

2009 Fed Challenge Team Places in New York District Top 25

The Trumbull High School Fed Challenge Team, under the guidance of advisor Gerry McCloghry, followed up months of preparation and practice sessions by competing with more than one hundred tri-state high schools at the headquarters of the New York Federal Reserve Bank in New York City in early April.

After a successful first round, the team returned two weeks later to compete with the twenty-five remaining schools. Each team, consisting of five students, presented an analysis of the current state of the economy backed by current economic data and a monetary policy recommendation for the Federal Open Market Committee. Following the presentation, the Federal Reserve Bank economists and officers serving as judges questioned each team about their presentation and their knowledge of macroeconomic theory.

Eventual champion Montclair High School (New Jersey) moved on to represent the New York District (Federal Reserve Bank District 2) at the national competition in Washington, D.C., which was won by Choate Rosemary Hall of Wallingford, Connecticut, the Boston Federal Reserve District 1 representative, in mid May.

The team was comprised of five seniors, three of whom also participated last year: Dan Connolly (who will be attending Cornell University in the fall), Ishani Dhaon (Cornell), and Lisa Kasiewicz (Columbia University), as well as Emily Wu (University of Michigan) and Jackson Wynne (University of Virginia).

This competition marked the last for advisor Gerry McCloghry, who has retired after 36½ years teaching in Trumbull's schools, first for 6½ years at Madison Junior High School before moving to THS in 1979 – 1980.

After the Federal Reserve Bank of New York piloted the Fed Challenge program in 1994 – 1996, the competition became national in scope the following year when Mr. McCloghry led Trumbull's first participation. THS teams fared exceptionally well over the next thirteen years, finishing at least among the Top 25 as semi-finalists in 1998 and then 2003 – 2009 (inclusive). The 2004 team was one of six finalists, while the 2006 team was the New York District runner-up.

The teams' perennial successes have been aided in large measure by continued guidance of Phil Lane, the chairman of Economics at Fairfield University, and financial support from Frank Metrusky, Trumbull Business/Education Initiative (BEI), and the Trumbull Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation.