

MARYLAND



In the Spotlight:

- ▶ **HEW FCU (DC)** received a 2012 financial education grant from NCUF for its Youth Financial Literacy Expansion at its student run branch at H.D. Woodson High School
- ▶ **Educational Systems FCU (MD)** introduced FoolProof's *Real Financial Education* program to all PG County schools and established an in-college branch at PG Community College
- ▶ **MECU's (MD)** student run branch was spotlighted in the *Baltimore Sun* for its 14 student tellers that manage more than 140 checking and savings accounts
- ▶ **First Financial FCU (MD)** opened its third student run high school branch at Eastern Technical High School and its student branch at Dundalk High School was highlighted in a *Dundalk Eagle* article
- ▶ **GPO FCU (DC)** conducts in-school financial literacy presentations for Pre-K through 5th grade classes at Friendship Charter School Southeast and plans to work with Friendship Tech Prep Academy and Friendship Blow Pierce School
- ▶ **Montgomery County Teachers FCU (MD)** hosted a budgeting and credit workshop at Gaithersburg High School
- ▶ **Money One FCU (MD)** introduced its MoneyIsland™, an educational and entertaining online world that helps tweens ages 8 to 14 in three key financial areas: Saving & Spending, Earning & Investing and Using Credit Wisely.



The Maryland and DC Credit Union Association (MDDCCUA) actively advocates and partners with other organizations and credit unions to promote financial literacy to consumers. With the support of grant funds from the Credit Union Foundation of MD and DC and in partnership with schools, community groups and credit unions, MDDCCUA sponsored two financial fitness events in 2011.

In March MDDCCUA's DC Chapter hosted a second Dollars and Sense Expo (DSE) at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington to benefit consumers in the DC area and which attracted a couple hundred people, according to Sarah Turner, MDDCCUA's Director of Public Affairs.



The Expo offered tools and resources consumers need to build and improve their financial management skills. A series of consumer workshops, free tax preparation, free credit reports, and exhibitors emphasizing non-predatory financial services were all part of the DSE. Workshop topics included Understanding your Credit, Financial Literacy, Money Matters, Homebuyer Tips and Job Interviewing Skills.

A fun-packed youth zone entertained the children. Consumer Credit Counseling Service provided follow-up credit counseling for consumers after pulling credit reports and free tax preparation was available by DC Cares and United Way.

Adding energy to the event were visits from local and federal legislators. DC Mayor Vincent Gray, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and DC Council member Harry Thomas, Jr. attended the 2011 event. "Their attendance helped heighten the profile of the event," says Turner.

Area credit unions that supported the 2011 event include: Agriculture FCU, DVA FCU, Department of Labor FCU, HEW FCU, Interior FCU, Library of Congress FCU, Money One FCU and Police FCU.

In October 2011, MDDCCUA and five Allegany County credit unions hosted a Dollars and Sense Financial Reality Fair which provided over 200 teenage students with financial guidance they will need as young adults. "The fair is a unique opportunity for each student to experience some of the financial challenges they will face," states John Bratsakis, MDDCCUA's President/CEO.

Students identify their career choice and after being provided a starting salary, they must budget for housing, utilities, transportation, clothing and food expenses. They sit down with a Financial Counselor at the end to review their financial situation and to discuss the importance of savings to plan for future needs.

The event was sponsored by Allegany County Teachers FCU, Chessie FCU, Healthcare 1st FCU, Potomac FCU and SECU, with grant funding provided by The Credit Union Foundation of MD and DC. Fifty volunteers helped at the fair and the *Cumberland Times-News* covered the event.

Another program that MDDCCUA and the Foundation of MD & DC support is the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) program. In cooperation with the University of Maryland Extension Service, staff of MDDCCUA and the Foundation has trained teachers on the NEFE High School Financial Planning Program (HSFPP) curriculum. Credit unions that incorporate the NEFE curriculum through the Foundation's Millionaire's Club include: SECU, Mid-Atlantic FCU, HCTA FCU, Andrews FCU, MECU, and Montgomery County Employees FCU.

The Millionaire's Club provides students with an after-school financial literacy club where they compete against other student teams in area high schools in a stock market game. Students have fun in a friendly competitive environment and enhance their financial literacy skills at the same time.