“Thank you for providing a scholarship for the economics class this summer. I have learned from business people what is important. When I can tell my students that the president of “such and such” company says math is important, handwriting is important, and problem-solving is important, it should carry a bit more weight than if “only” the teacher is saying it. My eyes were opened to many different jobs and the education needed for them. The class was fascinating and inspiring. I especially enjoyed touring behind the scenes where the general public may not go. . .”

Karen Heady, a third grade teacher at Jefferson West Elementary in Meriden

This has been a very valuable experience for me and it would not have occurred without your financial support. Now it is my turn to continue the ripple effect by sharing what I have learned with the students entrusted to my care.

David Lungren, 7th grade teacher at Piper Middle School in Kansas City

Teachers in ESU Summer Economic Education classes venture into the community for field-trip-like class sessions.

The class met at partner organizations, a different one each day, where real-world examples of economics relate to other areas of the curriculum.

According to Rob Catlett, Director of the Center for Economic Education at ESU, the interaction between the teachers and the individuals at the partner organizations created a dynamic environment. Although there were 57 teachers who participated, it was never the same group twice.

The class sessions in Topeka were at Security Benefit, Hallmark, Jostens, Stormont-Vail, Capitol Plaza Hotel, WIBW-TV, a wide-ranging bus tour of the infrastructure, the Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy, the Topeka Capital Journal, Payless ShoeSource Corporate Headquarters and its Distribution Center. Additional sessions in Emporia were at Lenze, Menu Foods, EVCO, Glendo, and a different infrastructure journey.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City was another highlight of the class. Teachers selected the sessions that best fit their interest and schedule to form a unique set of participants at each session. Do you remember the field trips you took in school? Ask any of the teachers in the class and each one probably can describe in vivid detail their experiences and the real-world examples they can use to augment their teaching.

“Thank you for all you do to teach economics and make converts out of us.”

Rob Catlett and his teachers Watch a Machinist Use Capital to Make Capital at Glendo Corporation. (Glendo was named the Exporter of the Year in 1998.) (Capital is an economic resource made by people and used in the production process. Interestingly, money is not capital in a true economics context; however, money is often called capital in finance which branched out of economics.)
What do John C. McCoy, George Kessler, Nell Donnelly Reed and William Volker have in common? Teachers in the KU Summer Institute in Economic Education researched these and other entrepreneurs who played an important role in the economic development of metropolitan Kansas City using a unique web tool, the Web Wizard* from www.hprtec.org to make their presentations to class members.

Over the past 10 years, KU’s two-week long Summer Institute has become more than just a graduate course for teachers, but also an experience that brings economics to life for teachers by exploring the role of economics in the local community.

This year’s Institute focused on Teaching about the Economics of Kansas City, Past and Present. Economics lectures and activities were supplemented with guest presenters from the Federal Reserve Bank, MARC (Mid-American Regional Council), and experts from academia, business and community organizations. Field trips included a trolley tour of Kansas City, and visits to museums, the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank, the Kansas Speedway, and select local businesses of rotating basis: Teaching about the Kansas Economy—Past & Present; Teaching about the Kansas City Economy—Past & Present; and Kansas in the World. The Summer Institute in Economic Education is made possible through funding from the Cloud L. Cray Foundation with teacher scholarships provided by the Kansas Council on Economic Education.

“I learned more in 2 weeks than in any class I’ve ever taken.”

“I’m walking away with an overwhelming amount of ideas that I can use in my classroom.”

Thank you for helping to provide a top quality economic education for teachers to be able to incorporate in the classroom. It is so critical for students to be exposed to economic principles before they hit the world on their own. . . . Please keep supporting this work so that the students can be the real benefactors and to keep our economy healthy and happy.

Theresa Corry, 6th grade teachers at Briarwood Elementary in Shawnee Mission.

*The Web Wizard is a user-friendly tool with a variety of applications that helps teachers deliver information via the web. The Web Wizard is a free-of-charge product of KU’s HPR*TEC (High Plains Regional Technology in Education Consortium) and is available for use by any teacher with access to the internet.