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3-30-2022

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 30, 2022**

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## **Essay Competition Lands Student at National Economics Conference**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- What do space travel, Elon Musk and entrepreneurship have in common? Cedarville senior Whitton Rice has the answer, which landed him a trip to the Association of Private Enterprise Education's annual economics conference in Las Vegas April 3-5. Rice will defend his research to professionals in the field, while also competing at the national economics conference.

Rice, of Bloomington, Illinois, worked with [Dr. Jeffrey Haymond](#), dean of the school of business and professor of economics at Cedarville University, to research different economic philosophies of entrepreneurship and the impact these ideas have on public policy.

At the end of the three-day conference, the APEE committee will pick the best undergraduate research presentation from the 28 that were accepted to be the winner.

"I didn't know how likely it would be that I would get accepted to the conference, so I was naturally pretty nervous," Rice said. "Now that I'm in, I am really just excited to defend my research and have some exciting back and forth with the professionals there. It will be helpful to get feedback on my research from people with different views."

Rice sees the conference as an exciting chance to share his findings with the world and compete against other students. He also hopes it will be an opportunity to learn from professional economists at breakout sessions.

Rice hopes this experience will help him in his current internship at Beyond, a venture capital firm, and his future internship with US Bank this summer. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Haymond, as well as the other faculty members he has been able to work with at Cedarville University. "The mentorships I've had with deans and professors have been huge for me," he said. "The ratio of faculty to students allowed me to learn at a personal and in-depth level."

Although he is eager to learn and make the most of his experiences at the APEE conference, Rice says that he has not come this far to lose. "Fingers crossed my paper is a hit. My goal, besides gaining knowledge, is to win," he said.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally

for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the [Bachelor of Science in Economics](#), strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit [cedarville.edu](#).

Written By Elizabeth Kanzeg

Photo Cutlines

Caption (A): Whitton Rice with the poster he will take to the conference.

Caption (B): Whitton Rice of Bloomington, Illinois.