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ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARKANSAS SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

PROVIDES GRANTS TO SCHOOLS

B. Edmond Waters, Arkansas Securities Commissioner, announced that the Arkansas Securities Department has awarded Grants totaling nearly \$70,000 under the Securities Department's Investor Education Grant Program. This year's recipients include eighteen schools and one non-profit organization.

The Grant Program, which began in 2003, provides funds for public schools and non-profit groups that provide investment education to Arkansas students in grades five – twelve. The program has enabled numerous schools in the state to provide financial and investor education for their students. Commissioner Waters noted that the Securities Department received more requests this year than in most previous years and was excited that more schools are embracing economic education. It is vitally important that young people learn about the financial markets and how to invest wisely. Early financial and investor education will help these future investors from falling victim to securities scams and frauds as adults.

The school grants will be used to purchase educational materials, software, and equipment, for the classrooms, that are used to further investor education. The schools who were awarded grants this year include: Bayou Meto Elementary School; Elmwood Middle School; England Elementary School; Greenbrier Middle School; Hackett High School; Jacksonville Middle School; Jonesboro Math and Science School; Lonoke Elementary School; Lonoke High School; Manila Middle School; Microsociety Magnet School; Murrell Taylor Elementary School; Piggott Elementary School; Pinnacle View Middle School; Ridge Road Elementary School; Tolleson Elementary School; Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Jonesboro and Walnut Ridge High School.

A grant was also awarded to Economics Arkansas, a private, non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization founded in 1962 by Dr. Bessie B. Moore to promote economic literacy in Arkansas. The grant will be used for Teacher training and the sponsorship of the Stock Market Game. The Stock Market Game is a national program that allows students and teachers the opportunity to invest a virtual \$100,000 in stocks, bonds and mutual funds in a 10 week simulation.