



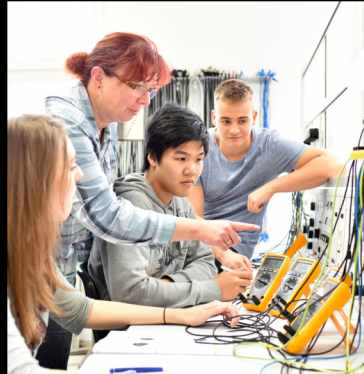
The Alpaugh Family **ECONOMICS CENTER**

1976 **50 YEARS** 2026

2026 ANNUAL AWARDS: CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF IMPACT

April 21st, 2026 at Cincinnati Music Hall

Sponsor Information



About The Alpaugh Family Economics Center at UC



The Work That Matters—50 Years and Counting

For fifty years, the Center has been at the heart of the #WorkThatMatters: empowering educators, students, and communities with the knowledge and tools to thrive. What began in 1976 as an ambitious initiative of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce to equip teachers with financial and economic education has evolved into a national force for good.

From our Cincinnati roots, we now reach classrooms in all fifty states and around the world through programs that spark curiosity, build confidence, and foster real-world understanding. From award-winning professional development for educators to engaging student programs and our acclaimed \$martPath online learning platform, we're shaping a generation ready to make informed financial choices and contribute to stronger communities.

While teacher training remains a cornerstone of our mission, our impact extends far beyond the classroom. We engage communities, strengthen partnerships, and conduct applied research that informs business strategy, workforce development, and public policy. Each year, our research team collaborates with more than 30 organizations, delivering data and insights that fuel regional growth and economic opportunity.

As we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2026, we're proud of how far we've come, and deeply inspired by what's ahead. With the generous support of sponsors and philanthropic partners, we can bring transformative financial and economic education to even more students, teachers, and schools nationwide.

Your investment will help expand access to programs that build financial capability, support research that drives economic vitality, and empower the next generation with the tools to achieve lasting success.



The 2026 Annual Awards Keynote: Program Success Stories

This year, instead of featuring a single keynote speaker, we're introducing a keynote panel of "success stories": remarkable individuals whose journeys were shaped in part by Alpaugh Family Economics Center programs like StEP, the Stock Market Game, and the Economics Challenge. Each of them has gone on to do extraordinary things, and together they'll help us shine a spotlight on the lifelong impact of financial and economic education:

Michael Barton, Sector Head at Coatue Management



Michael leads Coatue's \$17 billion technology hedge fund in New York and was recently named to the Forbes "30 Under 30" list. He oversees tech investing focused on public market internet companies, including Meta and Applovin. Before joining Coatue, Barton worked as an investment banking analyst at Moelis and Company and at Melvin Capital Management for investor Gabe Plotkin.

Michael's connection to the Center goes back to his days at Cincinnati Country Day School, where he and his team won the 2011 Stock Market Game and traveled to New York to visit Wall Street. That experience sparked his dream of becoming a hedge fund manager; so much so that he started an Investing Club at CCDS to help his classmates explore that world as well.

Sam Hall, Co-Founder and COO of GrowthFactor.ai



Sam is the co-founder and COO of GrowthFactor.ai, a startup using data and artificial intelligence to help real estate investors make smarter decisions.

A Princeton-trained aerospace engineer, Sam eventually pivoted, earning his MBA from MIT before joining Bain & Company as a consultant, later becoming head of operations for Chord Commerce.

Like Michael, he participated in and won the Stock Market Game as part of that CCDS team in 2011, an experience that opened his eyes to investing and entrepreneurship.

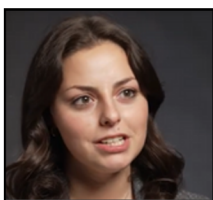
Tim Walker, Glendale Elementary Principal



Tim is the Principal of Glendale Elementary (Princeton City Schools) with seven years of administrative leadership. Under his guidance, Glendale earned OAESA Hall of Fame status and the Ohio Department of Education Momentum Award.

