

Money Smart Week® North Carolina to Offer Free Financial Education Programs for Consumers this April

Coalition of banks, nonprofits and local libraries expand the Federal Reserve's program in the state for 2017

CHARLOTTE, N.C., April 18, 2017 -- More than 180 free financial education classes and seminars for consumers will be held in North Carolina during Money Smart Week, April 22-29.

Created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the annual Money Smart Week® (MSW) public awareness program will launch in North Carolina for the second consecutive year, led by a planning team of businesses, financial institutions, schools, libraries, community organizations and government agencies throughout North Carolina. Co-chairing the planning team in the state are the North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE) and Ally.

Money Smart Week began as a one-city program in Chicago and has grown to 48 states including North Carolina, with more than 5,400 events and 174,000 participants annually. Over 60 organizations will host a variety of events and programs across North Carolina this year. A sampling of the offerings include financial education programs for children at Charlotte-Mecklenburg libraries, Big Brothers Big Sisters, First Purse, Young Black Male Alliance and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, professional development for more than 140 teachers in Cary and Charlotte, and GeoCache for College Cash, an outdoor scavenger-hunt contest held at local colleges.

Money Smart Week kicks off on April 18 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Charlotte branch with a partner lunch and NCCEE personal finance challenge for high school students featuring keynote speaker Dr. Matthew Martin, Senior Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

"Ally is proud to once again bring Money Smart Week to North Carolina, and join with other organizations in the common goal of bringing free financial education to the community," said Sherri Webb, associate manager of corporate citizenship at Ally and MSW co-chairperson. "This year Ally is not only serving as co-chair, but we are also donating 5,000 copies of our new financial literacy book 'Planet Zee and the Money Tree' and will have our employees read the book throughout Money Smart Week."

"With so many important personal finance choices facing consumers today –including things like saving for college, investing and planning for retirement – it's important to provide people with education, tools and strategies to help them navigate money challenges and make informed decisions," said Sandy Wheat, executive director of the North Carolina Council on Economic Education and MSW co-chairperson. "Money Smart Week is a great way for consumers to take advantage of free educational programs and resources."

Organizations participating in Money Smart Week in North Carolina include:

- Ally
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Psi Omega Chapter
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte
- Bragg Financial Advisors
- Braswell Memorial Library
- Brevard High School
- Brown Middle School

- Cardinal Charter Academy
- Carnage Middle School
- Caswell County Senior Center
- Center for Smart Financial Choices
- Central Carolina Community College
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (all locations)
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (25 schools)
- Clemmons Library
- Cox Elementary School
- Daniels Magnet Middle School
- Dixon Road Elementary School
- Douglas Byrd Senior High School
- Dress for Success Charlotte
- Durham Technical Community College
- East Carolina University
- Eugene Ashley High School
- F.J. Carnage Magnet Middle School
- Fayetteville State University
- Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Charlotte Branch
- Financial Planning Association of Charlotte
- First Purse
- Forsyth County Public Library
- George H. & Laura E. Brown Library

- Gunn Memorial Public Library
- Harris YMCA
- Hawkins-Hartness House
- Highland Middle School
- Hope Haven
- James E. Shepard Memorial Library
- Junior Achievement of Central Carolinas
- Leland Township Public Library
- Lucas Middle School
- Matthews Library
- Mitchell Community College
- Morehead Elementary School at Camp Glenn
- Murphy High School
- NCCEE
- New Hanover County Public Library
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Bankers Association
- North Carolina Central University
- North County Regional Library
- North Lincoln Middle School
- Penn Griffin School for the Arts
- Sharonview Federal Credit Union
- Southside Branch Library

- Stanly County Public Library
- State Farm
- Stratford Richardson YMCA
- The Little Rock Community Development Corporation
- Topics Education
- Union County Public Library
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- Urban League of Central Carolinas
- Wake Technical Community College
- Wakefield Middle
- Walkertown Public Library
- Wells Fargo
- Young Black Male Alliance

Consumers who are interested in finding out about classes in their area during Money Smart Week can visit www.moneysmartweek.org.

About Money Smart Week

Created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 2002, Money Smart Week® is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. This is achieved through the collaboration and coordinated effort of hundreds of organizations across the country. Programming is offered to all demographics and income levels and covers all facets of personal finance. Partnering Organizations will host their events April 22-29, 2017. More information at www.moneysmartweek.org

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