



## Coalition Highlights & News From Throughout Pennsylvania February 2010

### Center for Credit and Research @ Penn State Erie

The Center for Credit & Consumer Research (CCCR) is an applied research unit of Penn State Erie's School of Business, and its mission is to conduct outreach throughout the Erie community to educate the public on financial literacy issues. The Center's outreach programs focus on financial management and workforce development, and are tailored for student's middle school age and older.

The CCCR recently partnered with several organizations, including the Penn State Erie County Cooperative Extension, and the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE). The CCCR's partnership with NEFE has allowed the CCCR to increase the variety of its outreach offerings to the Erie community.

This spring, the CCCR will change its name to the Center for Financial and Consumer Outreach (CFCO), which reflects the Center's outreach-centric mission and its focus on all facets of financial literacy. The official name change will coincide with the unveiling of a new, interactive website, which will include the Center's history, new program offerings, and an interactive game show. For more information contact CCCR Director Erica Jackson, at 814-898-6784 or [ekj2@psu.edu](mailto:ekj2@psu.edu), or Chris Young at 814-898-6553 or [csy5000@psu.edu](mailto:csy5000@psu.edu) ; or visit the Center's website at <http://cccr.psu.edu>.

### Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Southeast PA / Philadelphia Saves

Since 2003, the goal of Philadelphia Saves has been to help people understand the importance of savings and motivate Philadelphians with savings tools and education. Saving is important and critical for financial stability, but, it does not have to be overwhelming—it can be tackled step by step, eventually leading to big successes. During Philadelphia Saves Week 2010, we are asking consumers to start small and think big when it comes to saving. We are offering a number of activities during Philadelphia Saves Week to help people become better Savers!

There will be a daily Citywide Contest that week to find the best "Savings Tip of the Day" working through the Metro Paper. We are also providing four educational Workshops on Saving topics throughout the week, a fun and festive Saver Open House on Thursday evening in Center City and a huge Financial Boot Camp on Saturday, 2/27/2010 at Temple University. The Financial Boot Camp will include a Keynote Address by CBS3 Consumer Reporter, Jim Donovan, an informational expo for consumers to talk to a number of financial resources and a chance to attend 2 of 10 workshops on various financial topics. The full calendar of events is available at [www.phillysaves.org](http://www.phillysaves.org) or by calling (215) 563-7358.



## EconomicsPennsylvania

EconomicsPennsylvania provides financial and economic education curriculum, professional development opportunities and student programs such as the Stock Market Game, Business Plan Competition and Economics Challenge to PA schools year-round. Online teacher professional development can be accessed at <http://lms.economicspa.org> and Act 48 credit is available. Over 37,000 students participate in EconomicsPennsylvania's Stock Market Game Program. Game dates: **Spring:** 2/16/10 - 4/23/10, **Late Spring:** 3/22/10 -6/28/10. For more information, visit [www.economicspa.org](http://www.economicspa.org) or contact Heather ([hbarrett@economicspa.org](mailto:hbarrett@economicspa.org)).

## Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

The Federal Reserve of Philadelphia will be hosting a series of professional development workshops during the Spring and Summer for teachers. **"Kids and Money Too" will be held on March 3, 10, and 17<sup>th</sup> and is a three evening professional development program that introduces** teachers to even more lessons for teaching elementary students about money and decision making using children's literature. The Federal Reserve's economic education specialists demonstrate another new set of lessons that emphasize active- and collaborative-learning teaching methods that help elementary teachers use children's literature to meet state and national standards in social studies and personal finance.

**Making Sense of Money and Banking: A Course for Teachers**, held on July 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, is five-day course, taught by Federal Reserve economists, economic education specialists, and staff from the centers on economic education. The class covers money, banking, and the Federal Reserve System and includes grade-level-specific breakout sessions aimed at providing teachers with lesson plans that can be implemented right away in their classrooms. The course includes sessions on the history of central banking and a visit to the sites of early central banking, which are part of Independence National Historical Park. Emphasis is placed on active- and collaborative-learning teaching methods and curricula for teaching money and banking in the K-12 classroom.

