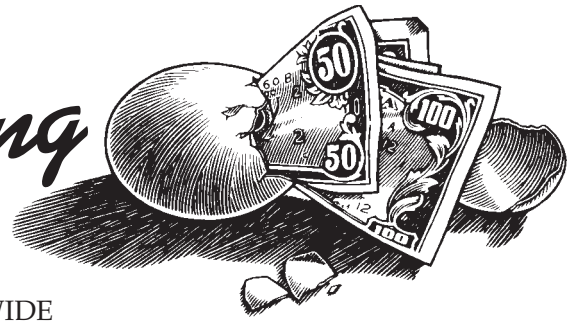


# High School Financial Planning Program

STATEWIDE  
NEWSBITS



Spring 2007

## Financial Education for a New Generation

After 18 months and thousands of hours of hard work by dozens of people, the revised High School Financial Planning Program was unveiled to more than 120 professionals from across the U.S. in Denver on March 12-15. Participants included Debb Pankow, NDSU family economics specialist, and Lori Scharmer, Ward County Extension agent. Highlights of the new curriculum:

- The updated program has an attractive new look and feel, writing that is perfectly calibrated to teens and multiple Web sites for students, parents and teachers.
- The curriculum has been linked to education standards in 50 states, as well as to several national subject-area standards.
- The instructional design incorporates principles of multiple-intelligence and continuous learning.
- The new High School Program Web portal, which – when launched later this year –

will provide a steady stream of content, including online calculators, games, polls and real-life learning exercises, for students, their parents and teachers.

The goal is to take knowledge beyond the classroom. The new HSFPP will accomplish this by engaging families and financial professionals to help students move from classroom lessons to action in the real world. For example, rather than a student merely knowing what a checking account is, the student and parent might go to a bank and set up a checking account for the teen. Or, instead of simply reading about budgets, the student might actually create a monthly budget with the assistance of a financial professional volunteering in the classroom.

The **High School Financial Planning Program** has reached nearly 5 million students in all 50 states since its inception in

1984. It is a seven-unit curriculum that teaches the basics of money management to young people at a time when they are developing habits and attitudes about money that will influence them for the rest of their lives.

The seven units of the program are: Your Financial Plan: Where It All Begins; Budgeting: Making the Most of Your Money; Investing: Making Money Work for You; Good Debt, Bad Debt: Using Credit Wisely; Your Money: Keeping It Safe and Secure; Insurance: Protecting What You Have; and Your Career: Doing What Matters Most. This practical and noncommercial program is available at no cost to all high schools throughout the country.

**Please note the flier  
inside this newsletter,  
which includes  
registration information on  
statewide training for educators.**

**NDSU**  
Extension Service  
North Dakota State University

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**For more information on this and other topics, see: [www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu](http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu)**

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## NEFE and CSREES Team Up Again!

An overwhelming 92 percent of parents surveyed believed high school students should be required to take a class in practical money management. The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) are working to make this a reality!

The two organizations have extended their partnership to continue to promote financial education among America's youth. With the signing of a new five-year contract, NEFE and CSREES, the federal partner in the nationwide Cooperative Extension System, begin their 15th year of providing the NEFE High School Financial Planning Program (HSFPP) to thousands of schools throughout the U.S.

## Money Management for Young Adults

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. recently published a special guide titled *Taking Control of Your Finances*. This guide is devoted to helping young adults ranging from those still in high school to others just beginning a career or family.

This brochure features:

- Common mistakes young adults make with money and how to avoid them
- A to-do list for key stages of life
- A "Financial Aptitude Test," which is an interactive quiz based on the information presented in the special guide

This guide is on the FDIC Web site at [www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnspr05/](http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnspr05/).

Single copies also are available on the Web site in a PDF format that can be reproduced easily.

## Credit-Wise Cats Reach Out to Peers

During the past five years, the University of Arizona Credit-Wise Cats has evolved into a highly respected team of students who teach personal financial management and coordinate the Duel in the Desert personal finance case study competition.

The Credit-Wise Cats Web site is also an excellent resource for other schools and organizations. This site is filled with educational resource links, including downloadable PowerPoint presentations on topics such as:

- Managing credit
- Investing
- Avoiding bankruptcy
- Roadmap to financial success

For more information, go to [www.ag.arizona.edu/fcs/clubs/cwc](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/fcs/clubs/cwc).

