

## ***WSET TV-Lynchburg Danville Roanoke***

### **Teacher Wins First Place for Economics Lesson Plan**



Teacher Bonnie Coello

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Reporter: Dhomonique Ricks | Videographer: Jemon Haskins

Madison Heights, VA - A Madison Heights Elementary School teacher won first place in the state in a competition for her lesson plan on economics for K-5.

The Virginia Council on Economic Education picked her lesson called, "Who Wants Pizza?"

Bonnie Coello had no idea she won until Tuesday when she was given the award in front of her students.

"I was just very surprised and very excited and honored," said Coello, who teaches first grade.

Dozens of entries were submitted, but Coello's stood out to the judges. The "Who Wants Pizza?" lesson plan is designed to give kids a leg up when it comes to the economy. During this lesson, first graders are taught the difference between goods and services and how people are producers or consumers.

"We learn about communities and we learn about the world and we learn about the sun, we learn about the moon," said Zanaisha Watkins, a first grader.

"Two dimes make 20," said first grader Grace Huber.

First graders in Ms. Coello's class learn a lot, including economics.

"A good, like get food or something," said Chelsy Kidd, a second grader.

"It is very important and I feel it will really help them as adults," said Coello. "It was very hands on and the children enjoyed the activities and of course eating pizza at the end is always fun."

"The cows are fed and milked. Step two, trucks take the milk from the farm to the cheese factory," Coello demonstrated on a paper pizza wheel.

She also taught how to make pizza moving from the producer to the consumer and all the steps in between.

From the farm to their plate, this year's class will begin the segment second semester. Last year's plan garnered so much praise she just had to use it again.

"In order for them to be productive members of society they need to know these things," said Coello.

Students past and present agree that it is the way she teaches that makes learning fun.

"She's my favorite teacher," Watkins said.

Coello will be recognized at an awards luncheon at the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond this December. She will also receive a prize of \$500.