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MMS Places In State-Wide Investment Simulation Competition

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Despite the statewide school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, student teams from 25 Arkansas schools and school districts managed to finish the Stock Market Game™ program to take top honors during the spring 2020 and year-long 2019-20 sessions. The state winner of this investment simulation competition facilitated each year by Economics Arkansas is Pinnacle View Middle School of the Little Rock School District. The second place winner for the year-long 2019-20 is Monticello Middle School.

“The Stock Market Game is the best tool that I use for teaching about economics and its real world applications that all students can relate to,” said Graham Goodloe, the Stock Market Game advisor at Pinnacle View Middle School.

His student teams won the first and second place in their region and division at both the spring and year-long competitions, with the first-place winners increasing their portfolios to \$178,534.04 and \$208,029.73, respectively, reflecting returns of more than 78 percent and more than 108 percent. Graham also won the spring overall advisor and teacher divisions and the year-long advisor division.

“I always have high interest, high buy in, and all of my learners are engaged,” Goodloe said. Even after the school closed due to COVID-19, his students were able to continue playing the game remotely. “This is a certain strength of The Stock Market Game. Once a student has an understanding of all the features of the learning platform and a feel for the swings in the market, they can participate in the game without a classroom setting,” Goodloe said.

The Stock Market Game challenges students in grades 4-12 to grow a hypothetical \$100,000 portfolio over the course of 13 weeks each fall and spring semester or the whole school year. The winners of each session receive cash prizes, awards and, traditionally, public recognition during an awards luncheon at the end of the school year. The 2020 luncheon was cancelled due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The spring session ran from January 13 through April 10; the year-round session, from Sept. 9, 2019, through April 17, 2020.

Economics Arkansas, a nonprofit educational organization that trains educators how to integrate economics and personal finance concepts into the PreK-12 classroom curriculum, hosts the Stock Market Game program each school year as fall, spring and year-long sessions. This investment simulation competition for students in grades 4-12 challenges participants to grow a hypothetical stock portfolio of \$100,000 over the course of 13 weeks each semester or the duration of the school year. Teams of 1-5 students compete in the elementary (grades 4-6), junior high

(grades 7-9) or senior high division (10-12) in one of the state's six regions connected to a university center for economic education. Teachers serve as advisors who teach their students how to research and become aware of current events that affect the market. The teams with the highest total equity at the end of each session in each division and region receive cash and awards, such as medals, trophies or banners.

Not only do students learn key saving and investing principles, but they also hone their math, business, communication, economics and analytical skills.

The Stock Market Game is owned by the Securities Industry Financial Markets Association Foundation (SIFMA Foundation) and franchised to Economics Arkansas since 1999. The average annual participation has grown to more than 15,000 students.

Financial support for the Stock Market Game program during the 2019-20 school year has been provided by the Arkansas Department of Education; the Arkansas Securities Department; Bank of America; Bob Hamilton; Centennial Bank, Jonesboro; D&R Hobbs Properties LLC; Eric Rob & Isaac; Farmers Bank & Trust, Magnolia; First Financial Bank; First Security Bank, Iberia Bank and Lou Graham/Morgan Stanley.

Economics Arkansas (through the Arkansas Council on Economic Education) is a private, non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization founded in 1962 by Dr. Arch Ford and led by Dr. Bessie B. Moore to promote economic literacy in Arkansas. Its mission is to equip PreK-12 schools with standards-based resources and professional development to teach economics, personal finance and the free-enterprise system using practical, innovative and inspiring methods so that Arkansas students may master an understanding of economics and personal finance and apply that knowledge for success in the free-enterprise system.

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