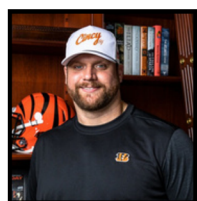
A 2019 StEP Leadership Award winner, Tim is dedicated to fostering inclusive school cultures where creativity thrives. He holds a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Education in Administration from Xavier University.

Ava Van Praag, Former StEP Participant and Aspiring Educator



Ava Van Praag is a student at Miami University, studying Primary Education. She is a part of the TEACH Cincinnati program, which inspires students in Cincinnati schools to become educators and combat the teacher shortage. Ava participated in StEP and Market Madness at Kilgour School and is now a student teacher at North College Hill Elementary, where her students also participate in StEP.

Panel Moderator: Cincinnati Bengals Player and Philanthropist Ted Karras



The panel will be moderated by Cincinnati Bengals player Ted Karras. Ted's is the perfect voice to guide this conversation. As a Cincinnati Bengals center and the founder of the Cincy Hat Foundation, Ted understands the power of opportunity, discipline, and giving back. He brings authenticity, curiosity, and heart to the stage, helping panelists share not just what they've achieved, but how early experiences helped shape who they are today.

2026 Annual Awards Honorees

Student Enterprise Program (StEP) School of the Year: *Springmyer Elementary*

StEP Volunteers of the Year: *Deloitte*



The Cornerstone Award (with a special introduction by Western & Southern President and CEO John Barrett):

Peter Alpaugh



Scenes from our Annual Awards and Market Madness

Schedule of Events on April 21st, 2026

4pm: VIP Tours of Cincinnati Music Hall for top sponsors

5pm: Cocktail reception featuring an open bar and buffet, and the auction begins

6pm: Annual Awards program begins

7:15pm: Program ends

An online auction featuring premium whiskey and experience packages will begin during the cocktail reception.

Sponsorship Levels

Presenting Sponsor (one) : \$30,000

- Prominent logo placement on Cincinnati Music Hall at the event
- Prominent placement on the Center's social media feeds and in newsletters and other communications
- Large logo above event title on all materials
- Three tables at the Annual Awards (24 seats total)
- All other benefits afforded to 1976 Society donors



The 1976 Society : \$19,760

- Cocktail reception co-host
- Cocktail reception with VIPs and keynote panel members
- VIP tour of Cincinnati Music Hall
- Branding on materials related to cocktail reception
- Recognition of sponsorship on all literature and the Center's social media channels
- Recognition in the Economics Center's newsletter
- Media exposure
- Two tables at the Annual Awards (16 seats total)
- Special UC swag for 16 people

Gold: \$15,000

- Cocktail reception before the event
- VIP tour of Cincinnati Music Hall
- Recognition of sponsorship on all literature
- Recognition in the Economics Center's newsletter and social media channels
- Media exposure
- Logo in event advertisements
- Two tables at the Annual Awards (16 seats total)
- Special UC swag for eight people

Silver: \$7,000

- Recognition of sponsorship on all literature
- Recognition in the Economics Center's newsletter and social media
- Media exposure
- Listed in event advertisements
- One table (8 seats) at the Annual Awards
- Special UC swag for four people



Bronze: \$3,500

- Recognition of sponsorship in all literature
- Recognition of sponsorship on the Center's social media and in newsletters
- One table (8 seats) at the Annual Awards

How Your Sponsorship Changes Lives



Presenting Sponsor (\$30,000)

- Fund 2 economic research analyses for nonprofit organizations
- Underwrite the cost of the award-winning \$martPath economic and financial education online curriculum for 3,000 students (includes teacher training and supplemental materials)



1976 Society (\$19,760)

- Cover the costs of the Susan Sargen Student Enterprise Program (StEP) at two schools (learn more about StEP at economicscenter.org)
- Support 1,000 teams participating in Stock Market Game
- Would fund the creation of new, downloadable curriculum for \$martPath