**"Keys to Financial Success,"** a comprehensive high school personal financial education program promoted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, provides teachers with the training, lessons, and materials necessary to teach students how to be financially savvy. The "Keys" course includes five units: Setting Financial Goals and the Decision Making Process; Career Planning--Investments in Human Capital; Money Management, including credit use; Consumer Skills; and Risk Protection. Schools that commit to offer the course receive extensive materials to teach the course, a one-week summer training program (30 hours of Act 48) for "Keys" teachers, and pre- and post-testing of "Keys" students. The 2010 "Keys" teacher-training program will be held June 28 - July 2, 2010. Interested teachers or administrators should contact Todd Zartman ([todd.zartman@phil.frb.org](mailto:todd.zartman@phil.frb.org)), economic education specialist, at 215-574-6457.

Act 48 credit is available upon completion of our programs. Register online for any programs at <http://www.philadelphiafed.org/education/teachers/training-programs>.

## Junior Achievement of South Central PA

Junior Achievement of South Central PA, in conjunction with the Financial Stability Partnership, is working to promote the National Financial Capability Challenge which is being held this spring through the U.S.



Department of Treasury. Students who successfully complete the challenge will be presented with certificates of merit at a luncheon, with prizes awarded at a luncheon to be held in May.

For more information about Junior Achievement and *JA Finance Park*, please call 717-843-8028 or visit [www.jascpa.org](http://www.jascpa.org).

## Members 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Credit Union

Members 1st FCU is pleased to announce the latest addition to the marketing team. Lauren Podolsky is the new Financial Education Coordinator for Members 1st and will be responsible for the L.I.F.E (Looking Into Financial Education) program. Lauren joined the company in 2004, and has taken on several different positions throughout the years which include marketing intern, teller, and support specialist in the HR and Training department. Lauren looks forward to taking on her new role as Financial Education Coordinator and will continue to develop and implement the L.I.F.E. program into many aspects of the community and schools.

L.I.F.E (Looking Into Financial Education) is a FREE program designed by Members 1st Federal Credit Union to provide community members, school age children, and young adults with the skills they need to make financially sound decisions. The program provides activities, presentations, and hands-on learning opportunities to promote basic financial literacy objectives and is tailored to meet the specific needs and requests of the educator.

For more information on Members 1st FCU and the L.I.F.E. program, please contact Lauren Podolsky ([podolskyl@members1st.org](mailto:podolskyl@members1st.org)).

## National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE)

The NEFE High School Financial Planning Program® is an award-winning, free non-commercial financial education curriculum correlated to Pennsylvania state standards with financial literacy standards. This curriculum (HSFPP) has the common elements that promote student achievement: Clear standards, curriculum framework, fair assessments, instruction, materials, and resources and intervention. The HSFPP consists of several component parts and resources. The 128 page student guide is provided without cost and is intended to remain the students' property. An instructor's manual is provided which contains all of the materials and information needed to become acquainted with the course and how to implement the program. While the print curriculum stands on its own, it is complemented and integrated with four Web site portals that provide an ever-growing body of learning opportunities and other information for teachers, students and parents. The Web sites can be reached at <http://hsfpp.nefe.org>.

Pennsylvania is one of the top ten states ordering student guides for state high schools. For the 2009 calendar year, 21,256 student guides were ordered and mailed. For more information about the curriculum and teacher in-service, a 3 to 4 hour training for high school teachers, please contact Marilyn M. furry, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Penn State, 814-863-7428, email- [mfurry@psu.edu](mailto:mfurry@psu.edu).



## Operation HOPE

**Operation HOPE's Banking on Our Future program** has recently launched a major curriculum revision, designed to increase relevancy and competency in the classroom. Since 1997, Banking on Our Future has reached over 450,000 students nationally and over 45,000 students in Pennsylvania since 2005. Banking on Our Future meets National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and National Council for Social Studies standards around key competencies in money, math, and personal finance. Operation HOPE's four visit program is designed to be delivered by volunteers from local communities, who personalize the program to enhance and increase student engagement around money and finance topics. Operation HOPE's programs are free of charge to schools and youth serving agencies.

