



Area credit union gives students a course in real life

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Reported by Lauren Lowrey [email](#)

Posted by Kate Oatis [email](#)

In these tough economic times, Northwest Ohio Credit Union is working to teach students about making good money decisions -- even before they're faced with them.

Banks, budgets, and babies -- how much do they mean for your bottom line? That's what more than 700 high-schoolers had to figure out Tuesday, as they crunched numbers and balanced budgets on their make-believe lives.

Students were given a checkbook with their career, salary and debt printed on the inside. And from there, they just tried to keep money in the bank as they got hit with expense after expense.

It kind of sounds like real life, right?

"A lot of them will say, 'I can't believe how expensive groceries are. I can't believe how much you have to pay for car insurance. I can't believe that credit score makes a difference in what I'm gonna pay for car insurance.' A lot of little things that I just don't think are on their radar or they'd think about on a daily basis they're learning today," said Melanie Ogrodowski with NW Ohio Credit Union.

Students agreed that they learned a lot.

It's not just about learning how to write a check. It's also about learning how to budget those unexpected expenses.

In the end, the students were just happy it wasn't real-life -- yet!

"I gotta go to college to get a good career so that I can make a lot of money and actually have money left over to live with," said student Harold McQueen.



Finances 101: Learning money skills at UT

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Area high school students find out how to balance a checkbook and cope with surprises



Updated: 10/21 6:25 PM

By Jennifer Jarrell

Area high school students find out how to balance a checkbook and cope with surprises

They may not be grown up, but today hundreds of area high school students are learning how to live like a grown-up. It's called Finances 101 and it's going on all afternoon at the University of Toledo.

The class is put on by the Northwest Ohio chapter of Credit Unions. The goal is to teach students how to live life in the real world. Nearly 700 students from 14 area high schools are participating in the class. Instead of books and notebooks, these students use a checkbook and a calculator. The students are given a profession, and a monthly salary

They then go from station to station to find out if they're married and how many children they have. From there, they choose where they live, pay utilities, and buy a car.

But similar to real life, other things often come up. For example, a car tire blows or they need to call a plumber.

Organizers say every year, the students go home having learned something new. This is the sixth year for the class and organizers say in light of today's economy, they feel it's more important than ever.

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Taking a walk through the 'game of life' at UT



Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 3:49 p.m.

More than 700 local high school students began their walk through the 'game of life' Tuesday morning. Students from 14 area high school participated in "Finances 101: Walk the Walk, Talk the Talk" at the University of Toledo.

Participants were given 'life' situations in order to learn about buying decisions, what it costs to run a household, and how to prevent spending beyond their means.

Students' 'life' experiences included:

- Salary-based jobs
- Having children
- Buying a home and car
- Acquiring insurance
- Paying utilities

Some participants got unexpected costs such as car accidents or childcare expenses while others received a pleasant surprise of winning the lottery.

Schools attending the walk-through included: Anthony Wayne, Bowling Green, Cardinal Stritch, Clay, Maumee, New Riegel, Northwood, Notre Dame, Penta Career Center, Rossford, Springfield, Start, Whitmer and Woodward.

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Events

Local students to learn about life's financial responsibilities

By Chris Ankney

Oct 21, 2008

Even with a pervasive economic crisis, it can be hard for children to understand the financial challenges faced by their parents on a daily basis. On Tuesday, Oct. 21, some 690 area high school students will participate in a game imitating life.

The students will walk through a life-sized game board in The University of Toledo Student Union Auditorium on Main Campus, where they will get the chance to have a career, have children, buy a home and a car, acquire insurance and pay utilities. But, like life, anything from a car accident to winning the lottery can affect the students' plans and expectations.

The game is part of "Finances 101: Walk the Walk, Talk the Talk," an event sponsored by Northwest Ohio Credit Unions aimed at making high school students more aware of adult financial responsibilities. The first students will start the course at 8:30 a.m. and the last group will begin at 12:15 p.m.

For more information, contact Darlene Stevens, enrollment management specialist for the UT College of Business Administration, at 419.530.8581 or go to www.finances101thegame.org/index.htm.