



Press Release

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NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT INVESTOR EDUCATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN MONTANA

GREAT FALLS, MT: Native American students in Montana will soon learn more about investing and saving money thanks to a national education project sponsored by Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) in partnership with the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) and the American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL).

The Native American Student Investor Educators class offered August 8-11 at the Charles Russell Museum in Great Falls will train thirteen educators from Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy and the Blackfeet Nation to teach interested middle school, high school and community college students about investing and acquiring assets. The Montana class is the first time for the program nationally, according to Tim Robbins, CCCS Director of Counseling.

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The First Nations Development Institute developed the materials for the program and designed it for nationwide use. First Nations is a nonprofit organization that helps Native communities build sound, sustainable economies. Robbins and Robb Larson, CCCS Director of Education, will facilitate the local class supplemented by guest speakers from Great Falls investment firms. Tim Robbins is NASD certified and helped author materials for the program. Included as guest speakers are Mark Finnicum, Investment Consultant at Edward Jones, Brad Thurber, Vice President/Financial Consultant from D.A. Davidson and Thad Keel, Financial Consultant at RBC Dain Rauscher.

Larson hopes to expand the program to other reservations next year. "This is one of the first steps to helping people in Indian Country understand investments and build assets," said Larson.

The Little Shell Tribe will provide the opening ceremonial prayer. Members of the public are welcome to attend the educational program. Call Robb Larson, Director of Education, or Tim Robbins, Director of Counseling at CCCS of Montana, 406-761-8721 for more information.

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