

Financial Literacy
Ohio Department of Commerce Financial Literacy Grant
The Columbus State Financial Literacy Workshop Series Program
Project Summary

Total: \$15,952

Project Period: 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

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The project will increase the impact of financial literacy education by targeting two specific audiences: (1) incoming students, many of whom have little experience with managing priorities and resources, and (2) outgoing students, who will face employee or advanced high education situations with continuing or increased demands. This project will contain three components, or primary deliverables:

(1) Autumn Financial Literacy Workshop for incoming students- The focus will be on the role of financial stability in meeting educational goals. The workshop will include a student and a faculty forum, a budgeting workshop and a Q&A session. Topics will include budgeting while in college, understanding the financial aid process, student loan responsibility, credit scores, and credit risks. Components of the workshop also will be used to expand the financial literacy section of the current, required orientation courses, COLS 1100 (First-Year Experience Seminar) and COLS 1101 (College Success Skills).

(2) Spring Financial Literacy Seminar for outgoing graduates- The spring seminar will target young adult students who are close to graduation. The seminar will contain various presentations, a faculty forum, a student forum, and an open Q&A session. Topics covered in this seminar will include budgeting after college; student loan repayment; saving and investing; credit and credit scores; and credit risks, such as those from payday loans.

(3) Digital financial literacy module for virtual learning- Digitized module based upon the Spring and Autumn workshops will provide instruction for students taking courses online. This version will allow for scale-up, potentially reaching a greater number of students and allowing the program to be easily replicated and expanded.

The program will reach Columbus State students primarily between 18 and 25 years old who are either entering the college or preparing to graduate. Students across the age spectrum will benefit from strategies to help them minimize educational debt and make realistic financial decisions. These workshops will make them aware of resources that can support their efforts to avoid the financial setbacks that derail many people when they emerge from college to start their careers. Expansion of this material into required introductory courses and into a digital module will ensure availability of this material to dual-credit students (still in high school) and non-traditional students (ages 25 and above).

The project has set three measurable objectives to gauge the success of the project:

- (1) to enhance students' understanding of the role of financial stability in meeting educational goals and in meeting life goals after graduation;
- (2) to expand access to this education through a digitized module based on these workshops; and
- (3) education of student peer advocates and college completion coaches in these concepts so they can more effectively assist students.