



## Nominee's Information

Has the nominee resided (or previously resided) in Delaware for at least ten years? Yes

You must complete ALL information within either the Contemporary OR the Historical section. Please select: Contemporary (Living)

Nominee's Full Name: Bonnie T. Meszaros

Occupation, Field of Achievement or Title: Associate Director - Center for Economics Education and Entrepreneurship; Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Delaware Economics Department

Email: [Redacted]

Preferred Phone Number: [Redacted]

**Biographical Information (Limited to 1500 characters)**

Over a career spanning 50 years, Dr. Bonnie Meszaros has championed, coordinated and delivered professional learning programs for teachers of economics and personal finance, ensuring that Delaware educators know how to teach this critical subject matter in grades K-12. She is assistant professor of economics at the University of Delaware (UD) and associate director for the UD Center for Economics Education and Entrepreneurship (CEEE), offering teacher and student programs emphasizing standards-based instruction and integration of economics, entrepreneurship and personal finance across the curriculum. As a testament to her influence and legacy, state and national organizations have created annual awards in her honor. In 2019, UD CEEE created the Meszaros Award in Economic Education, recognizing a Delaware teacher demonstrating a sustained history of contribution to economic education. In 2023, the National Association of Economic Educators created the Meszaros Curriculum Leadership Award, presented to an educator especially successful in developing K-12 economics curriculum. Bonnie generously shares her time and expertise mentoring countless educators throughout the state, the nation and abroad. She holds an undergraduate degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and both masters and Ph. D degrees from UD. She lives with husband, Craig, in Wilmington; daughter, Morgan, resides in DE with husband James and their two sons. Dr. Meszaros plans to retire from her UD CEEE work this June.

**Present evidence that the nominee's achievements will make a lasting contribution to the state, nation, and/or world. (Limited to 6,000 characters)**

Throughout her five-decade-long career as an educator, Bonnie Meszaros has effectively outfitted teachers in grades K-12 so that they could bring accessible, engaging and meaningful economics, personal finance and entrepreneurship education into their classrooms.

Carlos Asarta, director of the UD CEEE-a center that celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021 and one that had hired Bonnie as its first Field Agent in 1974-said, "When it comes to curriculum development, Bonnie is a leader in the field." She has worked with many other economic educators to develop curriculum materials that have had state, national and international impact. Her role in the development of the first edition of the Voluntary Standards in Economics (addressing what students should know and be able to act upon) is proof of the lasting impact of her work. She continues to publish research and pedagogical articles used by other economic educators and policy makers to influence educational practices and policy. "Bonnie's ongoing mentoring and feedback have been invaluable not only to me but also to the thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of students who have, in turn, been privileged to receive her instruction," Asarta continued. "The CEEE conducts over 140 teacher-training programs every year and Bonnie is, in one way or another, involved in every one of those programs."

The UD master of arts in economics and entrepreneurship for educators (MAEEE) degree, created in 1981 and started by professors Jim O'Neill and Bonnie Meszaros, has been particularly impactful in the field of economic education, creating a network of over 500 teachers who go on to teach other teachers, ultimately reaching hundreds of thousands of students world-wide in the course of each affected educator's teaching career.

"Bonnie possesses the knowledge, experience and tools needed to help teachers become master educators, and our impact has been multiplied many times over thanks to the MAEEE degree program," said Asarta.

"MAEEE graduates are leaders in their field and are living proof that the MAEEE is one of the most impactful economic education programs in the world, producing graduates equipped with the theoretical and practical knowledge to influence and improve economic education in both the United States and abroad."

"Through her workshops, presentations and teaching, Bonnie develops econ-evangelists-people who go on to teach economics, earn master's degrees in economic education, develop economics curriculum-people who live and breathe economics," says Dr. Mary Suiter, Assistant Vice President and Economic Education Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. "And, unlike some economic educators, her focus isn't just high school-it is K-12. Thousands of young children have learned economics because their teachers have attended a Mini-Society workshop or an Economics and Children's Literature workshop. Her work with schools/school districts is exemplary," Suiter continued. "She not only delivers high-quality programs and materials but provides follow-up like no one else in the economic education network. And, it makes a difference. Teachers' economic understanding and their comfort with the subject matter blossoms under her tutelage. As a result, they teach the economics

and their students learn it. And, then there is her award-winning curriculum work. Her impact here is nearly impossible to measure. Tens of thousands of students benefit from her work in these areas annually," Suiter shared. "There's no one I can think of who has had a greater impact on the economic education of students and teachers-no one who deserves this award more."

