Partnership Opportunities

With record-breaking loan defaults, bankruptcies and home foreclosures, it’s no wonder that everyone from business leaders to educators and members of Congress are jumping on the financial literacy bandwagon. And while many public and private organizations are helping Americans to survive the recession and learn money-management skills that will prepare them for opportunities when the economy does turn around, few have the reach and successful track record of Family Economics & Financial Education (FEFE). Results from the University of Arizona’s ongoing study, called Arizona Pathways of Life Success for University Students (APLUS), the best time to shape financial attitudes and behaviors among youths is before they get into college. That’s why, with the assistance of local, regional and national partners, the University of Arizona’s Take Charge America Institute for Consumer Financial Education and Research and FEFE have focused their downloadable free education materials and teacher training programs on grades 7 to 12. But the need is great. FEFE and its network of more than 15,000 teachers are responding to increasingly frequent calls from other organizations for assistance with their community-based financial literacy programs for individuals and families.

You can help expand both FEFE’s classroom and community outreach capabilities by becoming an individual or organizational partner. FEFE staff can help you identify needs and customize a sponsorship package that best matches your areas of interest, and which will have the greatest potential impact on the geographic regions or specific audiences that are important to you or your business.

Here are a few examples of the ways you can get involved:

• **Underwriting** of the annual national training conference, which brings together educators, bankers, researchers, administrators and others in Tucson each summer for a week of discussions, professional development programs, nationally renowned speakers, updates on current studies and research reports, inspiration and innovative brainstorming that strengthen FEFE and its curriculum-related offerings.

• **Sponsorships** of region- or state-specific training workshops and teaching materials.

• **Endowments** that enable the university to hire distinguished professors with a focus on financial literacy.

• **Grants** that support FEFE’s ability to meet increasing requests for assistance from community-based organizations.

• **Funding** that makes it possible for FEFE to invest in new technologies and to make improvements in the Internet-based infrastructure that powers its Web site and enables remote downloads of its more than 100 comprehensive lesson plans and related teaching, planning and assessment materials.

• **Scholarships** for teachers to enable them to travel to regional workshops and the national conference, in order to sharpen their skills and keep up with changing societal and student needs.

• **Assistance** with the production and distribution of bimonthly FEFE educator newsletters and collateral materials used in classrooms across America.

To explore these opportunities or to customize a partnership package, please contact: Prof. Michael E. Staten, Take Charge America Institute, Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, 520.621.9482, statenm@email.arizona.edu