

2009 NAEE Awards

The Bessie B. Moore Service Award: Donna K. Wright, Associate Director, Economics Arkansas

The Bessie B. Moore Service Award is given to a person whose outstanding and dedicated service has had a significant impact on the delivery and enhancement of economic education. You need not look beyond Little Rock, Arkansas, to find someone who exemplifies the spirit and dedication that defined Bessie Moore. This year's recipient is Donna Wright of Economics Arkansas. Just like Bessie Moore, Donna is described by those in the network as a "go to" person, a "servant leader," a mentor, a colleague, a friend.

The imprint of Donna's 25 years of service in economic education is evident locally and nationally. Her passion for economics became evident while serving as an elementary teacher in Hot Springs, Arkansas and blossomed into a level of creativity that earned her three International Paper Company Foundation Awards and an Honor Medal by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

She earned her Master of Instruction in Economic Education from the University of Delaware and was selected as a Master Economics Teacher by the Arkansas Council. As associate director of Economics Arkansas since 1997, she continues to inspire Arkansas teachers through mentoring, leading numerous workshops, and developing a wide range of economic education programs. Fortunately for us, she shares these creative ideas with the network in often standing-room only sessions at the national meeting.

Donna served on numerous NAEE committees, was elected to the NAEE executive committee from 2006-2008, and is currently a member of the conference committee. More than six of the network's most popular publications list her as a co-author or contributor.

Henry Villard Research Award: KimMarie McGoldrick, Professor Economics, University of Richmond

This year's Henry Villard Research Award goes to Dr. KimMarie McGoldrick, Professor of Economics at the University of Richmond. We are recognizing her for her outstanding contribution to research and scholarship in economic education. Her distinguished record covers a wide range of topics that help improve teaching and learning in undergraduate economics. Here is just a sample:

- She showed how to link the undergraduate economics classroom and the community through service learning, and wrote a book on concepts and models for service learning in economics.
- She studied how to improve student research skills through a capstone course in economics for college seniors.
- She reported on writing requirements and economic research opportunities in the undergraduate curriculum.
- She explored the use of feminist pedagogy for teaching undergraduate economics, and wrote another book on that topic.
- She investigated crime in the economics classroom based on how students define cheating.
- She examined the relationship between quantitative literacy and economic literacy among undergraduate students.
- She published articles and book chapters on how to use cooperative learning in economics courses.

- She investigated the relationship between liberal education and the undergraduate economics major and will soon have another book published on this topic.

In addition to being a prolific scholar, she is a skilled economic educator who puts her insights from research and publications to work. She is a highly effective instructor of undergraduate economics and has been honored for her teaching on multiple occasions by the University of Richmond, and in 2008, by the State of Virginia. She also has shared her understanding of teaching with economics faculty in numerous national workshops for the Teaching Innovations Program (TIP) that is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. She has provided great service to the economics profession through her work for the Committee on Economic Education of the American Economic Association. The field of economic education and the economics profession has greatly benefited from her extensive research, effective teaching, and worthy service.

John C. Schramm Leadership Award: George Vredevelde, Center Director, University of Cincinnati

This year's recipient of the John C. Schramm Leadership award has been described as "the economic educator for the ages." Dr. George Vredevelde got his start in economic education as Director of the Missouri Council on Economic Education in the early 1970s. Even then he was ahead of the curve by delivering video lessons throughout Missouri. He then moved on to become the first (and only!) director of the Center at the University of Cincinnati, starting with an operating budget of \$68,000 that is now well over \$2 million.

George has given generously of his time to economic education and educators. He served ten years on the NAEE Executive Committee and one year as president. He also served as the Center Representative to the CEE Board of Directors. When the former Soviet Union collapsed, George was again ahead of the curve and was a pioneer in establishing an economic education in Bulgaria.

George sets a standard of excellence for all of us in economic education. His deep commitment to his profession and his colleagues is exemplified in his local, national, and international leadership. And today, he continues to be an inspiration to many, both here and abroad. As one of his nominators said, "I could go into great detail about George's accomplishments at the University of Cincinnati Center and about all of the things that we take for granted as economic educators that he has in some way influenced. The list would be never ending."