Erin Boettcher, a fifth grade teacher at Delaware's Newark Charter School, attended one of Meszaros' training courses years ago. While completing her MAEEE degree, Boettcher continued her relationship with Meszaros, working to help other teachers implement hands-on economic programs in their own classrooms. "It is an honor to provide professional development with Dr. Meszaros," said Boettcher. "She shares her passion for economic education with everyone. She works with students and teachers, developing curriculum and working alongside a multitude of other agencies. Dr. Meszaros has brought economics into classrooms across Delaware and the country," Boettcher said. "Her reach is far and wide. Few people have the passion, drive and determination to follow through on all the things she has accomplished. I am a better, more effective teacher from working alongside Dr. Meszaros. She is driven, persistent and determined to spread the word of economic education from kindergarten through high school, and now I am, too."

Glowing letters of affirmation added to Bonnie's nomination packet this year include testimonies from State Treasurer Colleen Davis, State Bank Commissioner Robert Glen, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia AVP of Economic Education Andrew Hill, and Bank of America Charitable Foundation SVP Program Manager Connie Montaña. Their words underscore the impact she has had on Delawarean's financial well-being, her dedication to helping teachers successfully empower their students, her humble yet powerful leadership and her talent for encouraging Delaware's banking and educational communities to work together to produce synergistically better outcomes for both teachers and students.

Bonnie Meszaros' work in economic education has made a pivotal difference in preparing teachers with best practices for teaching economics to students at all levels. She has helped turn the teaching of K-12 economics from what some consider a dismal science to an exciting, relevant adventure in learning.

As Governor Jack Markell had highlighted in last year's supplementary letter of recommendation, "Bonnie Meszaros has made unique contributions to Delaware and at the same time has always been a model of humility, decency and goodness. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of inclusion in the DE WHofF."

**Tell us a story that illustrates why this person should be inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. Describe additional accomplishments that qualify the nominee to be honored, or any obstacles or challenging barriers she has had to overcome to achieve success. (Limited to 6,000 characters)**

Economics is the study of how population growth strains natural resources and forces humankind to make tough choices regarding the use of those resources. Understanding that we do not live in a utopia where abundance is ever-present, economics can teach students, at even a very early age, about the importance of analyzing choices and making informed decisions to best deal with that scarcity. With this in mind, Bonnie Meszaros has spent her career developing engaging and experiential professional development and student experiences to make this crucial learning interesting, purposeful and lasting.

Because it is urgently important that these lessons be taught early, often, and increase in complexity throughout the years, Bonnie works closely with the Delaware Department of Education and school districts statewide to develop innovative ways to fit curriculum into already-crowded coursework, incorporating lessons into existing math and English language arts units. She successfully lobbies for funding needed to make this learning available to all, ensuring that materials and training be offered to teachers at at-risk schools without fee. Funding for such targeted training is vital, particularly for teachers at the K-5 grade level who do not receive pre-service economic study as undergraduates (as secondary school education pre-service students do).

Gov. Markell elaborated on the hurdles that Bonnie has faced. "She at times had to courageously demand attention from those who didn't think our education system was necessarily the place for economics to be taught to young children. She succeeded because of both her tenacity and the merit of her argument. Having served as Delaware's Governor for eight years, I am well aware of the very high standards for admission (to the DWHoF). Bonnie Meszaros is truly extraordinary. She has been one of a small handful of leaders to transform economic and personal finance education in Delaware and is well regarded for that work nationally. As I think about the impact that Bonnie has had over the years, it can be found in the transformation of literally thousands of lives of children (and their families) who better understand what it means to be financially responsible and who are actually implementing what they learned as a result of her efforts."

One particular partnership in which Bonnie extended her impact involved both Gov. Markell and nominator, Ronni Cohen-the former director of the Delaware Financial Literacy Institute who recounts that work below.

