

Dealership's gift to BC3 steers kids toward financial literacy

“BC3 is a great organization with what it accomplishes,” \$10K contributor says

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(Butler, PA) An automobile dealership's \$10,000 donation to the Butler County Community College Education Foundation, Inc. will fuel programs that teach economic concepts to students as young as fourth-graders, the foundation's executive director said Thursday.

Dennis Baglier, owner of Baglier Buick GMC/Mazda, Butler, presented the \$10,000 check Thursday to the foundation's Ruth Purcell, and to David Huseman, director of BC3's Center for Economic Education and a professor of humanities and social sciences.



Dennis Baglier, center, owner of Baglier Buick GMC/Mazda, Butler, presents a \$10,000 check to the BC3 Education Foundation Inc. on Thursday, March 23, 2017. At left is David Huseman, director of BC3's Center for Economic Education and a professor of humanities and social sciences. At right is Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation Inc.

“BC3 is a great organization with what it accomplishes,” Baglier said. “We have dealt with many family members and friends who have taken advantage of the college and it has been great.”

The gift, Purcell says, will be used to fund the center's Stock Market Game, an Economics Pennsylvania competition that introduces students to investing, saving and financial literacy.

“The foundation is grateful to the Baglier group for its generosity to the BC3 Center for Economic Education and involvement with key BC3 initiatives,” Purcell said.

Nearly 1,700 students in grades 4 to 12 at 30 regional schools compete each year in the Stock Market Game, Huseman said. Students on teams of up to five members begin the game with a hypothetical \$100,000, make buy-and-trade decisions and track how those decisions would have played out in the markets had they been real. The game also introduces many students to the importance of saving, and develops math, English and history skills, according to Huseman.

Baglier's donation – made through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program – will also be used to fund “Strive to Drive,” another Economics Pennsylvania learning tool and one targeted to appeal to teens on the cusp of car ownership.

“It fits in perfectly with the kinds of things that Baglier does as an automobile dealer, using economic concepts,” Huseman says.

“Strive to Drive,” Huseman says, “deals with the situation of buying a car. How much money do you need? How much money do you need for a down payment? What are going to be the monthly payments? How much can you afford?”

Teachers use hypothetical checking account registers and 51 question and action cards to deliver lessons on finding a job, finding a car that fits a budget, loans, insurance, deductibles, upkeep and maintenance, and fuel.

“Students are going to have to make decisions,” Huseman said, “so that they don’t get burdened with an excessive amount of a monthly payment that they can’t meet. They are going to have to match up what their earning power is with what they can afford.”

Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit program provides tax credits to eligible businesses that contribute financially to a scholarship, to educational improvement or to a pre-kindergarten scholarship organization.

The mission of BC3’s Center for Economic Education is to promote and encourage understanding of economic concepts through education in the K-12 classroom.

BC3’s Center for Economic Education is committed to improving economic education in the Butler County service area by offering and demonstrating quality teaching materials and professional development programs to elementary and secondary school teachers, both public and private. This service is designed to motivate and enable educators to more effectively teach finance and economics.