

Introduction to the: National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

National Association of Economics Educators
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National Economic Education Delegation

- **Vision**

- One day, the public discussion of policy issues will be grounded in an accurate perception of the underlying economic principles and data.

- **Mission**

- NEED unites the skills and knowledge of a vast network of professional economists to promote understanding of the economics of policy issues in the United States.

- **NEED Presentations**

- Are **nonpartisan** and intended to reflect the consensus of the economics profession.



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Who Are We?

• Honorary Board: 47 members

- 2 Fed Chairs: Janet Yellen, Ben Bernanke
- 6 Chairs Council of Economic Advisers
 - o Furman (D), Rosen (R), Bernanke (R), Yellen (D), Tyson (D), Goolsbee (D)
- 3 Nobel Prize Winners
 - o Akerlof, Smith, Maskin

• Delegates: 489 members

- At all levels of academia and some in government service
- All have a Ph.D. in economics
- Crowdsource slide decks
- Give presentations

• Global Partners: 45 Ph.D. Economists

- Aid in slide deck development

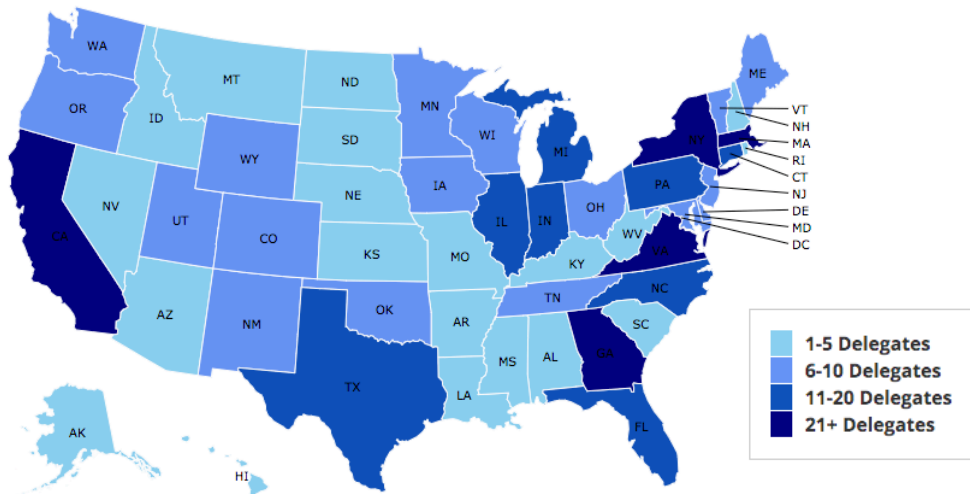


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Where Are We?



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Why is this so important?

“ I’ve never seen the disjunction between the political debate about economics and the consensus of economists be as large as it is today. ”

Justin Wolfers, University of Michigan

The misuse of economic data is widespread and there is no countering, clarifying force. This leads to continued misunderstanding of economics and poorly researched and implemented economic policy.



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What is needed?

Economic policy literacy!!!



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Examples

- Examples of the use of economics to push agendas
 - Job creators
 - Cyclical fiscal policy
 - Trade policy
- Examples of the lack of use of economics to push agendas
 - Climate change
- Examples where it is simply misunderstood or underused
 - Inequality
 - Minimum wage

The “Solvable” Problem

- There are more than 15,000 economists in academic institutions across the country.
- Though some do, many do not engage with the public, with politicians, or with the media.
- As a result, public discourse of economic policy matters is often wrong or lacks depth of understanding.
- Those wishing to distort economic statistics for their own benefit are left without a force pushing back on false claims.

What Makes NEED Unique?

- **In-person interaction with audiences.**
 - Blogs and op-eds have limited reach and are less effective than standing before an audience.
 - Characteristics:
 - Relevant
 - Fact based
 - Accessible
 - Comprehensive
 - Clear
 - NONPARTISAN
- **Promotion of civic engagement within the profession.**

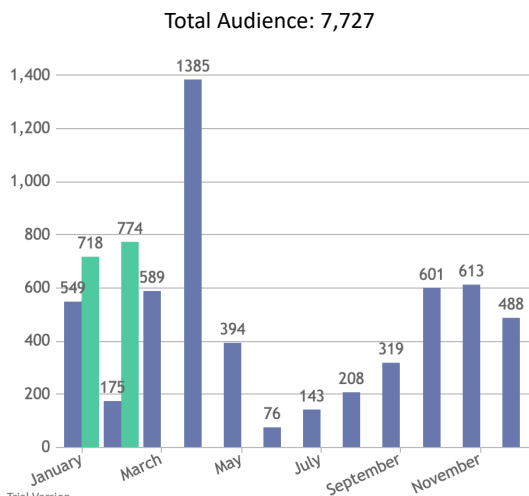
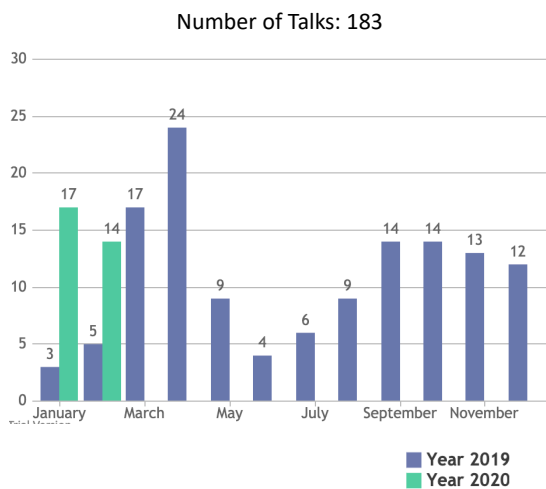


