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Effectiveness of the Training of Teachers Project in Economic Education in Free State Secondary Schools

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ABSTRACT This paper measured the Council for Economic Education's Training of Teachers project's effectiveness in secondary schools in the Free State Province by evaluating teachers understanding and attitude toward economics education. The author employed a randomization of economics teachers across treatment and control groups at two separate stages of the research design. A pretest-posttest design, with matched experimental (n=124) and control (n=124) groups, was constructed because of its resistance to common threats to internal validity. Results indicated that the Training of Teachers (ToT) project showed improvement scores of participants' Test of Economic Literacy (TEL) scores by approximately 10.73 percent, which indicated greater gains in economic understanding. Furthermore, the ToT participants' showed positive attitude towards the subject compared to teachers who did not participate in project in Free State secondary schools. This result indicates that additional research is needed to determine the cost-effectiveness of teacher training versus curriculum delivery.