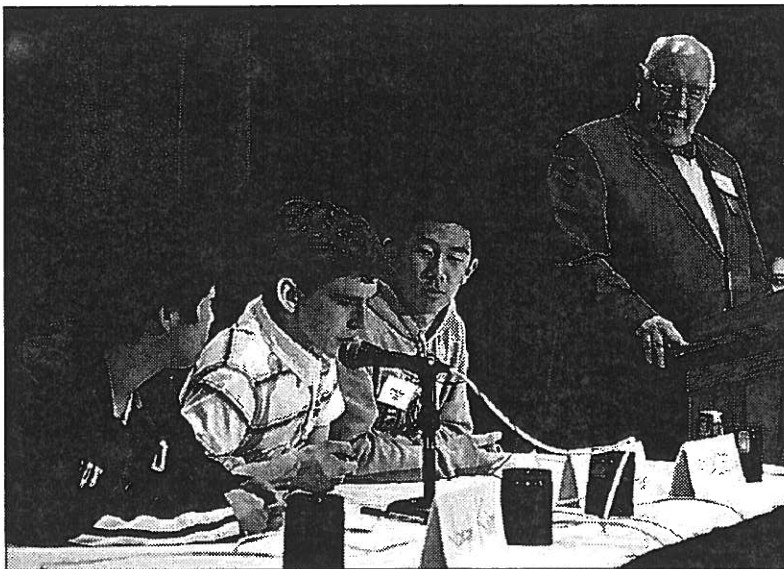


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A student contest of dollars and sense



LINDY KEAST RODMAN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Quizmaster William C. Boshier listened as students, from left, Joseph Kim, Alex Foster and Yang Zeng of W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax replied to a question yesterday at the 2008 Economics Challenge.

Teams from 12 schools compete in Economics Challenge held at VCU

BY EMILY C. DOOLEY
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

Federal Reserve Bank powers, the impact a weak dollar has on the economy and the laws of supply and demand aren't something you normally hear teenagers talk about.

But that's what 94 students from across Virginia did yesterday as part of the 2008 State Economics Challenge held at Virginia Commonwealth University.

In all, 23 teams from 12 schools battled for a chance to show off their prowess when it comes to economic terms, theories and applications.

The final round was a quiz bowl. Quizmaster William C. Boshier, executive director of the Commonwealth



Watch it

See video of kids competing in the 2008 State Economics Challenge at InRich.com, Keyword: video

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Educational Policy Institute, stood in the middle with one team on either side. When he asked a question, they could buzz in at any time and had 15 seconds to answer.

"They have to respond quickly and they have to know the information," Boshier said.

There were two categories: one for students who had taken one semester or less of an economics course and another for those who had taken more than a semester.

Students from St. Stephens & Saint Agnes School in Alexandria



Test your knowledge

For a sampling of questions, click on this story at inRich.com.

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beat out a team from Chantilly High School in the final round for students who had more experience.

A team from W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax County won against another Chantilly team in the category for novice economic students.

"We were hoping to just qualify for the quiz bowl," said Alex Foster, a student from Woodson. "We didn't think we'd actually win the whole thing."

The event was part of a national contest that organizers hope will spark interest in mid-

dle and high school students about the economy.

For students to get to yesterday's event they had to qualify in an online exam.

They began early yesterday morning taking written tests individually about micro, macro and international economics. Those scores were tallied to see who made it the championship round.

New Kent High School finance teacher Vince Ourso

brought two teams of juniors and seniors to the morning session. They had prepared for more than two months, but did not make it to the end.

"It was fun," New Kent High School junior Jordan Stewart said. "We're not too disappointed. We didn't even plan to get this far."

The non-profit Virginia Council on Economic Education hosted the event.

The winning teams go on to compete in an online regional competition April 29. Winners from that round compete nationally, and a chance to win up to \$3,000 in savings bonds in New York City May 19-21.

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