

# **2009 NCEE/Goldman Sachs Foundation National Economics Challenge State-level Competition**

## **Request for Participation Application Deadline: October 1, 2008**

The National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) is pleased to announce that funding is available for the **2009 NCEE/Goldman Sachs Foundation National Economics Challenge** state-level competition. Thanks to support from The Goldman Sachs Foundation, grants of up to \$3,000 will be offered to institutions which apply for and are approved to hold a state competition no later than April 8, 2009.

The NCEE/Goldman Sachs Foundation National Economics Challenge is an exciting contest for high school students to test their economics knowledge. Students work individually and in teams to answer questions related to micro-, macro-, and international economics and current events. The competition is designed to promote student interest in economics and to raise public awareness of the activities and mission of the NCEE-affiliated state Councils and university Centers for Economic Education.

To ensure that the competition is open to students of all academic levels, states are encouraged to offer a two-division format at the competition. The *Adam Smith Division* is for any student who has either taken one semester of economics or is currently enrolled in an Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, honors, college-level, or two-semester course. The *David Ricardo Division* is restricted to students enrolled in an economics course that is one-semester or less and not labeled as AP, IB, honors, or college-level. Please note that this two-division format is implemented at the regional and national competitions and that it is the state competition coordinator's responsibility to check that students are competing in the correct division. Template student and teacher registration forms will be provided for this purpose.

The winning teams in each division from each state will advance to a regional competition at one of four sites in late April 2009. At the regional competition, the teams that place first and second from each division will receive awards and cash prizes. The regional first place teams will also compete at the national competition in New York City in May 2009. Four teams per division—one from each region—will compete in the national competition.

### **Application Process:**

- Applications are due to the NCEE on October 1, 2008. Institutions interested in applying for funding should visit <http://www.ncee.net/ea/manage/> and complete an application.
- State-level competitions typically will be conducted by the state Council; however, if a Center is interested in conducting a competition, the Center director should confer in advance with the state Council director.
- Priority for grants will be given to states offering the competition in both the Adam Smith and David Ricardo divisions.

The following conditions and responsibilities have been set to ensure consistent competition procedures nationwide and to ensure a smooth transition of the participating teams from the state to regional and national competitions. Please be prepared to follow these grant terms if you are approved to hold a state competition:

### **State Competition Conditions:**

- The state competition must have a minimum of five teams competing. Any competition that does not meet this requirement must be cancelled and the grant funds returned to the NCEE.
- At the state competition a team may consist of three to five students. However, only four students per team are permitted to attend the regional and national competitions.
- At the state level, an individual school may enter more than one team.
- States are encouraged to conduct competitions in the two divisions (Adam Smith Division and David Ricardo Division).
- The state competition must include lunch for the participating teams and awards for the winning teams.
- The state competition must result in at least one team to represent its state at the regional competition (although each state is encouraged to send one team from each division).
- All state competitions must take place by **Wednesday, April 8, 2009**.

### **State Competition Coordinator's Responsibilities:**

- The NCEE will provide student and team registration forms for the 2009 competition, to be distributed by the state coordinator to all competing teams. *All students, including those participating in preliminary rounds of the state competition (i.e.: in-state regional contests, online contests, etc.) must complete a registration form. State coordinators must review all forms to ensure that students are competing in the correct division.* Forms must be submitted to the state coordinators in advance of the competition date. If at any time there is uncertainty regarding a student's eligibility, please do not hesitate to contact NCEE.
- The state coordinator must notify the NCEE and the regional coordinator if there are changes to the state competition date.
- Upon completion of the state competition, the state coordinator must forward the winning teams' student and teacher registration forms to NCEE within 48 hours or by April 14, 2009, whichever comes first. NCEE will contact the state coordinator should there be any questions regarding student eligibility.
- After completion of the state competition, state coordinators must e-mail a list of participating schools and the number of students and coaches by division, to the NCEE. In addition, copies of publicity materials and press articles should be mailed separately. The list and additional materials must be submitted to the NCEE by May 30, 2009. Delay in the submission of the report may affect the final grant award.
- State Councils are encouraged to secure additional funding for their state competitions; however, NCEE and The Goldman Sachs Foundation must be listed as co-sponsors on all publicity related to the competition.

### **Regional and National Competitions Conditions:**

- A total of four students and one coach per team per state are permitted to participate in the regional and national competitions. Information on the team members participating in the online regional competition must be forwarded to NCEE by April 18, 2009.
- Prior to making travel reservations, state coordinators should consult with the regional coordinator regarding appropriate arrival and departure times for participation in the regional competition. State Council and/or the team coaches should make reservations only after confirmation with the regional coordinators of the teams' eligibility and travel plans.
- Each state Council must notify its regional coordinator of the number of students who will attend the regional competition and their travel itinerary by April 13, 2009 to receive full reimbursement of the teams' travel expenses. Any travel reimbursement request submitted *after* the deadline is subject to partial reimbursement only (up to \$300 per airline ticket).
- Winning state teams may reconstitute their members for the regional competition as long as the participating students meet the eligibility requirements for the division in which they compete. State Councils must inform the regional coordinator of any such changes. Any team wishing to reconstitute its members will be responsible for paying any fees related to changing travel plans or will have to compete as a three-member team.
- Regional and national coordinators have the right to disqualify any student who is considered ineligible to compete in a division after review of the student's registration form. It is therefore critical for state competition coordinators to make sure that team members are competing in the appropriate division in advance.
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- The regional competition dates are scheduled for **April 27, 2009**. The national competition will be held in New York City on **May 16-18, 2009**.
- For the regional competition, the NCEE will reimburse the cost of one night's accommodation and transportation expenses (airfare OR train fare OR group auto mileage and parking) for up to four team members and one team coach per participating team. A \$10 per person stipend will be given to cover the cost of any meals not provided at the competition. Transportation to and from airports/train stations (i.e., parking, taxi fare, subways, etc.) and any additional lodging will not be reimbursed. NCEE will pay all reasonable expenses for teams to participate in the national competition.
- NCEE will provide prizes, which include savings bonds and medals, at the regional and national competitions.

#### **State Competition Grant Awards:**

- Upon receipt of a signed Letter of Agreement a \$1,000 initial payment will be issued to each institution selected to hold a state-level competition.
- Upon submission of its state competition report, the institution will receive \$100 per participating team for a maximum of 20 teams (up to \$2,000 in addition to the initial \$1,000 grant funds). The state competition does not need to be limited to 20 teams, but states will

only be reimbursed for the first 20 teams. Only one grant will be awarded per state; the maximum possible grant amount per state competition is \$3,000.

- If a state Council fails to conduct a state competition or holds a competition with less than five teams, it must return any payments it had previously received.
- The NCEE will provide a “how-to” guide to each state Council with guidance on operating a state competition.
- The NCEE will offer a test bank to state coordinators as a resource for developing the state-level competition tests.
- The NCEE will provide student and teacher registration forms to the state Council.
- The National Economics Challenge Web site < <http://economicschallenge.ncee.net/>> will be updated with links to the participating states’ web sites or coordinator contact. All competition-related documents (including the competition guide, rules, registration and reporting forms) will also be posted.
- For assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact Irina Piven at [ipiven@ncee.net](mailto:ipiven@ncee.net).