

# UNITED BANK SPONSORS MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Two educational programs, entitled YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT and YOUR PERSONAL GUIDE TO LOANS & CREDIT are being made available once again to Osseo-Fairchild, Eleva-Strum & Mondovi High Schools. United Bank's sponsorship of the programs allows the school districts to receive all materials free of charge. The programs allow students to learn the techniques and responsibilities associated with maintaining a personal checking account as well as the consequences of credit decisions. Students receive a supply of checks, deposit slips, bank statements and related reference material. After learning how to open an account, keep checkbook records and reconcile the monthly statements, students maintain their own checking account for a simulated eight-month period. Additional banking services such as the use of ATM machines, debit cards, and internet banking are also covered.

The credit curriculum includes a self-evaluation of credit worthiness, how to establish and maintain good credit, understanding loan principles, evaluating loan needs, setting up a monthly budget, the importance of keeping good financial records, amortizing a loan, the step-by-step process of applying for a loan as well as tips for the proper and safe use of credit cards. Both educators and the financial community emphasize the relationship between sound money management training in school and future personal financial stability.

United Bank Marketing Director, Staci Korger, states: "In the banking industry, we see adults who were never taught proper money management skills. We are excited to provide students with an opportunity to learn these skills before they enter adulthood. In times of budget crunches for school districts and businesses alike, we feel this sponsorship is an investment that will pay dividends for years to come."

This past semester Coco Olson from United Bank also visited students in the Money Management course at Osseo-Fairchild once a week for four weeks to discuss IN CHARGE EDUCATION. This program is sponsored by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation and teaches students money management life skills from the viewpoint of a professional in the banking business. Coco talked to the students about the importance of credit and why maintaining an excellent credit rating is such a vital part of their future. They also examined credit card choices for various situations, analyzed credit reports, and learned how to protect themselves against identity theft.

The students enjoyed having Coco visit the classroom and as Ashley Gilbertson commented, "When Coco visited our classroom we learned a lot about important topics like identity theft. The materials provided by United Bank helped me so that when I do get a checkbook in the future I'll know how to keep an accurate balance and reconcile bank statements." Dashell Thunder stated, "I thought it was very useful information that I will need to know throughout my growing up years as a young man. The checkbook program was a great way to teach young students about keeping track of their own money." Gwen Skoyen and the Money Management students would like to thank Coco Olson for sharing her expertise and viewpoints on credit and also United Bank for sponsoring these worthwhile financial programs!

Pictured above left to right (back row): Trevor Meeks, Cody Welke, Dashell Thunder, Adrienne Meyer, Byron Hazard, Mallory Young, Emily Hazard, and Beth Sunday; (middle row) Alyssa Kubishak, Melissa Wagner, Karlee Rosentreter, Coco Olson, Rachel Arnould and Kyle Peterson; (front row) Ashley Gilbertson, Jessica Morrow, Leann Clouse, Jennifer Fischer, Taylor Buckmaster, and Caitlyn Morrow.