Bonnie and I first met in 1972 when we both, as Delaware teachers, took the course "Economics for the Elementary School Teacher," said Cohen. She became first my friend, and then my collaborator and mentor. As mentor, she provided many training opportunities for me and encouraged me to develop new and meaningful materials. Due to her encouragement and guidance, I was awarded a sabbatical to document my fourth grade economics/entrepreneurship curriculum. When I couldn't get the related writing process started, Bonnie outlined a plan that helped me complete the project.

In 1990, Bonnie invited me to visit a New York school where I saw parents collecting students' bank deposits. I told her I wanted my students to have a REAL banking experience, as well, and so, with my principal, we created

the Bank At School (BAS) program. Today-in partnership with Delaware banks, credit unions and schools across the state-this CEEE-run program continues to give thousands of students the opportunity to open free savings accounts and make weekly deposits at bank branches which pop up in their schools.

Since its inception in 1992, thousands of students have participated in BAS. Delaware's model has since been replicated by other states and was noticed by the National Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In 2014, the BAS program was awarded an Excellence in Financial Literacy Education (EIFLE) award and recognized as the Children's Education Program of the Year by the Institute for Financial Literacy. The national EIFLE awards recognize innovation, dedication, and commitment to financial literacy education worldwide.

Bonnie understood and encouraged another of my dreams: to establish an all-school elementary school program for economics and entrepreneurship. In 1998, she helped make that dream an award-winning reality, with the launch of Green Street Works at Claymont Elementary. Helping me write my plan and present it to the Brandywine School District superintendent, the program was adopted, winning a state chamber award for innovation and contribution to the public good. And my story is not unique. She has provided this same inspiration for countless Delaware educators.

Further calling attention to her exceptional influence, Bonnie has been one recipient of only two NAEFF Platinum Awards ever granted for curriculum writing-hers for an elementary school lesson on saving that she wrote with a doctoral student she was mentoring. The work was judged to be flawless. She is also a recipient of The Bessie B. Moore Service Award, designed to recognize individuals whose outstanding and dedicated service has had a significant impact on the delivery and enhancement of economic education; the Patricia K. Elder International Award for her exemplary contributions made to economic education internationally; the NAEF John C. Schramm Leadership Award, designed to recognize individuals whose leadership has had an extraordinary, positive impact at both the state and national levels; and the national James O'Neill Economic Education Multiplier Award, honoring her work in building a national network of economic educators through training and advocacy of the UD MAEFF degree.

Asarta concluded, "Bonnie is, without a doubt, the glue that has kept and continues to keep our UD center together. Simply put, she is one of the best in our profession. She is a tireless leader who deserves to be recognized for her many leadership contributions."

Supporting Materials #1	<div></div> <div></div>
Supporting Materials #2	<div></div> <div></div>
Supporting Materials #3	<div></div> <div></div>

Nominator's Information

Nominator’s Full Name:	Ronni K. Cohen
Relationship to Nominee:	Collaborator, Partner, Fellow Educator, Friend
Organization:	Former Director, Delaware Financial Literacy Institute, Delaware Money School
Email	<div></div>
Preferred Phone Number:	<div></div>
How did you hear about the Nomination application?	Other



Friday, April 7, 2023

Delaware Women's Hall of Fame

Dear Selection Committee members,

For nearly five decades, Bonnie Meszaros has worked to help students improve their financial literacy by preparing teachers to begin this type of education as early as kindergarten. As someone who is so passionately interested in this work, myself, I understand the impact we all can have on young people, helping them to understand the business of their lives and their financial futures. Bonnie has certainly excelled in this regard.

Having served as a board member for the Delaware Council on Economic Education for several years and now presently leading the Council as chairperson, I have had an up-close opportunity to witness and enjoy the progress that the University of Delaware's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship has made under Bonnie's leadership as associate director. Because of her influence, I am very proud to be a part of two non-profit and charitable organizations that fund the Center's work and the work to which she has dedicated her life.

Bonnie has created a network of partners across the state of Delaware— banks, credit unions, for-profit and non-profit organizations—who eagerly come together to further the financial education work that she champions and that benefits all citizens of Delaware.

