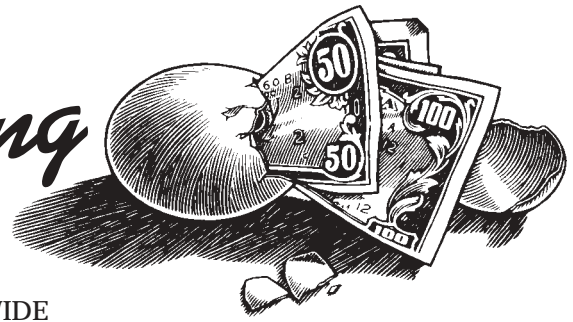


High School Financial Planning Program

STATEWIDE
NEWSBITS



Fall 2003

Resources for Teachers

It's a Jungle Out There!

"Consumer Jungle" is a Web site sponsored by the Young Adult Consumer Education Trust (YACET). The interactive, Web-based program helps high school students become literate, savvy consumers on a number of topics, such as: Credit Cave (credit), Car-fari (transportation), Smarts (e-commerce), Surviving Solo (living on your own) and Jingle in the Jungle (telecommunications).

"Consumer Jungle" uses interactive games, activities and text information for use at home or in the classroom. The "Teacher Base Camp" provides unit plans and outlines, learning objectives, applicable national standards, vocabulary for each unit and a variety of activities. Check it out at:

www.consumerjungle.org

Consumer Expenditure Survey

"How much should a family spend on food, clothing, housing, etc?"

Do you get this question? Families are so different-and their spending patterns so varied-that simple "hypothetical budgets" for families are not feasible. Data on how much families DO spend (not how much they SHOULD spend) are available, however, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey.

The 2001 data were recently released. You can access data on (and other information about) the Consumer Expenditure Survey at the following Web site:

stats.bls.gov/cex/csxreprt.htm

Copyright: The 'Fair Use' Rule

When is it OK to use part of another's work without getting permission? If you aren't sure, a plain English explanation of the 'fair use' rule as it applies to copyright law (including general guidelines for educators) may be helpful. The article on "When

Copying is OK-The 'Fair Use' Rule" can be found at www.nolo.com/lawcenter (click on Encyclopedia; then Trademarks and Copyrights).

*Source: ACCI Consumer News and Reviews,
American Council on Consumer Interests,
April 2003.*

The Consumer Action Handbook: 2003 Edition

Have you received your copy of *The Consumer Action Handbook: 2003 Edition* from the Federal Citizen Information Center? It is designed to help consumers make informed purchasing decisions, avoid problems in the marketplace and resolve problems if they do occur.

Single copies of the *Handbook* can be ordered free of charge by writing to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009 or calling the Federal Citizen Information Center at 1-888-878-3256.

The *Handbook* also can be viewed, downloaded or ordered online (there is a \$2 shipping fee) at:

www.pueblo.gsa.gov/crh



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Surfing the Web

Here are a few other Web sites you might find interesting:

www.fte.org/teachers/lessons/lessons.htm

The Foundation for Teaching Economics provides resources, activities and lesson plans for teaching economic concepts.

www.italladdsup.org/

"It All Adds Up," developed by the National Council on Economic Education, is a Web-based, interactive program that offers online games and simulations about credit management, buying a car, paying for college and saving and investing.

www.themint.org

"The Mint" was developed by the Northwestern Mutual Foundation in partnership with the National Council on Economic Education. It provides information, interactive "adventures" and other resources to help parents/educators teach children about sound money management.

Understanding Taxes

Did you know that *Understanding Taxes*, an interactive tax education program for high school and community college classrooms, is now available online?

The program is designed to offer flexibility for teachers who can choose which activities and instructional methods work best for their students.

The program is available online or as a package of downloadable print resources.

Lesson plans outline teacher instruction.

Materials can be used as a complete unit or can be presented as individual activities/lessons.

Links to related national and state educational standards are included.

Content is divided into two distinct areas—the "Hows of Taxes" and the "Whys of Taxes."

Background information eliminates having to search for tax materials.

Check the program out at:

www.irs.gov/app/understandingTaxes/jsp/techer_home.jsp

Source: Jones, J. December 2002. Financial

Economic Education Newsletter Available

The *Economic Education Newsletter* is an online educational resource for K-12 teachers provided by the Baltimore office, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The newsletter features information on high school and college contests, teachers' workshops and other educational programs conducted by the Fed. It also offers Web links to financial literacy and economic education sites and other resources that are useful for teachers in the classroom. To view previous newsletters or subscribe, go to

www.rich.frb.org/econed/newletter/

Your Local Extension Educator

While on the subject of resources, don't forget about your local county and area extension educators. The outreach arm of the land-grant university system, many of these educators are trained in financial management, or have access to resources that you may use. Included in this newsletter is a list of agents throughout the state and their contact information.

