

Recognizing Excellence in the Classroom with the Bessie B. Moore Awards



Award winner Krista Harvey and her students Brady Evans, Ashby Burnett and Alexis Doellinger, Bentonville School District.

Thanks to the support of generous donors like the Arkansas Bankers Association, Economics Arkansas reached a milestone last month: The non-profit educational organization hosted its 20th Annual Bessie B. Moore awards program! With the ABA serving as a major sponsor, this initiative recognizes K-12 teachers for excellence in economic and personal finance education.

At a gala luncheon at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock on November 9, fourteen educators were honored for developing outstanding classroom projects. These included a marketplace, a bicycle repair shop, microfinancing, social entrepreneurship and more. (See Page 11 for a complete list of award winners and projects.)

One of this year's winners, Peggy Johnson Johnson of Harmony Grove School District, was also recognized at the inaugural celebration in 1995; two other winners from that year were also in attendance as guests.

It is truly rewarding to witness the longevity of these programs and resources, and the generous gifts from ABA members who contribute through the annual Chairman's Campaign help make this result possible. Thank you.

Randy Zook, president and CEO of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Economics Arkansas board chair, welcomed the 160 guests. Johnny Key, commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education, delivered a thoughtful keynote address about the need for the nature and delivery of education



Peggy Johnson Johnson, a winner at the 1995 inaugural Bessie B. Moore awards program and again in 2015, with her students Madison Elliott, Cannon Booker, and Caleb Johnson.

to stay relevant to rapidly changing times. Several students also presented how they benefited from economic and personal finance education in the classroom.

Staff members representing the ABA at the luncheon were Aaron Gamewell, Traci Logsdon, Jessica Sahene, and Stuart Thalheimer.

Since 1962, the ABA has partnered with Economics Arkansas to encourage and inspire Arkansas teachers to integrate economic and financial concepts into the classroom. Such education is possibly our best chance to solve many of our country's challenges.

To contribute to the 2015-16 Chairman's Campaign, please mail your tax-deductible contribution to Economics Arkansas, P.O. Box 3447, Little Rock, AR 72203. Thank you



Award winner Lydia Brumfield, Beebe School District, flanked by Economics Arkansas board members Ray Hobbs, State Senator David Sanders, Dr. Laura Bednar, Johnny Key and Randy Zook.

2015 Bessie B. Moore Award Winners & Projects

a Lydia Brumfield

"Beebe Marketplace: Entrepreneurship Education for the Next Generation" Beebe Middle School, Beebe School District

Patricia Dennis

"Entrepreneurs Take a Risk for Business"
Sonora Middle School, Springdale School District

Christine Edelmann

"Building a Global Community
One Local Business at a Time"

Lonoke High School, Lonoke School District

Debbie Ethridge

"Entrepreneurship: How Sweet It Is!"
Fulbright Junior High School, Bentonville School District

Krista M. Harvey

"Taking Economics to Heart"

Central Park Elementary School, Bentonville School

District

Jessia Imel and Jason Swim

"Entrepreneurship in Action"

Bentonville High School, Bentonville School District

Michele Jackson and Pamela Reynolds
"Take a Chance Be the Change"
Siloam Springs High School,
Siloam Springs School District

Peggy Johnson Johnson
"Economics...It's in There!"
Harmony Grove Elementary School,
Harmony Grove School District

Cara Morland

"Economics Reconstructed" Frank Tillery Elementary School, Bentonville School District

Kimberly Rahi
"The Wild and Wonderful Ways to
Sell Water: A Story of an Economy"
Barling Elementary School, Fort Smith School District

Jordan L. Strayhorn

"Economy Simulation"

Prairie Grove High School, Prairie Grove School District

Dr. Tom Woodruff "Dreams Really Do Come True through Economics"

Rogers High School, Rogers School District