For more information on Operation HOPE in Western Pennsylvania, contact Bill Long ([bill.long@operationhope.org](mailto:bill.long@operationhope.org)) at 412.417.6107. In Eastern Pennsylvania, contact Tom Thunstrom ([tom.thunstrom@operationhope.org](mailto:tom.thunstrom@operationhope.org)) at 215.410.7244.

## Pennsylvania Credit Union Association

Both national and Pennsylvania credit unions are in the process of to planning activities with staff and the community for a successful National Credit Union Youth Week, which will take place April 18-24. This year's theme is "Get in the Savings Game." Credit unions will have the opportunity to use this sports theme as an opportunity to tout and support local sports teams of all age groups while encouraging youngsters to save money. Youth Week aims to inspire young people to open savings accounts and to deposit their money at credit unions. This year's celebration will take place during the Jump\$Tart Coalition's Financial Literacy for Youth month. Also during Youth Week, credit unions can participate in The Credit Union National Association (CUNA)'s National Youth Saving Challenge. The challenge enhances the habit of saving at an early age, builds member loyalty and helps lower the average age of credit union members.

Last year, nearly 140,000 young members deposited \$26.5 million into their saving accounts during the challenge--more than double the amount deposited in 2008. A total of 10,006 new accounts were opened. In 2009 there is little doubt that youngsters learned the importance of saving as an intricate goal towards successfully managing their finances. Youth Week program manager. The results were so encouraging that CUNA and the Pennsylvania Credit Union Association Believe that the number of young members who save will continue to increase in 2010, as well as increased membership among youngsters. There is no doubt that staff and members of credit unions are ideally positioned to respond because of their belief in the power of education--put to practical use--to improve the lives of their neighbors and their communities.

A new item available this year for Youth Week is the quarter saver folder, which can be distributed to youth when they visit the credit union. The folders also work well at adult seminars or presentations as a take-home item for adults to give to their children, or they can be mailed to young members with a flyer about Youth Week.



## Pennsylvania Department of Insurance

The Office of Consumer Liaison and Market Analysis from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department is creating FREE one hour educational presentations that will focus on auto and home insurance, identity theft and how credit relates to insurance and insurance fraud. The Office is gathering a list of high school teachers concentrating in the areas of driver's education, family and consumer science and business. We will be sending an informational email about the sessions and inquiring about interest in the sessions. If you or your school is interested in any of these sessions, be on the lookout for an email or you can contact Alison Kerstetter by phone at 717.783.4789 or through email at [alikerstet@state.pa.us](mailto:alikerstet@state.pa.us).

## Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA), will be hosting a series of sessions to help families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from February through April. The FAFSA must be completed for any student who is seeking financial aid to attend a postsecondary institution during the 2010-2011 school year.

These sessions will be held at locations throughout the commonwealth. For a complete listing of dates and locations, please visit the PHEAA website at [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org).

PHEAA is the guaranty agency for the state of Pennsylvania. The agency administers the PA State Grant Program, the Federal Family Education Loan Program, the State Work-Study Program and a host of special programs which can be reviewed by visiting the PHEAA website.

## Pennsylvania Securities Commission

Your high school students, as well as middle school students, can learn the beginning steps of saving and investing for themselves. A representative from the Pennsylvania Securities Commission is available to speak with classes to provide an educational, non-commercial presentation at no cost. Students will learn about setting financial and personal goals, basic banking and investment products, the ability for money to grow over time through compounding interest, and how investment risk factors into students' financial goals. Additionally, the many investment scams that target individual investors each year will be discussed including the Bernard Madoff Ponzi Scheme.

To learn more or to schedule a "Save & Invest PA" presentation for any of your classes, visit [www.psc.state.pa.us](http://www.psc.state.pa.us) and click on the Investor Education link. Further information is also available by calling 717-705-2687 or 1-800-600-0007. Ask to speak with Doug Hassenbein in the Investor Education Section.