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Governor Scott Walker Announces Nearly \$350,000 in Financial Literacy Grants Awarded to Schools

Madison – Governor Scott Walker today announced 26 grants totaling nearly \$350,000 have been awarded to schools across Wisconsin to enhance the level of personal finance education. The recipients were selected by the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy out of a field of more than 90 applicants.

“Personal financial education equips our students with the skills they need to be wise consumers of financial services,” Governor Walker said. “These grants will help thousands of students become better prepared to make sound financial decisions as adults.”

The program, open to Wisconsin’s K-12 public and private schools, is a collaborative effort between the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy, the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI), and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The program is funded by settlement funds received by DFI over the last couple of years, some of which were designated specifically for financial literacy efforts.

“Educators wrote innovative grant proposals that will reinforce Wisconsin’s leadership in helping our kids gain the financial literacy skills they need to graduate ready for college and careers,” State Superintendent Tony Evers said. “Projects will provide training so teachers increase their confidence in teaching personal financial literacy, data reviews that will help infuse personal financial literacy throughout the curriculum, and expanded course offerings to include simulations, field trips, guest speakers, and project-based learning.”

DFI Secretary Peter Bildsten noted that as a result of the grants, another 15 Wisconsin high schools will make a course in personal finance a graduation requirement. A statewide survey commissioned by the Department last year showed 49 percent of Wisconsin high schools have such a graduation requirement.

“More and more districts are deciding that requiring a course in personal finance is important in preparing students for adulthood,” Bildsten said. “DFI is pleased to provide funding to support this important initiative.”

The DPI conducted the initial grant review of 92 applicants from throughout the state, and the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy made the final grant recommendations. The grant program is designed to support the efforts of individual teachers and school districts to begin innovative and sustainable financial literacy programs and events. Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to develop content and performance standards to define what students should know about financial literacy.

The schools receiving grants are:

- Adams Friendship Area Schools, \$10,000
- Cooperative Education Service Agency #9, Tomahawk, \$30,000
- Chilton Public Schools, \$6,999
- Columbus High School, \$10,000
- Germantown School District, \$5,012
- Granton Area School District, \$30,000
- Hurley and Solon Springs High Schools, \$20,000
- Kettle Moraine School District, Wales, \$17,354
- Madison Metropolitan School District, \$30,000
- Menomonee Falls High School, \$9,220
- Milwaukee Public Schools, \$20,000
- Monona Grove School District, \$10,000
- New Lisbon School District, \$5,000
- Northwestern High School, Maple, \$10,000
- Northwood School District, Minong, \$10,000
- Oshkosh Area School District, \$7,686
- Port Edwards School District, \$10,000
- Pulaski Community School District, \$10,000
- Rice Lake Area School District, \$10,000
- Sheboygan Area School District, \$28,250
- Siren School District, \$10,000
- Superior High School, \$10,000
- Trinity Lutheran School, Wisconsin Dells, \$9,750
- Wabeno Area School District, \$8,300
- Washburn High School, \$10,000
- Winter School District, \$10,000

TOTAL AWARDED: \$347,571.

Synopses of the recipients' programs can be found on the DFI website at www.wdfi.org/yymm/govcouncilfinlit.

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