Gold Sponsor (\$15,000)

- Covers StEP supplies for 1,000 local students
- Sponsorship of the Ohio Portfolio Challenge
- Underwrite professional development for local educators



Silver Sponsor (\$7,000)

- Support the Invest In Girls program at a local school
- Graduate credit for ten educators
- Underwrite Market Madness participation for 700 students



Bronze Sponsor (\$3,500)

- Bus transportation for ten classes to Market Madness
- Sponsor Family Financial Fun Night at a local school
- Sponsor the Personal Finance Challenge
- Fund the creation of a video animation for a nonprofit research client

Previous Featured Speakers

- 2009: Richard Davis, CEO, U.S. Bancorp
2010: John E. Pepper, Jr., former CEO, Procter & Gamble
2011: William R. Burleigh, former CEO, E.W. Scripps
2012: Mike Ullman, CEO of JCPenney
2013: John W. Rogers, Jr., CIO for Ariel Investments
2014: Mark Zandi, Chief Economist for Moody's Analytics
2015: Jeff Immelt, CEO of General Electric
2016: Lee Horwich and Amalie Nash from USA Today
2017: Stephen Dubner, Co-Author/Host, Freakonomics
2018: Jim Hackett, CEO of Ford Motor Company
2019: Alexa Von Tobel, Founder and CEO of Learnvest
2020: Event canceled due to COVID
2021: Chris Kempczinski, CEO of McDonald's Corporation
2022: Zac Taylor, Head Coach of the Cincinnati Bengals
2023: Jeff Berding, Co-CEO of FC Cincinnati
2024: Phil Castellini, Nick Krall, and Karen Forcus from the Cincinnati Reds
2025: College NIL panel including UC Athletics leaders, UC athletes, and local business leaders



Previous Honorees

- 2009: Richard Davis, CEO of U.S. Bancorp
2010: John E. Pepper, Jr., Former CEO of Procter & Gamble
2011: William R. Burleigh, former CEO, E.W. Scripps
2012: Terence Horan, President of Horan
2013: John W. Rogers, Jr., CIO for Ariel Investments
2014: Rodney McMullen, CEO of Kroger
2015: Jeff Immelt, CEO of General Electric
2016: John Barrett, CEO of Western & Southern Financial Group
2017: Bob Castellini, President and CEO of the Cincinnati Reds
2018: Katie Brown Blackburn, Exec. Vice President, Cincinnati Bengals
2019: Tim Elsbrock, Regional President, 5/3 Bank
2020: Event canceled due to COVID
2021: Nathan Bachrach and Ed Finke, Simply Money Founders
2022: John Frank Jr., Cushman Wakefield & Nick Sargen of Fort Washington Investment Advisors
2023: Dr. Julie Heath, Executive Director Emerita of the Alpaugh Family Economics Center
2024: Bill Neyer, formerly of Al. Neyer
2025: Brian Brockhoff, bank executive and longtime Center board member



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Interested in Sponsoring our Annual Awards?

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kathy.palmer@uc.edu or (513) 556-2986



Thanks to our event planning committee: Brian Brockhoff (committee chair), Andrea Akin, Peter Alpaugh, Nathan Bachrach, Matt Barney, Sarah Browne, Caitlin Case, Emilia Connor-Brady, Brad Evans, John Frank, Sue Heilmayer, James Hendricks, Lakisha Higgins, Erna Jennings, Cody Kessel, Hannah Kessel, Lisa Kuethe, Sarah Lewton, J.T. Mackay, Doug Marsh, Amber Newman, Bill Neyer, Bri Oeder, David Okun, Jim Ortman, Kathy Palmer, Chris Quigley, Nic Ruscello, Cindy Tsai, and Ben Willingham.

**Thank You for Supporting the
#WorkThatMatters!**
