

May 17, 2004

Mary Suiter
NAEE Awards Committee
Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education
UM-St. Louis
8001 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Dear Awards Committee,

It is with great respect and admiration that I nominate Thomas R. McKinnon for the NAEE Bessie B. Moore Service Award. Upon his retirement in June 2004 Tom will have completed 40 years of service to economic education in Arkansas and around the world. He has trained an estimated 5000 teachers in extensive summer programs in Arkansas in addition to many times that number in shorter seminars. In addition to his work at the state and national programs, Tom has traveled to Latvia, Lithuania, Croatia, Russia and Kazakhstan to teach economic education to teachers from newly emerging economic systems.

In 1964 Bessie Moore selected Tom McKinnon, an enthusiastic and skilled history teacher, to go to Louisiana to participate in an economics workshop so that the following year she could utilize his experiences in Arkansas' first economic education workshop. Bessie quickly identified him as an exceptional teacher with a passion for economics. He began his career in economic education as a teacher consultant in workshops conducted by Bessie Moore. From there he continued his graduate studies first in secondary education and then in economics. In 1971 he began as an assistant professor of economics at the University of Arkansas. In 1979 the Bessie B. Moore Center for Economic Education was founded with Tom serving as director. In 1999 Tom was appointed University Professor of Economics, the highest honor awarded a faculty member at the University of Arkansas.

Tom's teaching skills are evidenced through the eight teaching awards he has received from seven organizations. Teachers attend workshops repeatedly to hear his economics lectures. He has not only conducted workshops for teachers but also journalist and the public across the state of Arkansas. He has affected the knowledge and careers of many graduate students. Upon hearing of Tom's impending retirement, his freshmen

macroeconomics honors class awarded him a plaque with the newly created McKinnon curve. Due to his widely recognized teaching ability, Tom served as Co-Director of the Center for Teaching and Faculty Support at the University of Arkansas and the Center for Teaching Effectiveness in the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

Tom has presented papers each year at the NAEF Conference and has served on the Research, International and Long Range Planning Committees. He has also presented papers on economic education at numerous other national and international conferences. He has been an active member in these organizations. In addition to his research in the area of economic history, Tom published numerous economic education articles in five pedagogical publications. These included an article on the effects of the economic education national awards program

He has served Economics International in multi-country *Training of Trainers* programs, international conferences. He has inspired teachers of economics in newly emerging economies to use activity based pedagogy (lessons) to convey economic understanding to their students. He has modeled this pedagogy and shared his passion. He has hosted five study tours in Arkansas. On a more personal level, Tom has invited eleven international educators to live in his home, observe American culture, and see dynamic economic education programs in the state. Their knowledge has impacted thousands of students thirsting for economic knowledge.

It seems most appropriate for Bessie Moore's protégé to receive the Bessie Moore Service Award in 2004 at the NAEF Annual Conference in Little Rock thus continuing the legacy. Tom McKinnon has truly continued Bessie's tradition of excellence in economic education.

Respectfully,

Rita Littrell
Associate Director