At Bank of America we have one sole purpose and that is to make financial lives better. And that is why we believe so strongly in the work that Bonnie spearheads. There are few, if any, in Delaware that have done as much to teach our young people about personal finance and economics and to give students a great foundation for their financial futures.

Bonnie has graciously served on Bank of America's local market selection committee for Student Leaders—a signature philanthropic program that offers young people an opportunity to develop workforce skills through a paid summer internship at a local nonprofit. She's also given her time to help the bank develop curriculum to be shared with teachers across the country for Better Money Habits— part of Bank of America's commitment to fostering economic mobility and financial education.

I view the contributions that Bonnie has made to economic and personal finance education as a truly wonderful example of responsible citizenship. She will surely have a lasting impact—both in Delaware and beyond. I applaud her long and impactful career and offer my heartfelt thanks to her for preparing economics and personal finance teachers so well. For this work, she certainly deserves induction into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Montana".

SVP, Community Relations Manager  
Local Markets Organization  
Bank of America

Colleen C. Davis  
State Treasurer



Dear Nominating Committee,

It is with deep admiration that I endorse the nomination of Dr. Bonnie Meszaros into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

I have had the honor of working alongside this extremely passionate educator as she made lifelong educating her mission, delivering professional development to fellow educators, and empowering them to teach young people about financial wellbeing. She has impacted several generations and her legacy will continue to be impactful as thousands of children are learning from her economic tenets.

Her dedication, willingness to make herself accessible despite a global pandemic, and her allegiance to serving the people of our state is truly inspirational. These last few years have been even more influential as educators knew they had a comrade in Bonnie. Having seen her energetic classroom style firsthand, as Dr. Meszaros invited my participation, I understand and appreciate the caliber and diligence of the work product she puts out and the ways in which her work has been uplifting to all.

I offer special congratulations this year as the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame honors so many servants, like Dr. Bonnie Meszaros and my wholehearted endorsement of her nomination.

Sincerely,

Colleen C. Davis  
Delaware State Treasurer



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE BANK COMMISSIONER**  
1110 FORREST AVENUE  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

Web: [BANKING.DELAWARE.GOV](http://BANKING.DELAWARE.GOV)

April 5, 2023

Re: Associate Director Bonnie Meszaros -  
Delaware Women's Hall of Fame Nomination

Dear Susan:

I strongly support the nomination of Bonnie Meszaros to the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. Bonnie was an original founder of the Bank at School program, and has overseen the growth and success of Bank at School for many years through her work as Associate Director of the Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship. Bonnie's extraordinary dedication to financial education for Delaware's elementary school students has been essential to the success of the Bank at School program. Bonnie has worked tirelessly to bring together partnerships with Delaware banks and schools, providing students with access to bank accounts and helping teachers share the importance of learning to save. Over 80 Delaware schools have participated in the Bank at School program. I also have seen first hand Bonnie's leadership in the Center's other activities, including Teach Children to Save Day and the ME\* Competition. I have joined Bonnie at many Bank at School assemblies, Teach Children to Save Day events, and ME\* Competition events for over 20 years, and have been very impressed by her enthusiasm and the positive response from the students. Bonnie certainly deserves to be recognized and inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Glen".

Robert A. Glen  
State Bank Commissioner



Delaware Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy  
To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation in support of the nomination of Bonnie Meszaros into the Hall of Fame.

Having served as Delaware's Governor for eight years, I am well aware of the very high standards for admission. The Hall of Fame represents the best of the best and I am proud to know many of the women who have been admitted over the years.

Bonnie Meszaros is truly extraordinary. She has been one of a small handful of leaders to transform economic and personal finance education in Delaware and is well-regarded for that work across the country. I worked closely with Bonnie for nearly two decades, both when I served as State Treasurer and as Governor.

