White Eagle Elementary Teacher Recognized as Outstanding Economic Educator

Naperville, Illinois, September 2014 – Kerry DiFusco, Project Arrow Gifted teacher, White Eagle Elementary School, was recognized with the 2014 3M Outstanding Economic Educator Award. Dr. Mary Beth Henning, The NIU Center for Economic Education Co-Director was pleased to nominate Mrs. DiFusco for this prestigious award. The award honors educators who have a history of commitment and service to economic education by providing leadership for economics in their school or the community, showing evidence of professional growth in economic education, and having affected student achievement or growth in economic understanding.

Mrs. DiFusco has been instrumental in helping to develop, write, and implement a district-wide economics curriculum for the gifted students in the Indian Prairie School District 204. However, Mrs. DiFusco did not stop there, but extended those programs for all students in grades 1-5 in the buildings where she has taught previously and where she currently teaches. Her classes regularly participate in two academic competitions: The Stock Market Game™ (SMG) program and the Economic Concepts Poster Contest. Her students are frequent regional, state, and national winners in these competitions!

Kerry DiFusco attends professional development conferences and takes graduate level courses to expand on her knowledge of economics and personal finance, allowing her to utilize new curriculum resources and activities. She has served as “Guest Teacher” for several nationwide webinars, teaching educators grades 4-12 how to use the SMG program and InvestWrite, the optional language-arts essay component of the SMG competition. Mrs. DiFusco assisted in the creation of a national writing rubric for the essay contest that addresses Knowledge of Subject Matter, Rationale, and Writing Style while being tied to standards for economics and language arts.

The award will be presented at the Econ Illinois Annual Economic Education Day and 3M Educator Awards Luncheon held at the Union League Club of Chicago on October 21. Mrs. DiFusco will receive a plaque, cash award, and specialized professional development. White Eagle Elementary will also be presented with a cash award to continue support of economic education.

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