

Center for Economic Education expansion finished

The UNLV Center for Economic Education has recently undergone a major renovation and expansion and has been named in memory of Barbara Schick, the first director of the center.

The center's expansion was made possible in part by a contribution from M.B. Dalitz, a long-time friend of Schick, who directed the economic education program in the 1970s and early 1980s. Daily operational costs are provided by the university and the Nevada Council on Economic Education which solicits funds from the private sector.

The center attempts to eliminate economic illiteracy by developing and expanding innovative learning programs in economics in the public schools.

"Many people get upset because students are not knowledgeable in history," according to Robert Smith, current director of the center. "But even more detrimental effects will occur when people lack knowledge about our economic system, a system we survive on."

The center sponsors programs for school teachers and develops stimulating curriculum for students in grades K-12. Teachers are provided with films, simulations, microcomputer software, teacher workshops, and other instructional material.

Although UNLV provides direction and basic support, the Clark County School District provides Curricula, teacher-training opportunities, and partnerships between business, students, and UNLV.

In close partnership with the CCSD, the center co-sponsored the Penny Power Production project, involving the collection and display of 1 million pennies.

"This helped the students visualize a goal and put it into action," Smith said.

The center also takes part in other simulations in the classroom in which the students are asked to invent and sell products, manage money and invest capital. It co-sponsors a game which gives students the opportunity to experience stock market investing.

"If we can teach people about prices and productivity, what will sell and what won't sell, then we will produce more informed consumers and productive workers," Smith said.

The center also teaches courses on the Nevada economy, offers qualified high school seniors a course through the UNLV Early Studies Program on current economic issues, and provides scholarships for eligible teachers for a course in economics. It sponsors Project TEE (Teaching Economics Efficiently), granting awards to the most creative teaching approaches in economics.

"The newest addition to the program is teaching about social security, and we are in the process of adding "Econ and Me" to our program. It is a series of videotapes which helps children understand the economic workings of our democratic society," Smith said.

"Additional program expansion will occur when more funding becomes available," Smith concluded.

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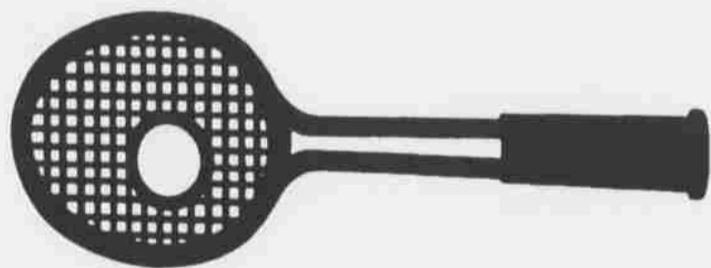
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