

## **MEDIA ADVISORY** **AREA TEENS PREPARE FOR THEIR FINANCIAL FUTURE!**

Did you know April 18-25<sup>th</sup> is Money Smart Week Chicago 2009? During this week, students at area high schools will 'get real' about their financial management skills through the newly updated *Get Real* financial education program for teens offered by the local non-profit, Hinsdale based Economic Awareness Council ("EAC"). This programming used at numerous Chicago high schools is supported through a grant from HSBC – North America. Student participants in this program will also enter an essay contest for possible publication of a winning financial education essay in *On the Money Magazine*. One winning essay will be selected from each school area.

**WHAT:** Across the nation, individuals are in need of financial education information during these difficult economic times. This is particularly true of teens as teens have repeatedly failed basic financial education examinations across the nation.

To address this issue, the Economic Awareness Council developed its teen financial education program, '*Get Real: Financial Decisions in the Real World*' which has a winning strategy to prepare students with a message that gets their attention. *Get Real* pairs information from surveys and interviews with young adults with hands-on financial education exercises. This approach gets results! Over 9 out of 10 students completing *Get Real* stated that "they could use the information that had been presented in the future".



Money Smart Week 2009 is a cooperative financial education initiative spearheaded by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Money Smart Week 2009 features over 300 FREE events focused on financial education for all ages.

**WHO:** The *Get Real* program is being completed with over 1000 area Chicago high school students. The *Get Real* curriculum was developed by the Economic Awareness Council (EAC) and materials for schools have been provided through a grant from HSBC – North America. All teens may benefit from materials available on the EAC website at [www.econcouncil.org](http://www.econcouncil.org).

**WHEN:** Money Smart Week 2009, April 18<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Chicago, IL

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