

MIKE BEEBE
GOVERNOR

A. HEATH ABSHURE
COMMISSIONER



HERITAGE WEST BUILDING, SUITE 300
201 EAST MARKHAM STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-1692
TELEPHONE: (501) 324-9260
FACSIMILE: (501) 324-9268

ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 28, 2010

Contact: Ann McDougal
501-324-8685

ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT PROVIDES GRANTS TO SCHOOLS

A. Heath Abshure, Arkansas Securities Commissioner, announced that the Arkansas Securities Department has awarded grants totaling approximately \$50,000 under the Securities Department's Investor Education Grant Program. This year's recipients include twenty-six 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 through twelve. The program has enabled numerous schools in the state to provide financial and investor education for their students. Abshure noted that the Securities Department received more requests this year than in previous years and was "excited that more schools are embracing economic education. It is vitally important that young people learn about the financial markets and how to invest wisely," said Abshure. "Early financial and investor education will prevent these future investors from falling victim to securities scams and frauds as adults."

In addition to Investor Education Grant Program, the Securities Department has an Investor Education Section that provides economic education resources to teachers and students throughout the state. Programs for teachers and students cover such topics as financial markets, terminology, and methods to research and evaluate particular investments.

The school grants will be used to purchase educational materials, software, and equipment for the classrooms that are used to further investor education. The schools awarded grants this year include: Alma Middle School; Atkins High School; Bauxite High School; Bellview Elementary School; Benton Jr. High School; Benton High School; Bethel Middle School; Cedar Ridge High School;

Dover High School; El Dorado High School; L.M. Goza Middle School; Manilla High School; Meekins Middle School & Stuggart Jr. High School; Mena High School; Monitor Elementary; Mount Ida Middle School; Nashville High School; Oden High School; Ozark Junior High School; Willis D. Shaw Elementary; Sheridan Public School, Thurman G. Smith; Walter Turnbow Elementary; Helen Tyson Middle School and White Hall Jr. 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 and the sponsorship of the Stock Market Game. The Stock Market Game is a national program that allows students and teachers the opportunity to invest a virtual \$100,000 in bonds, mutual funds and stocks in a 10 week simulation.