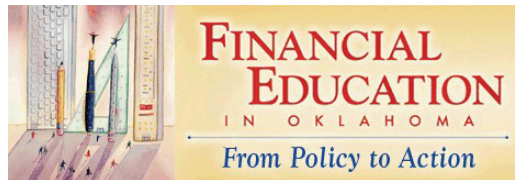


Fall Financial Education Conference Scheduled

Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Financial Education in Oklahoma conference, to be held Oct. 24 at the Moore Norman Technology Center, South Penn Campus in Oklahoma City.

The conference, sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Oklahoma City Branch in conjunction with the Oklahoma Jump\$tart Coalition, will bring together financial education service providers to learn about programs, share experiences and identify new strategies and resources to support common efforts.



This year's theme, **From Policy to Action**, will explore state policy initiatives and financial education programs as well as their implications for the financial education field. A panel will discuss implementation of the new financial literacy component now required in Oklahoma schools.

Online registration and information is available at www.kansascityfed.org/finedu. Resource materials, continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments are included in the \$45 registration fee. All registrations must be received by Oct. 16.

Oklahoma Shows Significant Drop in Student Loan Cohort Default Rate

The Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program (OGSLP), Oklahoma's primary guarantor of Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program student loans, reports that the state's student loan cohort default rate - the U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) primary indicator of borrower success in the repayment of student loans - has dropped significantly.

According to figures recently released by the USDE, Oklahoma's cohort default rate fell to 5.8 percent in 2005 from 6.5 percent the previous year. In other words, over 94 percent of student loan borrowers in Oklahoma are repaying their federal loans, which are secured with no collateral or demonstrated credit history.

OGSLP officials attribute the reduction in loan defaults to a wide spectrum of outreach and educational programs, which reflect the FFEL Program community's commitment to default prevention and financial literacy.

To learn more about OGSLP's outreach and educational programs, call 800.442.8642 or visit www.ogslp.org.



Asset\$

Tips of the Trade

Make the Most of Your College Cash

Heading off to (or back to) college and pondering how to pay for your education? Follow these tips to get the most bang for your financial aid buck.

Always go for free money first. To pay for school, take advantage of all grants, scholarships and college savings available to you before taking out a student loan.

Maximize your federal loan options. If you must borrow to pay for school, exhaust all federal loan options before considering "private" or "alternative" loans, which can have higher interest rates and fewer flexible repayment options.

Borrow only what you need. Before accepting any student loan, figure out how much money you'll actually need to cover your school expenses (your financial aid officer can help). Many students are offered more loan funds from outside sources than they actually need. Since loans must be repaid, it's best to borrow only what you need to pay for school.

Reevaluate often. At the end of each semester, take time for reflection. Did you find yourself with excess loan funds or were you struggling to get by? Monitor your needs and adjust your borrowing for next semester accordingly. Decide each time to borrow only what you need for school. Remember to always look for scholarships and grants before taking out student loans; something new may be available.

Did You Know?

The average 21 year old in the U.S. will spend more than 2.2 million over their lifetime.
Share-Save-Spend.com

Did You Know?

September is College Savings Month! Visit www.ok4savings.org for more information about Oklahoma's 529 college savings plan.

Value-Added

Resources for Your Financial Future

www.smartaboutmoney.org

Want to boost your money IQ? Visit the National Endowment for Financial Education's (NEFE) new Web site, www.smartaboutmoney.org, for tips and resources about financial planning topics like credit and debt, saving, investing and retirement. This resource center offers courses, workshops, multimedia and printed materials to improve financial decision-making.

NEFE reaches out to all Americans who want to improve their financial well-being by providing information and tools, such as this Web site, to help them reach their goals.

This site offers visitors:

- quick tips on budgeting, reducing debt, setting financial goals, and much more.
- a wealth of information about handling all of life's financial challenges, from starting a first job to retirement planning.
- resources addressing a broad range of financial topics contributed by organizations across the nation.

Visit www.smartaboutmoney.org today!

