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Magnolia Reporter,

Economics Arkansas names Stock Market Game winners

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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 the investment simulation competition facilitated each year by Economics Arkansas was Pinnacle View Middle School of the Little Rock School District.

“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.

The spring 2020 and the year-long 2019-20 winners from South Arkansas, listed by region and division, are:

2020 Spring

Junior High

Region 3 1st place – North Heights Junior High, TexARKana, Dametra Conway, adviser.

Region 3 2nd place – North Heights Junior High, TexARKana, Latoya Phillips, adviser.

Region 6 1st place – Lakeside Middle School, Lake Village, Jennifer Armstrong, adviser.

Region 6 2nd place – Lakeside Middle School, Lake Village, Jennifer Armstrong, adviser.

High School

Region 3 1st place – Harmony Grove High School, Harmony Grove, Jennifer Waters, adviser.

Region 3 2nd place – El Dorado High School, El Dorado, Jason Sanders, adviser.

Region 6 1st place – Lakeside High School, Lake Village Jennifer Armstrong, adviser.

2019-2020 Year-long Winners

Elementary

2nd place – Monticello Middle School, Anita Skinner, Monticello.

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.