

Second Annual Economics Conference: A Resounding Success!

In January of 2008, the Institute co-sponsored and hosted our very first free market economics conference, an event that drew over 250 attendees and proved an excellent educational opportunity. During the intervening year, the topic of economics has become one that is much more in the forefront of people's minds, and we knew that the opportunity for honest and common-sense education was powerful. This year, we decided to expand the conference to two locations, and the second annual economics conference was held on January 8th and 9th in Pleasanton, CA and Modesto, CA, respectively. Once again, the conference was a solid success, drawing about 280 attendees who were excited and eager to learn, especially due to our current economic situation.



Dr. Shawn Ritenour at the 2nd Annual Economics Conference. Photo: Herb Ong

We were very pleased to welcome Dr. Shawn Ritenour as our keynote speaker for this year's conference. Dr. Ritenour earned his Ph.D. in economics from Auburn University (Auburn, Alabama) in 1997, and is now an associate professor of economics at Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania. Dr. Ritenour delivered three important messages both days at our conference, covering some basic economic principles and addressing the causes of our current meltdown.

Our two additional speakers—Gregory Rehmke, economist and president of Economic Thinking, and Mike Winther, president of Institute for Principle Studies—lectured on topics such as economic freedom, health care and economics, and fundamental principles that are violated by the bailout legislation.

We received very positive feedback from attendees after the event, with comments such as, “The topics were very relevant... and reinforced the necessity of consistent adherence to principles”, “I need more education in this area, [and] I appreciate the opportunity to [learn]”, “Great program—very informative”, and “I hope it will happen again and even more people will attend”. The educational opportunities for this type of event are nearly endless, and we are looking forward to next January as we seek to make the third annual conference the best so far!

All lecture sessions from this important conference were recorded and are available on audio CD. If you are interested in ordering a particular lecture or the complete CD set, please see our website, www.principlestudies.org, for a CD order form. 