstanding State Council” award in 2017. This was the first time the award was given by the Council for Economic Education. A Board of Directors composed of 45 members is responsible for the governance and fund-raising of the MCEE.

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