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ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

PROVIDES GRANTS TO SCHOOLS

B. Edmond Waters, Arkansas Securities Commissioner, announced that the Arkansas Securities Department has awarded Grants totaling approximately \$108,000 under the Securities Department's Investor Education Grant Program. This year's recipients include twenty-two schools and one non-profit organization.

The Grant Program, which began in 2003, provides funds for public schools and non-profit groups that provide investment education to Arkansas students in grades five – twelve. The program has enabled numerous schools in the state to provide financial and investor education for their students. Commissioner Waters noted that the Securities Department was able to fulfill more grant requests this year due to an increase in appropriation granted by Governor Hutchinson and the Legislature. It is vitally important that young people learn about the financial markets and how to invest wisely. Early financial and investor education will help these future investors from falling victim to securities scams and frauds as adults.

The school grants will be used to purchase educational materials, software, and equipment for the schools to further investor education. The schools that were awarded grants this year include: Bearden High School, Des Arc Public School, Midland Elementary School, Greenland High School, MicroSociety Magnet School in Jonesboro, Visual & Performing Arts Magnet in Jonesboro, Central High School, David O. Dodd Elementary School, Mansfield High School, McGehee High School, Pinkston Middle School, Mt. Vernon/Enola High School, Lakewood Elementary in North Little Rock, Ozark Junior High and High Schools, Pangburn Schools, Perryville High School, Sheridan Intermediate School, Childers Knapp & Jones Elementary School in Springdale, Walnut Ridge High School, West Fork Middle School, Western Yell County School in Havana, and Wynne High School.

A grant was also awarded to Economics Arkansas, a private, non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization founded in 1962 by Dr. Bessie B. Moore to promote economic literacy in Arkansas. The grant will be used for teacher training, a Prepare for Retirement Dinner and Dollars program, and the sponsorship of the Stock Market Game. The Stock Market Game is a national program offered to Arkansas schools that allows students and teachers to participate in a 10 week simulated investment contest where a virtual \$100,000 is invested in stocks, bonds and mutual funds they select through their research.