The OKMM AmeriCorps Connection

for Site Supervisors:

Days of Service = Member Hours

With the back-to-school buzz fading, are your members searching for more ways to directly engage? Look no further! Two very important days of service are coming up this fall and OKMM is working on comprehensive service plans for each day that your site can utilize for a successful event.

Remember, your members can count volunteers recruited and service hours for projects that celebrate each of the days of service listed below. What a rewarding way for members to earn service hours!

Keep an eye on your inbox for more detailed information and project toolkits for making the most of these important days of service.

Make a Difference Day, Oct. 27



Family Volunteer Day, Nov. 17



for Members:

AmeriCorps--The Resume Booster

Sure, the \$1,000 Education Award is a nice reward for all of your hardwork as an OKMM-EAP member, but did you know your service in the program could help set you apart from others when seeking employment? Here are some tips for using your experience in OKMM-EAP to boost your resume and portfolio.

Focus on service. OKMM-EAP membership can be presented many ways and focusing on the community service aspect is especially beneficial. Many companies look to hire employees who are engaged in their communities and are socially responsible citizens.

Highlight skills. Be proud of the credentials you've developed as a member. Skills like public speaking, organization and teaching are desirable in almost every career.

Recruit braggers. We all need someone to brag about us to others; ask your Site Supervisor to write a letter of recommendation.

OKMM staff will also send you a letter and certificate detailing your activity once you complete your term of service. Consider adding these to your portfolio of other college and career accomplishments.

Happy Birthday to our Site Supervisors and Members!

Jeannessa Norton, OSU Member, Sept. 13
Lisa Saxon, OSU Extension Site Supervisor, Sept. 18
Liz McCraw, SOSU Site Supervisor, Nov. 1
Dean Fisher, RSC Site Supervisor, Nov. 22
Tresha Spoon, AST Site Supervisor, Nov. 25



OKMM-EAP Sites Gear Up For A Successful Fall

Oklahoma Community College: Outreach Coordinator Liz Kiser helped OCCC Site Supervisor **Jack Kraettli** staff a booth during OCCC's Welcome Week. The booth was located between the Enrollment and Advising areas and thus attracted students interested in earning money for college.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University: OKMM made their presence known during the NWOSU Freshman Orientation in Alva. Students were divided into groups and led through the orientation process, which included an organization fair. The OKMM booth offered a PowerPoint slide show featuring the Millionaire Game and various handouts about the AmeriCorps program.

University of Central Oklahoma: Broncho students were "shown the money" when OKMM staffed a booth at the Volunteer Fair, part of the campus' Stampede Week. The table produced several re-connections with members interested in a second term and new contacts for UCO Site Supervisor, **Lyndsay Holder**.

Oklahoma State University: OKMM participated in OSU's Career and Community Services Fair, organized in part by OSU Service-Learning Volunteer Center Coordinator and OKMM-EAP Site Supervisor **Joyce Montgomery**.

Sarah Bids Farewell!

Sarah Grajales, OKMM's beloved Staff Assistant, recently left our team to become a stay-at-home mom, which has always been her dream.

We'll hire a new Staff Assistant soon. In the interim, please contact your Outreach Coordinator about any member paperwork issues or other operational needs you would normally discuss with Sarah.

Outreach Coordinators **Melissa Ryburn** and **Liz Kiser** presented a budgeting workshop during OSU-OKC Freshman Orientation, and distributed sample budgets and money management kits.

Check out www.oklahomamoneymatters.org for information about a **financial conference for women**, hosted by the Oklahoma Society of CPAs, and a new **personal finance hotline** staffed by Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Central Oklahoma employees.

Congratulations!

Tresha Spoon, Site Supervisor at Absentee Shawnee Tribe, was promoted to Director of Family Services. Way to go!

Rita Williams, Annette Smith and **Alfreda Moore** from our Langston University-Tulsa site have all completed a second term with OKMM-EAP!

Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford added financial literacy content to their Financial Aid Web site, with the help of OKMM. Check it out at <http://www.swosu.edu/sfs/okmm/index.asp>.

If you'd like to post information on OKMM's *Bottom Line Bulletin Board*, e-mail your news and pictures to oklahomamoneymatters@ogslp.org