

For Immediate Release

DATE: March 26, 2009

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Schools from across Montana compete in the National Economics Challenge

Bozeman, MT — Fifteen student teams from 10 high schools across the state will compete in the nation's only national economics challenge and advance to the regional level to vie to compete in one of two divisions in New York City. The Adam Smith Division challenges advanced placement, international baccalaureate and honors students, and the David Ricardo Division challenges single semester general economics students.

Individual states host State Economics Challenges with teams competing in either the Adam Smith or David Ricardo Divisions. State winners continue to one of four Regional finals where they compete for \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds and an all-expense paid trip to the National Economics Challenge in New York City.

The National Economics Challenge, sponsored by the Council for Economic Education and The Goldman Sachs Foundation, is the only national economics competition for high school economics students. Its purpose is to honor and reward high-achievers through competition and to showcase outstanding high school economics courses and teachers.

“The Challenge is very exciting to watch. It forces students to solve difficult problems based on real life issues. I am awed by the brilliance of these students,” said Bonnie Jackson, executive director for the Montana Council on Economic Education.

In addition to the support from the CEE and Goldman Sachs, the Montana competition is hosted by the Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and the Montana Council on Economic Education. Rooms for the teams are being provided by the Montana Bankers Association.

The Council and the Goldman Sachs Foundation created the National Economics Challenge in 2000 to promote student interest in economics, reinforce classroom instruction, advance academics and school spirit and reward scholarship. The National Economics Challenge brings public attention to the importance of economic literacy and the need for a high-quality, standards-based economic curriculum in every state.

Student teams competing in the David Ricardo division include: Big Sandy High School, Dutton/Brady High School, Glasgow High School, Helena Christian High School, Heritage Christian High School, Hot Springs High School, Loyola Sacred Heart High School (2 teams,) Park High School (5 teams,) Plains High School, and White Sulphur Springs High School.

The state competition in Montana will be held on April 6, 2009 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Helena, Montana. Winners from the state competition will go on to compete in the regional competition to be held in Los Angeles, CA on April 27, 2009.

About The Montana Council on Economic Education

The Montana Council on Economic Education (www.econedmontana.org), affiliated with the Council for Economic Education, was formed in 1971 by a group of business leaders concerned with improving the economic literacy of Montana citizens. It is a [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) educational foundation with a primary emphasis on teacher education.

About the Council for Economic Education

The Council for Economic Education (www.councilforeconed.org) offers comprehensive, best-in-class K-12 economic and personal finance education programs, including the basics of entrepreneurship, consisting of teaching resources across the curriculum, professional development for teachers, and nationally-normed assessment instruments. Each year, the Council's programs reach more than 150,000 K-12 teachers and over 15 million students in the United States and in more than 30 other countries. These programs are delivered through a diversified system: directly from the Council, through a network of affiliated state councils and university-based Centers for Economic Education, and through other partner organizations.

About Goldman Sachs

The Goldman Sachs Foundation is a global philanthropic organization funded by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. The Foundation's mission is to promote excellence and innovation in education and to improve the academic performance and lifelong productivity of young people worldwide. It achieves this mission through a combination of strategic partnerships, grants, loans, private sector investments, and the deployment of professional talent from Goldman Sachs. Funded in 1999, the Foundation has awarded grants in excess of \$94 million since its inception, providing opportunities for young people in more than 20 countries.

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