

# Increasing Interest in Economics through the Econ Games

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# What is the Econ Games?

<https://www.theecongames.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFtmMWz8Q3E>



## 2021 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

NKU NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY 1910

The University of Akron

ELON

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

XAVIER UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Dickinson College

BELMONT UNIVERSITY

University of Kentucky

Carnegie Mellon University

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF Cincinnati

VIRGINIA TECH.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

UCL

NKU Center for Economic Education

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CLEVELAND  
WWW.THEECONGAMES.COM

ISFE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF FREE ENTERPRISE

# Econ Games 2021 – Online

## Cleveland Fed Data Sponsor



Econ Games  
2022 – In-Person  
and Online

Fischer Homes  
Data Sponsor



# Econ Games 2023 – Conference

Middle Ground  
Capital Data  
Sponsor



# Why Would Students Do This?

- A memorable college experience
- Friends for life
- Career and life preparedness

# Many benefits of the Econ Games:

1. Deeper  
understanding  
of economics,  
applying  
knowledge  
and skills

- ▶ Experience what economists do in the real world – solve problems!
- Answering complicated questions
- Time limits
- Uncertainty
- Creative thinking
- Teamwork
- Communication skills
- Data skills



# Team USI at the Econ Games 2022



# Many benefits of the Econ Games:

## 2. Being part of a community

- ▶ Working with faculty and fellow students
- ▶ Networking across universities
- ▶ Getting to know professional economists and their work
- ▶ Embracing diversity

# Many benefits of the Econ Games:

## 3. Resume building and job market preparedness

- ▶ A mini-internship
- ▶ Compressed format with built in flexibility
  - Virtual training on Canvas
  - Final challenge in person
  - Workload concentrated in the weeks leading up to the final challenge
- ▶ Graduate school and career inspiration



# Why Would Faculty Do This?

ECON GAMES ARE REWARDING AND NOT BURDENSOME FOR FACULTY



# Many benefits of the Econ Games:

## 4. Faculty perspectives

- ▶ Providing experiential learning opportunities for students
- Service to the economics profession – Econ club advising
- ▶ Flexibility for faculty advisors
- In-person and virtual engagement with students
- Training sessions and team building
- Internal contest option
- ▶ Networking with other students and faculty advisors, sponsors, economists
- ▶ Career opportunities for students

# Many benefits of the Econ Games:

## 4. Sponsor perspectives

- ▶ Observing students' data analysis, communication, and teamwork skills
- ▶ Getting insight into company's strategic priorities: identifying policy issues, increasing profitability, etc.
- ▶ Recruiting talent on the spot
- ▶ Networking with faculty and students for future hiring purposes

# Student Testimonials

- ▶ “In addition to analyzing data to make better decisions, it is extremely important *how* you communicate information.” – Andrew Zieg, finance and economics
- ▶ “I realized just how much I must learn not only to compete in the job market, but also to achieve my personal career goals.” – Cole Stephenson, philosophy and economics
- ▶ “I’m seeing the practical applications of what I’m learning. It can be hard at times to see how much you’ve learned and to find motivation to keep going. Having experiences to practically apply what you have learned provides a drive to continue and a thirst to learn.” – Elijah Toavs, mathematics and economics (2022)
- ▶ “This can give you an incredible opportunity to make memories outside of the classroom that you’ll have for a lifetime.” – Elijah Toavs, mathematics and economics (2023)
- ▶ “We had the chance to problem solve using data analytics software, apply our knowledge from the classroom and work as a team, all while learning more about the economics of the homebuilding industry.” – Parker Collignon, economics



Interest in participating?

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