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TOWSON UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

*Serving as the home for the Maryland Council on Economic Education aligns with Towson University's TU2020 Strategic Plan to serve as a model for teacher preparation and STEM workforce development.*

In her new role, Julie Weaver leads the Maryland Council on Economic Education's effort to assure that Maryland's school children are equipped with the economic knowledge and decision-making skills they will need to make informed decisions as consumers, workers, citizens, savers, investors and participants in the global economy. Her appointment follows the retirement of Mary Ann Hewitt who served the Council in various capacities for 34 years, most recently as Executive Director.

The MCEE offers comprehensive, K-12 economic and personal finance education programs consisting of teaching resources across the curriculum, professional development for teachers to help them implement economic and financial literacy concepts in engaging and innovative ways, and offers assessment tools to measure learning.

"I feel passionately that many of the social problems that our communities are facing are directly related to poor financial education and decision making. If we can teach kids these skills at an early age and continue to reinforce it throughout their education, not only will it benefit them, but also impact their families as they share the information at home," said Weaver.

She added, "We are grateful to have such a strong commitment from Towson University and our generous donors and board members to further our mission to prepare the coming generations with the economic and personal finance skills they need to succeed wherever life takes them."

The Council's primary strategy is to work through the education system to increase the quantity and improve the quality of economic and financial instruction that is provided in Maryland's schools. This strategy of training and supporting teachers yields exponential benefits as the teacher can use the skills and knowledge obtained from MCEE training in the classroom for many years multiplying the impact on students.

Programming includes offering and coordinating the Stock Market Game Program, where student teams across Maryland learn the basics of investing through creating model portfolios and competing to be the team with the highest return on investment. In addition, the Council also runs an annual personal finance competition where high school students come together to demonstrate their knowledge on topics from spending, credit, savings, investing, income and money management. The state level of the national Economics Challenge competition is also facilitated by the Council. In 2019, teams from Maryland placed first in the national competition in both the Adam Smith and David Ricardo divisions. Nearly 2,000 students submitted entries to the Council's economic concepts poster contest last year with 17 winners selected to have their artwork displayed in the MCEE annual calendar.

More than 2,000 teachers were trained by the MCEE in Maryland in 2019 through attending the Financial Education Summit, Financial Literacy Institutes, and workshops sponsored by individual school systems. Since its founding in 1953, the Maryland Council on Economic Education estimates that it has educated more than 35,000 teachers across Maryland and impacted more than 2 million students.

Weaver, a native of Carroll County, Md, was a first generation college student at the University of Maryland, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business management. She has achieved professional designations from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and Santa Clara University. Prior to coming to Towson University to lead the MCEE, Julie created an innovative financial wellness program for students at McDaniel College. She spent more than 15 years in finance with Deutsche Bank (formerly Alex. Brown and & Sons) as a Director and head of the Bank's corporate services marketing efforts.