



Center for Financial Empowerment Looks to Improve Financial Habits Among Nevada Students

“Mad City Money” participants’ financial knowledge improved by an average of 27 percent

Editor’s Note: Photos are available at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6l1zaqt1fq4dngu/AADsVUYdZ7j0VYYNRgvCkwUwa?dl=0>

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LAS VEGAS, NV. (May 7, 2015) – Nearly 100 students took part in The Center for Financial Empowerment’s first Nevada-based “Mad City Money” financial reality seminar, which strives to teach young adults successful money management habits.

“The greatest need for financial literacy exists in low-income communities, where youth are at a major disadvantage of learning how to manage their finances,” said Abigail Ulm, Manager of the Center for Financial Empowerment. “Mad City Money challenged these students to think differently about money management and even threw them curve balls, the same way that life sometimes does.”

Through a collaboration with the Uplift Foundation of Nevada, the Center for Financial Empowerment presented the reality seminar at Cheyenne High School in North Las Vegas, with 88 students participating.

During the Mad City Money workshop, participants ages 15 to 18 were immersed in adult life scenarios, complete with a career, income, student/home loans, family and insurance payments. The young adults were taught budgeting and debt-management techniques, how to use credit wisely and how to make smarter financial decisions.

As a result of the seminar, students’ knowledge of financial concepts such as using a budget, saving for emergencies and wise use of credit increased by 27%. Daniel Medina summed it up in his comment, “I learned that I need to buy basics before extras – even when I want it bad.” Jazmine Harris said, “This experience was amazing! I learned that I can’t always afford name brands. Now I know how to make good financial decisions so my family can have what they need.”

Founded in 2005, Center for Financial Empowerment has seen marked improvement among the students that participate in the one-day seminar in several Los Angeles based communities.

“This was a huge learning experience for our participants,” said Ulm. “Most of the students were overwhelmed by making financial decisions at first, but by the end of the workshop, they were more confident and demonstrated a clearer understanding about the importance financial responsibility.”

**ABOUT CENTER FOR FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT, FORMERLY SCE FCU
FOUNDATION (www.centerforfinancialemPOWERment.org)**

The Center for Financial Empowerment is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable agency whose mission is to improve the lives of teens and young adults in underserved communities through financial education. The Center partners with schools and community organizations in Southern California and Southern Nevada to offer financial education, assistance, and improvement programs, giving people the power to make better financial choices and achieve an improved quality of life. Formerly called the SCE FCU Foundation, the Center changed its name in September 2013, to position itself for future growth. SCE Federal Credit Union is the founder and primary supporter of the Center for Financial Empowerment.

ABOUT SCE FCU (www.scefcu.org)

SCE Federal Credit Union was founded in 1952 and currently has more than 46,000 members, \$600 million in assets, several Southern California and Southern Nevada branch locations, thousands of shared branch locations across the United States and nearly 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs available to members.

SCE FCU serves the greater Los Angeles and Las Vegas areas, with membership open to individuals and businesses, and is a not-for-profit entity committed to improving the financial well-being of the communities it serves, especially people underserved by mainstream financial institutions. With a strong commitment to volunteerism, employees donate hundreds of hours to local community causes each year. Additionally, the creation of the Center for Financial Empowerment (www.centerforfinancialeducation.org), formerly the SCE FCU Foundation provides much-needed financial education to the underserved and high schools in Las Vegas, Nevada and in Duarte, Baldwin Park, Ontario, Lynwood and Boyle Heights, California.

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