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# West Side high school hosts youth financial literacy event



by AustinTalks on November 18, 2011

About 100 professionals, parents and community members gathered in the [Michele Clark High School](#) auditorium Wednesday for a listening session sponsored by the [Economic Awareness Council](#) aimed at teaching young people the importance of knowing how to manage their money.

The event was part of the [President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability](#), a national program started by President Obama Jan. 29, 2010, to help Americans understand financial matters and teach them how to make informed financial decisions. The [youth subcommittee](#) is targeted at teaching financial literacy to young people.

There's a significant need to identify financial capability solutions that work for students, to change behavior and help develop long-term life skills. Even with recent increases in financial education, on average, American youth fail basic financial literacy assessments.

Student debt has risen to now surpass credit card debt in total size; 70 percent of American families do not have enough emergency savings, and a third of families in many of our city's neighborhoods do not have bank accounts.

The event featured student demonstrations from [Young Illinois Saves](#), a collaborative effort of more than 50 organizations throughout the state, that has served more than 3,000 students since 2010 and generated more than 1,800 savings commitments. Savings pledges now total more than \$1 million annually.

Roundtable discussions were led by professionals, including City Treasurer [Stephanie D. Neely](#) and [John Rogers](#), chairman, CEO and CIO of Ariel Investments, as well as representatives from the [Consumer Federation of America/American Saves](#), Young Illinois Saves, the [Museum of Science and Industry](#), [Ladder Up](#) and the [National Federation for Teaching Entrepreneurship](#).

Members of [Austin Coming Together](#) and [Executive Director Amara Enyia](#), as well as students from [Chicago Talent Development Charter High School](#), were among those who attended the event.

“The Michele Clark High School freshmen AVID Saves leaders did a tremendous job providing a live demonstration of their program to other students. These students then all opened savings accounts with local [ABC Bank](#),” the Economic Awareness Council’s Tracy Frizzell said in an e-mail.

For more information about the Economic Awareness Council, e-mail [info@ecouncil.org](mailto:info@ecouncil.org).

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{ 1 comment... read it below or [add one](#) }



1 [Tracy Frizzell](#) November 19, 2011 at 8:57 am

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Thank you President’s Council, Michele Clark High School, JP Morgan Chase, ABC Bank, State Farm Insurance Companies, Young Illinois Saves, Austin Coming Together, Economic Awareness Council, Chicago Talent Development High School and many other community partners for this wonderful event. Great job student leaders! Thank you Austin Talks for covering this youth opportunity. Learn more at <http://www.YoungIllinoisSaves.org>.

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November 10, 2011



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[MindBloom Preschool of Chicago](#) will hold an open house Nov. 19 from 3 to 5 p.m. at 429 N. Leclaire Ave. For more information, call 773-287-1277.

The [Westside Health Authority's Community Support Advisory Council](#) will hold an informational and support group for people whose loved ones are in prison Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information about the group, which will meet at 5816 W. Division St., call 773-633-1503 or e-mail [dlewis1@luc.edu](mailto:dlewis1@luc.edu).

[St. Martin Repertory Theatre](#) presents "No Child," a play that features day-to-day life in a classroom. It's based on playwright Nilaja Sun's experience as a teaching artist in New York schools. The play is performed Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through Nov. 19. Tickets are \$20, and the 7 p.m. performances are at 5710 W. Midway Park. For more information, call 773-378-8111.

The 3rd Annual Soul Food Pow-Wow will be held Sun. Nov. 20 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 846 N. Menard. Don't miss this free event! For more information, please call Roman Morrow at 312-618-5665.

The Human Needs Center at 5323 W. Lake St. is hosting a Thanksgiving Day dinner on Thursday, Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and feast on ham, turkey, dressing, greens, sweet potatoes and more, all for free!

Free weekly financial literacy courses are being offered every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Dec. 3. The series covers life skills, credit, savings and investing, marketing strategies, retirement and insurance protection, developing a business plan, funding a business, and the

November 10, 2011

**Narcotics: Possession of cannabis, more than 30 grams**

1600 block N. Lamon Ave.

November 10, 2011

**Vandalism: Criminal damage to vehicle**

1100 block N. Mayfield Ave.

November 10, 2011

**Aggravated assault: Knife/cutting instrument**

4900 block W. Cortez St.

November 10, 2011

**Vandalism: Criminal damage to property**

“how-to’s” of starting, expanding or enhancing a business. To reserve a spot, call 773-270-0423 or e-mail Michero Washington at [michero.icdhr@ymail.com](mailto:michero.icdhr@ymail.com). The classes are made possible through the [Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations](#) and [Charter One Bank](#).

Learn how to swim in the Austin Town Hall pool. Kids ages 6 to 12 can take the free, hour-long classes taught by the [Chicago Park District](#). Call (773) 287-7658 or visit the town hall, 5610 W. Lake, to sign up.

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