

PRESS RELEASE

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Free train-the-trainer event to address teens and money

MUSKEGON: On Wednesday, June 17, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Grand Valley State University Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center a free workshop will provide the tools needed to educate teens in the fundamentals of sound money management and the basic concepts of financial planning and responsibility. The MAISD, Michigan Credit Union League, and Michigan State University Extension are teaming up to offer this unique workshop underwritten by the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE). The training is based on The High School Financial Planning Program (HSFPP). The HSFPP meets state standards and is available free of charge to high school teachers, alternative and adult educators, community and youth group leaders, and other interested parties who will be teaching teens about managing money. Advance registration is required at www.muskegonisd.org/development

“It’s time we start giving this more attention,” said David Klemm, MAISD Social Studies and School Improvement consultant. “You don’t have to look past today’s news to see how important financial literacy is.”

The HSFPP is a seven-unit newly revised program that provides teens with a greater understanding of and ability to manage their personal finances in the areas of goal setting, budgeting, and saving. The program uses games, simulations, case studies, and interactive exercises to provide hands-on experience for students to test and apply the financial principles and concepts being taught. It includes easy to use teacher lesson plans and an interactive web presence for teachers, parents, and students.

Personal finance is a critical portion of the High School economics credit and a personal finance course can be used to meet the 4th year math course requirement in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. “This isn’t a part of the High School Curriculum we can afford to neglect, for kids’ sake and for the future of our community” added Klemm. HSFPP can be used in a financial planning course, an economics course, alternative-adult education settings and even community and youth groups. A recently released national evaluation of teen financial education programs showed that young people who studied the NEFE HSFPP curriculum for as little as 10 hours not only significantly increased their understanding of money management, but also improved their financial behavior. ###