Financial Champions

This new personal finance curriculum targeting 12-15 year olds is now available for individuals, classes or youth organizations from the National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System. According to Teenage Research Unlimited, U.S. teens spent \$172 billion in 2001, yet they know less now about money than they did five years ago. A 2002 survey by Jump\$tart, a national nonprofit coalition for financial literacy, shows that high school seniors' understanding of personal finance skills have dropped from 57.3 percent in 1997 to 50.2 percent in 2002. Financial literacy has a failing grade for most of today's youth.

Financial Champions, a personal finance curriculum for middle school youth, seeks to change those numbers through a series of two youth guides, a helper's guide and a free interactive Web-based game. Support for the development and distribution of the curriculum was

provided by 4HCCS. InCharge Institute and Windemere Communications provided financial and technical support for the Financial Champions curriculum and a companion interactive Web game. Find the site at:

<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/FinancialChampions/>

The first youth guide, *Money Fundamentals*, helps youth identify their money personalities and has activities to explore communication and problem solving, defining needs and wants, resolving disagreements about money, setting goals and creating budgets.

Activities in the second youth manual, *Money Moves*, guide youth through taking care of money and selecting financial services. Other activities involve compounding simple interest and looking at the positive and negative aspects of credit. Youth also will learn how to maintain a checking account, the effects of advertising and other aspects of consumerism.

The *Helper's Guide* contains activities that enhance the youth guides as well as ideas for group activities, presentations, demonstrations, field trips, community service projects, exhibits, leadership opportunities and meeting icebreakers. The books can be purchased at the 4HCCS Web site, www.n4hccs.org, individually or as a set for \$10.75.

Dr. Nancy Porter represented Clemson University as one of nine universities and two youth-serving organizations who contributed time and expertise to staff to develop **Financial Champions**. The curriculum is an objective way for youth to learn about a subject that may have a major impact upon the financial security of their future.

Teachers — We Need Your Help!

A national evaluation of the NEFE High School Financial Planning Program® curriculum will take place during the 2003-04 year. If you have ordered the curriculum or student guidebooks for school year 2003-04, you could receive a teacher participation form shortly after Labor Day. Please complete it and send it back.

It is the first phase of a three-phase evaluation process. The second phase includes a short survey for students and teachers after completing the teaching of the curriculum. In the third phase, a random sample of students from the second phase will be followed up three months after completing the curriculum. The aim of the evaluation is to document changes in knowledge, behavior and confidence about managing finances.

LifeSmarts

The LifeSmarts competition is a fun, educational way to participate in activities that teach consumer issues . . . real life issues. LifeSmarts is a program of the National Consumers League. The Consumer Protection Division of the North Dakota Attorney General's Office hosts the state competition in Bismarck.

Students compete individually online at their schools or in community groups — teams don't have to be affiliated with a school. Four-H teams and school organizations are encouraged to participate in the online competition. Several teams made up of home-schooled students have participated in the national competition.

Team scores are compiled and the top 12 teams are invited to the state competition to compete for the state title. The 2004 state competition is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2004.

The North Dakota champion team will represent North Dakota at the National LifeSmarts competition in Chicago, April 24-27, 2004.

We hope you will consider being a coach!

Don't miss this educational and fun event! Go to www.lifesmarts.org to learn more about the program and to test your knowledge by taking the practice quizzes. Information about the North Dakota competition will be posted soon on the Web site. Keep checking the LifeSmarts site for information about the North Dakota competition. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mork at 1-800-472-2600 or jmork@state.nd.us.



We hope to see your name on the list of coaches and schools participating in the LifeSmarts experience! Your team could be on the list of North Dakota LifeSmarts champions!

1997 - Stanley High School
1998 - Stanley High School
1999 - Kindred FHA
2000 - Griggs County High School
2001 - Central Cass High School
2002 - Kindred High School
2003 - Kindred High School

Please tell others about the LifeSmarts program.

Source: Joan Mork, Investigator, North Dakota Attorney General Consumer Protection Division and Director, North Dakota LifeSmarts.

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Debra Pankow
Debb Pankow
Family Economics Specialist

HSFPP Training in Your Schools?

This fall and winter, I will be offering a one-hour training in using the HSFPP in schools. These trainings will be organized based on requests from teachers and administrators.

These informational sessions may be offered over the IVN system, with a local extension agent or a combination of methods. There is no charge for the training, and it will feature an introduction to the HSFPP materials, resources available and tips and techniques for teaching teens about money management.

If you are interested, please contact Debra Pankow, NDSU Family Economics Specialist, at (701) 231-8593 or dpankow@ndsuent.nodak.edu.

NEWS FLASH

NDSU Extension Service to assist in providing "Life in North Dakota" to the state.

The Montana Family Financial Literacy Project has plans to revise the curriculum with "Life in North Dakota."

Watch for details on how your local extension office can help provide materials and training sometime next year!