

NEWS FROM THE ND SECURITIES COMMISSIONER

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STOCK MARKET GAME TO BEGIN OCTOBER 8

Bismarck, ND – The fall Stock Market Game will begin October 8, 2001 and is available to all North Dakota schools. The Stock Market Game Worldwide (SMGWW), a popular online educational tool coordinated by the North Dakota Office of the Securities Commissioner, is a ten-week simulation of Wall Street trading that provides a framework for teaching students in grades 4-12 about the American economic system.

“The game combines technology, education and finance to give our kids a colorful and entertaining way to learn about the world of finance and business,” Gov. Hoeven said. “I applaud this creative approach to teaching skills that are essential to our young people and the future of our state. I hope it continues to be a part of our schools’ curriculums.”

“SMGWW is accessed via the Internet and is designed for classroom use as a motivational tool to increase understanding of the stock market, the costs and benefits involved in economic decision-making, the sources and use of capital and other related economic concepts,” said Diane Kambeitz, North Dakota Coordinator for The Stock Market Game.

“Aided by lesson plans and curriculum guidelines, instructors in grades 4-12 can use The Stock Market Game across the curriculum to teach many different subjects including Math, Economics, Life Skills, Social Studies, Language Arts, Business Education and Technology,” stated Kambeitz.

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According to a recent National survey, one of the most effective ways to teach kids about money and investing is through interactive classroom tools such as The Stock Market Game. The National Survey, conducted by the Jump\$tart Coalition, found a marked decline in financial literacy among high school seniors in every category studied, including income, money management, saving, investing, spending and credit issues. The survey also indicated that even purchasing securities in a teen's name and parents discussing money matters in front of teens did little to increase financial literacy.

However, the survey also found that students who participated in the stock-market simulation scored better on the survey (55.1%) than did students who completed an entire course in money management (51.4%) or an entire course in economics (51.0%). "This survey is an important validation of the impact The Stock Market Game has on both students and teachers. By making education and economics fun, The Stock Market Game helps students learn more effectively and take control of their financial futures," said Kambeitz.

"The game has been well received in schools throughout the state," Kambeitz said.

"The Stock Market Game is a great vehicle for teaching everything from finance to math, to current events, to politics, to saving money, to working in cooperative groups. I would encourage any teacher to get involved in SMG," said James Schutz, Elementary Teacher at Washington Elementary School in Fargo.

"SMGWW is one of the best teaching tools I use in my high school economics classes. It allows for hands-on learning of the stock market while keeping it very fun for the students," says Dave Michaelson, Economics teacher in Dickinson.

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Anne Bower, Business Education Teacher at Discovery Jr. High School in Fargo, says, "I have worked the stock market into my keyboarding class by giving students vocabulary words to type and doing research on the Internet on stocks to purchase for the game. The game also teaches teamwork. It is for all students."

SMGWW is a free resource to North Dakota schools. This is the sixth year that the Office of the Securities Commissioner has offered this educational resource to teachers and students in North Dakota. "More than 17,500 students have participated in the game over the past five years and 126 schools have taken advantage of this opportunity," said Kambeitz. Teachers interested in playing the game should contact Diane Kambeitz at the Office of the Securities Commissioner at 1-800-297-5124 (local 328-4698) or visit the SMGWW website at www.smgww.org for registration information. Registrations will be accepted until October 15, 2001.

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