International Award: Elena Reshetnyak, Program Director Ukrainian Council for Economic Education

Dr. Elena Reshetnyak is the quintessential example of professional development and attainment in international economic education. With a doctorate from Kharkiv State University in Economics, she started as an observer of teacher training done by the Council for Economic Education in Ukraine in 1993 and was an active participant in the very first *Training of Trainers* program in 1995. Since then she has become not only the face and force of economic education in Ukraine, but a valuable partner for expanding the reach of CEE's *EconomicsInternational*, a talented faculty member of the *Trainers* program, and a recognized promoter and leader of economic education reform around the world.

Dr. Reshetnyak's contributions as a teacher trainer, curriculum developer, consultant, organizer, and general ambassador of economic education are literally too numerous for any list to do justice. She has directly trained over 1500 teachers in Ukraine and many others outside Ukraine through her involvement in *EconomicsInternational* teacher training workshops.

She was instrumental in the development of Ukraine's first National Standards in Economics, the All Ukrainian Association of Economics Teachers, the national Olympiad competition in economics, and in writing retraining curriculum in economics for the high school, middle school, and elementary levels.

She not only achieved economic education reform in Ukraine through her extensive work as the Program Director for the Ukrainian Council for Economic Education, but has also served as a tireless partner for *EconomicsInternational* in pursuing similar reforms in Egypt, Indonesia, South Africa, and Latin America.

Patty Elder, Vice-President for *EconomicsInternational* sums up Elena's contributions this way: "No international participant has done so much to grow professionally in expertise and knowledge, benefit her country through her involvement, and give back to the international economic education community."

Rising Star Award – Roger Butters, Director, Nebraska Council for Economic Education

The purpose of this award is to recognize someone who has served the network for seven years or less and "hit the ground running"—that is, the recipient should have made extraordinary contributions to economic education programs or services early in his or her career in economic education. This year's recipient of the "Rising Star Award" clearly fits this description.

Roger Butters has served as the President of the Nebraska Council on Economic Education since August of 2005. Since that time he has made enormous contributions not only to economic education in his home state of Nebraska but also nationally. Dr. Butters has been a tireless fundraiser for economic education programs in Nebraska. A quick review of a list of the major grants he has procured includes many 5-figure gifts from well known donors for programs important to teachers and students in Nebraska. Prof. Butters' nomination letters made it clear that center directors in the Nebraska Council feel very fortunate to have access to the resources available to them and they recognize Roger is the person to thank for such support.

Roger has also been deeply involved in producing economic education workshops, curricular materials and publications. Dr. Butters has been particularly instrumental in the development of online learning platforms including econchallenge.org; financechallenge.org and econcontest.org. Each of these sites has brought economic and financial education to thousands of students via the internet. In addition, a number of workshop guides, tests of economic literacy and a recent peer reviewed research publication in economic education bear Prof. Butters' name. In summary, one of Roger's nominators wrote: "I truly believe that Roger is a rising star in this field not only in the state and region, but also in the country."

The Abbejean Kehler Technology Award: Tawni Ferrarini, Center Director, NMU Center for Economic Educaiton and Entrepreneurship

Our inaugural honoree of the Abbejean Kehler Technology award is a former NAEF "Rookie of the Year." Dr. Tawni Ferrarini is a Professor of Economics at Northern Michigan University and Director of the NMU Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship.

She is known nationally for her research on successfully employing technological trends into classrooms, economic courses, teacher workshops in economic education, and information search exercises. Tawni has continued the legacy of Abbejean Kehler as a strong advocate and network technology mentor. She has the passion and commitment that Abbejean demonstrated for so many years.

Tawni has taken leadership for the NAEF Workbench project, founded by Abbejean and kept it "front and center" in the minds of colleagues across the network. She worked closely with Abbejean and it is very appropriate that she be the founding recipient of this award.