

News Release

October 29, 2003
For Immediate Release

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Schastlivogo Puti, Brandi Cook! **(Bon Voyage Brandi Cook!)**

Brandi Cook, social studies teacher at Marion High School, Marion School District One, is one of 12 educators from across the country to be accepted to participate in the National Council on Economic Education's *Study Tour on Economic Education in Russia*. The program is part of the Cooperative Education Exchange Program (CEEP) and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education in coordination with the U.S. Department of State.

Cook begins her thirteen-day study tour to the cities of Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow with a pre-departure orientation in Washington D.C. on December 4. From Saturday, December 6 to Tuesday, December 16, Cook will spend her time with school visits, observations of teacher training activities, meeting with ministry officials, and will present economic lessons in several Russian elementary and secondary schools.

"Brandi will be an excellent representative of American teachers," said Dr. Gary Stone, director of the Center for Economic Education at Winthrop University, and group co-leader of the study tour. "Her experience with organizing and conducting European travel with students and her enthusiasm for the study of economics makes her an excellent candidate for this program."

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After the tour, Cook is expected to submit a five-page travel log highlighting her impressions of Russia, particularly focusing on economic education activities. Other expectations include: incorporating her experiences from Russia into economic teaching with U.S. students or teachers and making presentations to educational, community and business groups.

“We are delighted to have South Carolina so well represented in this prestigious study-tour,” said Helen Meyers, president of the South Carolina Council on Economic Education. “I know that Brandi’s experiences will greatly benefit her students and the Marion community. Dr. Stone is an excellent economics instructor. Every teacher who participates in his training workshops will share his enthusiasm for economics and its delivery in emerging market economies.”

Cook is the second South Carolina educator to participate in this program. Martha Dial, academically gifted and talented teacher at Hunter Street Elementary School in York School District One, was part of the study-tour in April 2003.

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About South Carolina Council on Economic Education

The South Carolina Council on Economic Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting economic literacy. Its mission is to help students develop economic ways of thinking and problem-solving that they can use in their lives as consumers, investors, and effective participants in the global economy. SCCEE delivers its programs through partnerships with university-based centers on economic education. During 2002, more than 350 teachers participated in SCCEE inservice trainings, workshops, and graduate level courses.

About Cooperative Education Exchange Program

The Cooperative Education Exchange Program supports reform in economic and civic education by helping international partners undergoing the transition to a market economy promote economic literacy through training, materials development and translation, exchanges, and organizational development. The program brings together U.S. economic educators with their counterparts from central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet states. The study-tour of Russian educators to the United States is currently being planned for some time between January and May 2004.