The list of Bonnie's accomplishments is incredibly impressive:

- Teach Children to Save Day, where we worked together along with the Delaware Bankers Association to bring bankers and finance education into the state's elementary schools
- Bank at School, where Bonnie recruited Delaware banks to set up weekly visits to schools, so children could actually deposit their funds, serve as tellers and reinforce their classroom education (for which Bonnie worked closely with teachers throughout Delaware)
- Delaware Financial Literacy Institute, where Bonnie was the go-to resource for me and the Executive Director, Ronnie Cohen
- Her "day job", where she helped schools develop curricular materials and pedagogical approaches to finance education, including teaching even the youngest students to understand concepts of scarcity and making informed choices
- The National Council on Economic Education, where Bonnie was a leader among state leaders
- The Delaware Department of Education, where Bonnie continues to refine Delaware's economics curriculum

As I think about the impact that Bonnie has had over the years, it can be found in the transformation of literally thousands of lives of children (and their families) who better understand what it means to be financially responsible and who are actually implementing what they learned as a result of her efforts.

What I found even more impressive is that Bonnie at times had to courageously demand attention from those who didn't think our education system was necessarily the place for economics to be taught to young children. Bonnie succeeded because of the merit of her argument and because of her tenacity.

Bonnie Meszaros has made unique contributions to Delaware and at the same time has always been a model of humility, decency and goodness. I cannot think of anybody more deserving of inclusion in the Delaware Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,  
Jack Markell

Friday, April 7, 2023

[REDACTED]

Dear Selection Committee:

I'm writing to strongly support the nomination of Dr. Bonnie Meszaros for the 2023 Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. I've collaborated with Bonnie for more than 20 years to increase the personal financial and economic education of Delaware's young people. Over a career spanning nearly 50 years, Bonnie has had a tremendous impact on every Delawarean who has attended a public, private, or parochial school in the state. It's thanks to Bonnie's tireless efforts that Delaware is viewed across the country and internationally as *the* leader in K–12 economic and personal financial education.

As the associate director of the Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship at the University of Delaware, Bonnie has trained thousands of Delaware teachers and educators from across the country to teach economics and personal finance in K–12 classrooms. This work has included pivotal work as part of the University's internationally-recognized Master of Arts in Economics and Entrepreneurship for Educators (MAEEE) program, countless in-service professional development programs each year, and one-on-one and group consultations at schools from Delmar to Claymont. Bonnie has been the driving force behind the state's academic standards in economics and personal finance. She's devoted thousands of hours to the development of an endless array of curriculum materials for Delaware teachers. These efforts have included the development of *Keys to Financial Success*, a semester personal finance course taken by the overwhelming majority of Delaware's high school students prior to graduation. Together, these efforts have ensured that multiple generations of Delaware's young people have received the best economic and personal financial education in the country. This work has meant that Delawareans are better prepared than their counterparts in other states to make decisions about their personal finances and to contribute to Delaware's economy.

Bonnie's tremendous contributions nationally and internationally have impacted Delawareans too. She is considered one of the leading economic educators in the country. Bonnie led the writing committee for the *Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics*. She served as a key member of the

committee that developed the *National Standards for Financial Literacy*. These standards have impacted state requirements nationwide. She has authored, reviewed, and directed the development of hundreds of economics and personal finance lessons used by Delaware teachers and their counterparts across the country. As part of the national Council on Economic Education's "Train the Writers" program and other similar efforts, Bonnie has trained hundreds of educators to write economics and personal finance lessons. In the late 1970s, Bonnie worked with the noted economic educator Phil Saunders to develop *Trade-offs*, a 15-part public television show aired to hundreds of thousands of elementary school students in the United States and Canada. Through all of these efforts Bonnie has sought to multiply her efforts so that they affect the most young people in Delaware and beyond.

Throughout her career, Bonnie has distinguished herself as *the* person to call when you need help. In one way or another, she has mentored most of the nation's K-12 economic and personal financial education leaders. She has been exceptionally generous in giving her time to individual teachers, administrators, school districts, the department of education, and non-profit organizations to ensure that Delaware young people receive the best economic and personal financial education in the country.

It's difficult to think of another Delawarean other than Bonnie Meszaros who has given more over a longer period of time to advance the education of Delaware's young people. If I can be of any further assistance in explaining why Bonnie is an exceptional candidate for this award, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew T. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew T. Hill, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice President, Economic Education  
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia