UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
LERNER BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship

Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year Award

Background

Each year, the University of Delaware Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship (CEEE) recognizes one Delaware teacher who demonstrates a sustained history of commitment and contribution to personal finance education. Outstanding teachers may nominate themselves or may be nominated by a peer, school administrator, curriculum specialist, or community or business representative.

Eligibility for the Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year Award

- Must be a full-time Delaware K-12 classroom teacher during the current academic year, who has been engaging students in personal finance education for five or more years.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Teaching:** Direct contact with K-12 students in personal finance-related courses, programs and/or extracurricular activities, and possesses the ability to attract and stimulate students to achieve a greater understanding of personal finance. *What makes your approach to integrating personal finance into your classroom exemplary? How do you keep your students motivated and inspired to learn?*
- **Professional Learning:** Extra-programmatic activities of any kind and at any level that contribute to their own personal finance education (e.g. taking classes, attending professional learning, trainings, workshops and conferences). *How do you grow your passion for and knowledge of personal finance?*
- **Personal Finance Program Development:** Activities that contribute to the planning, design, or development of improvements in personal finance education for colleagues at the K-12 level (e.g. leading professional learning workshops, writing and sharing lessons, designing curriculum). *How do you share your passion for and knowledge of personal finance?*

Nomination Materials

- A **nomination letter** of no more than one page presenting the full case for the nomination with specific reference to the evaluation criteria.
- A **personal statement** by the nominee of no more than four pages addressing each of the evaluation criteria for the award (using specific subheadings for each criteria).
- A **curriculum vitae** of no more than three pages organized according to the following categories:
    - Education
    - Courses taught during the past five years
    - Program and curriculum development
    - Service to education community
    - Outreach and other activities related to teaching/learning
    - Published works

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Please submit all nomination materials in a single PDF to bacons@udel.edu no later than noon on March 5, 2027.

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Nomination Materials continued

- **Two letters of recommendation** from colleagues (e.g., principal, fellow teacher, district supervisor) indicating the success or impact that the nominee has had on student learning in personal finance. Letters should address the evaluation criteria and cite specific examples.

Evaluation Procedure

The CEEE Education Committee will review the completed nomination packages by using the above evaluation criteria, along with the quality of the nomination materials, to select the award recipient.

In recognition of the time and energy required to submit materials, nominations that are unsuccessful in their original submission year will remain in the nomination pool for two additional years or until successful, whichever comes first. Nominees do not need to do anything further to keep their nominations active. However, they may update any materials when desired during the 3-year window.

Prize

$1,000 will be awarded to the recipient of the Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year Award.

Presentation of Awards

The Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year Award recipient will be recognized at the July 14, 2027, CEEE Personal Finance and Economic Education Conference at the University of Delaware.

Ronni K. Cohen believed deeply in the power of economic and personal finance education to help students dream bigger, live smarter and reach further. Cohen was a longtime volunteer with the University of Delaware's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship (CEEE). Her connection to the CEEE spanned much of its 54-year history, and her work helped shape Delaware's educational landscape. She inspired generations of students and educators to embrace personal finance and economics as vital life skills—lessons that continue to resonate.

Thanks to a generous gift from Sharon M. Cohen and the Cohen family, that impact will continue through professional development and the Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year Award. This award will elevate the value of financial literacy in schools, spotlight the work of exceptional teachers, and highlight the importance of preparing students for a financially secure future.

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