Available NEED Topics Include:

- **US Economy**
- **Economic Inequality**
- **Climate Change**
- **US Social Policy**
- **Trade and Globalization**
- **Economic Mobility**
- **Trade Wars**
- **Housing Policy**
- **Federal Budgets**
- **Federal Debt**
- **2017 Tax Law**
- **Autonomous Vehicles**

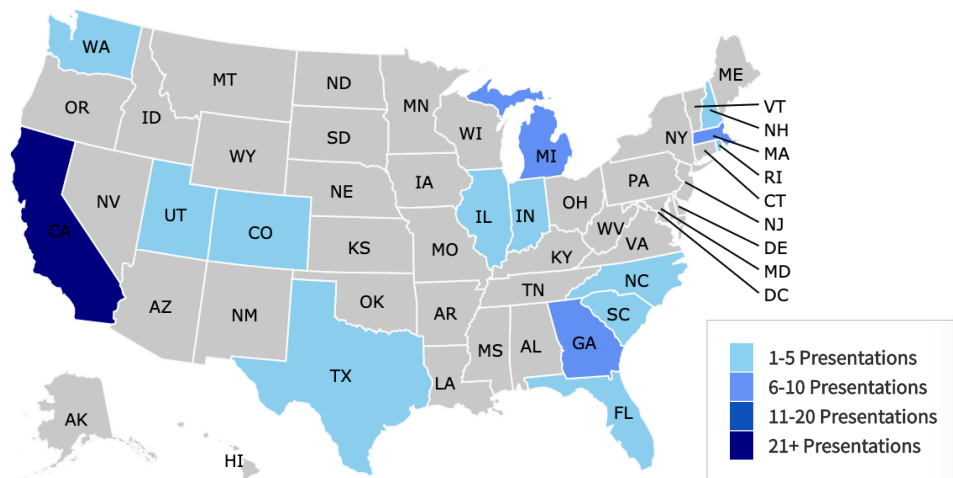


Progress to Date



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NEED Talks - Geography



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NEED: Presentation Topic Counts

Topic	# Presentations	Total Audience	# Scheduled
Economic Inequality	41	1,311	6
Trade and Globalization	34	1,270	7
Climate Change	33	1,396	6
US Economic Update	33	2,180	6
The U.S. Safety Net	2	118	0
Other	40	1,452	7

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NEED Venues

Organization Type	# Presentations	Total Audience	# Scheduled
High School	47	1,564	1
College Campus	44	2,440	13
Social Club	35	978	5
Private Community	18	508	6
Business Organization	18	1,453	3
Public Library	15	313	1
Private Speaker Series	6	471	3

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What NEED...Needs

- **More delegates willing to present**
- **Subject matter experts willing to:**
 - Contribute
 - Review decks
- **Access to teachers and students**
 - Train the teacher
 - Directly present to students



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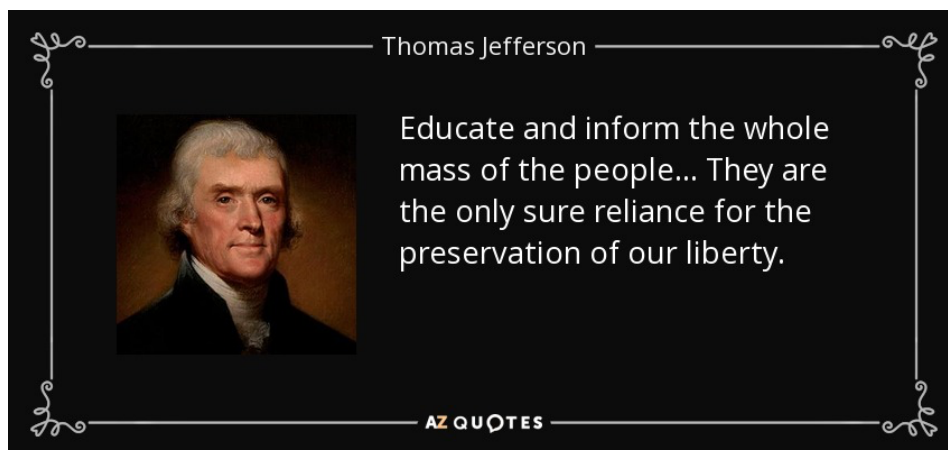
What NEED Offers Teachers and Students

- **Authoritative and substantive application of principles.**
- **Examples:**
 - **Climate Change**
 - Supply and demand
 - Externalities
 - Policy based on principles
 - **Economic Inequality**
 - Wage determination
 - Competition policy
 - Monopsony



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Parting Words



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Thank you!

Any Questions?

www.NEEDelegation.org

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Contact NEED: Jon@NEEDelegation.org

Become a delegate: www.NEEDelegation.org/Delegate.php



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