

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Selma-Dallas County Youth Learn Personal Finance Options, Enjoy Capitol Visit

Montgomery, AL (Mar. 19, 2007) Thirty high school juniors and seniors, representing Youth Leadership Selma-Dallas County from seven area schools, recently visited the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) in Montgomery to gain valuable insight about personal finance and money management.

The ASC, in partnership with Leadership Selma-Dallas County, the Alabama Council on Economic Education (ACEE) and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, hosted the students as part of the FLAIR (Financial Literacy And Individual Responsibility) program. The FLAIR program promotes personal finance training to high school students to enhance their understanding of how to use money wisely and avoid pitfalls associated with money management.

Youth Class X (tenth year for this program), is comprised of students from Dallas County High School, Selma High School, Southside High School, Keith High School, Morgan Academy, Meadowview Christian Academy and Central Christian Academy. Students heard educational presentations from ASC professional staff, including an overview of the securities industry and the Commission's role in protecting Alabama investors from fraudulent securities transactions.

"This Commission is committed to sharing our resources to promote personal finance and investor education to students and all citizens of Alabama," said Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission. "Today's high school students must learn to save and invest prudently as the challenge to build a future estate or "nest egg" will rest upon their shoulders. The opportunity still exists to enjoy the riches and prosperity of this great country if you are willing to learn how to manage your finances and develop the necessary discipline to save and invest over the long term."

After a guided tour of the Alabama State Capitol, students learned about the principles of saving/budgeting, wise use of credit, various investment instruments and fraud prevention. Rounding out the day's activities was a thought-provoking film exploring how teens can achieve personal financial success as they prepare to graduate from school and enter the work force.

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Participating with students during the event were Carolyn Powell, Outreach Coordinator for Congressman Artur Davis' office and Terry Griffin, Curriculum Consultant for ACEE. Participants from the ASC included Lisa Tolar, Registration manager; Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager and Clint Niemeyer, Public Affairs Specialist.

The event was financed by a grant to ACEE from the Investor Protection Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to investor education and financial literacy. The ASC submitted and endorsed the grant.

The ASC facilitates investor education outreach to schools, civic organizations, stakeholder groups and individuals statewide. Teachers are welcomed to schedule field trips to Montgomery or invite a Commission member to make a presentation and provide free investor education materials to their schools.

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Please contact Dan Lord if you have further questions: Phone: 334-353-4858;
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