

Sebastian County teachers awarded by Economics Arkansas

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Economics teachers Valarie Harp, left, Anna Badders, Amy Mileham and Amy Nicole Gordon were recently awarded by Economics Arkansas for their programs to teach students about economics.

[Submitted photo]

By Times Record Staff

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Four Arkansas educators from Sebastian and Benton counties received teaching awards today, including a teacher and her former fifth-grade student, now an adult and working as a teacher herself.

They were honored Nov. 13 with the Bessie B. Moore awards for excellence in economic and personal finance education during the 2018-19 school year. At a luncheon at the Great Hall of the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, each received a \$1,000 cash award and a copy of “The Bessie,” a 7-inch statue created on a 3-D printer by the Arkansas Innovation Hub.

An additional, Sheila Humphrey, formerly of J.P. Woods Elementary in the Fort Smith School District, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in economic and personal finance education during her almost 30-year-long career in the elementary school classroom.

The Bessie B. Moore winners and their projects are:

- Amy Nicole Gordon, “Cupid’s Creations,” Barling Elementary, Fort Smith School District
- Valarie Harp, “P.I.E.S., Primary Investigators Economics Style,” Hackett Elementary, Hackett School District
- Amy Mileham, “Truckin’ Through Economics,” Grace Hill Elementary, Rogers School District
- Anna Badders, “The Lemonade Stand Hangout,” Grace Hill Elementary, Rogers School District

When accepting her award, Amy Mileham noted that Anna Badders, fellow winner and colleague at the same elementary school, had been her fifth grade student years earlier.

“There is the proof that economic education works,” Mileham said. She described how Badders had become a teacher, attended Economics Arkansas workshops and developed her successful economic lesson plans and units. “And now, she is a winner,” Mileham said.

Sarah-Catherine Gutierrez, founder and CEO of Aptus Financial Services and the recent Save10 grassroots savings campaign, delivered the keynote address.

Economics Arkansas launched the Bessie B. Moore Awards program in 1995 to honor exemplary teachers for successfully integrating economic principles into the classroom.