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## Payday Loan Consumer Information Web Site

The Consumer Federal of America launched its new PayDay Loan Consumer Information Web site to help consumers and policymakers combat extremely expensive check-based lending.

This Web site provides the basic facts on how payday loans work, industry information, the legal status of payday lending and key features of state laws and regulations in all 50 states.

To access this Web site, go to [www.paydayloaninfo.org/](http://www.paydayloaninfo.org/).

## Issuing a Gift Card

The office of the comptroller of the currency (OCC) has issued guidance on disclosure and marketing issues associated with gift cards. The guidance focuses on the need for national banks that issue gift cards to do so in a manner in which both purchasers and recipients are fully informed of the product's terms and conditions.

The OCC expects national banks that issue gift cards not only to inform purchasers about material terms and conditions, but to take appropriate steps so critical information likely is to be available to the recipients.

Basic information that is most essential to a gift card recipient, such as when and how to use the card, should be provided on the gift card or a sticker affixed to the gift card. Disclosures generally should tell consumers:

- The expiration dates on the card
- The amount or existence of any monthly maintenance, dormancy, usage or similar fees
- How to obtain additional information and information on how to contact customer service for problems and questions

The OCC's new guidance also advises national banks to avoid practices that could be misleading to consumers. For example, issuers should not advertise a gift card with no expiration date if monthly service or maintenance fees consume the credit card balance.

## Helping Teens and Parents Communicate About Money

The National Endowment for Financial Education has provided an interactive CD titled Money Speaks: Helping Teens and Parents Communicate About Money.

Money Speaks provides teens and parents with information on a variety of financial and communication topics ranging from writing a check and buying a car to dealing with conflict and improving family financial discussions.

This CD features an interactive video illustrating teen and parent interactions in several financial situations. It includes information files, self-assessment quizzes, worksheets and activities.

To receive a copy online, go to [www.uark.edu/moneyspeaks](http://www.uark.edu/moneyspeaks).

## Building Knowledge, Security and Confidence

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) has created Money Smart. This financial education program helps individuals with little or no banking experience establish healthy banking relationships, begin building assets and secure a better future for themselves and their families.

To access or order a free copy of Money Smart, visit [www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/mscbi/mscbi.html](http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/mscbi/mscbi.html).

## How Does Auto Financing Work?

Americans Well-informed on Automobile Retailing Economics (AWARE) is a nonprofit organization seeking to build a greater understanding about how auto financing works.



AWARE focuses on auto financing education materials, a Web site and other educational offerings that are entirely free of marketing, advertising or sales efforts.

The Web site contains financing calculators, tips, free educational materials, a newsletter, auto financing quiz and an advice column. The Web site is at [www.autofinancing101.org/](http://www.autofinancing101.org/).

### Resource for much of the material used in this newsletter:

Marsha A. Goetting  
Family Economics Specialist  
MSU Extension Economics

P.O. Box 172800  
Bozeman, MT 59717-2800

(406) 994-3511

[getting@montana.edu](mailto:getting@montana.edu)  
[www.montana.edu](http://www.montana.edu)

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## 12th Annual Invest North Dakota Teachers Academy

July 16-20, 2007, University of Mary, Bismarck

Invest North Dakota is a valuable course for all North Dakota teachers and administrators from elementary through high school.

This course is designed to assist teachers in presenting personal financial planning and money management topics to their students. In addition to presentations by business, education and professional leaders, teachers will receive valuable resources, a ready-to-use curriculum and training for curriculum strategies.

The Invest North Dakota Teachers Academy will begin on Monday, July 16, at 12:30 p.m.

and conclude on Friday, July 20, at noon. This 30-hour program will allow teachers to receive 2 graduate credits (satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading) through North Dakota State University, the University of North Dakota or Minot State University. The course will be held on the campus of the University of Mary in Bismarck.

The North Dakota Securities Department sponsors Invest North Dakota. Participants will be asked to submit a \$50 nonrefundable reservation fee. All other expenses, including credit recording fees, seminar

materials, dormitory lodging and some meals for the four days are free. The course is limited to 150 participants.

For registration information, contact the North Dakota Securities Department at (701) 328-2910 or (800) 297-5124 or e-mail to [seccom@nd.gov](mailto:seccom@nd.gov). A program schedule and registration form also are available on the North Dakota Securities Department Web site at [www.ndsecurities.com](http://www.ndsecurities.com) (under Investor Education link). The deadline for registration is July 9, 2007.