



*Strength In Members*

## **Enfield Community Federal Credit Union Takes Part in Financial Reality Fairs**

Enfield, CT –May 26– The Enfield Community Federal Credit Union (ECFCU) recently took part in Financial Reality Fairs held at Howell Cheney Technical High School in Manchester as well as Manchester High School. The **Financial Reality Fair Program** was developed by the Financial Literacy Education Committee of America’s Credit Union Museum and is geared towards high school students. The Fair gives students the opportunity to participate in a hands-on event that propels them through the personal financial management process, including career selection, budgeting for housing, transportation, luxuries, and more.

ECFCU partnered with other local credit unions and the Connecticut Credit Union Solutions Foundation to provide this program at area high schools. The Connecticut Credit Union Solutions Foundation is dedicated to helping Connecticut credit unions serve their members successfully by providing activities for providing superior financial services and education. The Financial Reality Fair is the culmination of classroom training related to financial literacy. The Fair provides an opportunity for students to work with a "virtual income" paycheck and learn how to budget in order to provide for the future.

During the Fair, students choose the job they intend to have after school, and assist in identifying a beginning wage range. Fair volunteers create a net pay after taxes, and provide a budget worksheet to instruct students on what monthly expenses they will face. The students need to make decisions on living arrangements, food, transportation, utilities, clothing, luxury items, etc. In addition, they are provided with credit scores that will be used to assist in approving or denying loans.

At the end of the session students sit with a financial counselor to review their financial profile, and determine their relative financial/lifestyle "success level" based on their choices and circumstances.

“We thoroughly enjoyed participating in these Financial Reality Fairs. We at the credit union feel financial literacy are extremely important for our youth. By assisting teenagers with money management today we hope they will be financially responsible adults tomorrow. The teens were a joy to work with and we look forward to participating in this program next year.” said Kathleen Gleason, President and CEO, Enfield Community Federal Credit Union.

For more information about Financial Reality Fairs please contact the Credit Union League of Connecticut at 203-265-5657. For more information about ECFCU call us at 860-253-5100 or visit us online at [www.enfieldcommunityfcu.org](http://www.enfieldcommunityfcu.org)

*The Enfield Community Federal Credit Union has been serving members in the Enfield community for 70 years. As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, the ECFCU offers a full range of financial services including savings/checking accounts, child and teen accounts, 24 hour banking, online services, loans and more. Membership is available to anyone who lives or works in Enfield, and their families. The ECFCU also partners with Enfield companies to offer their employees all the benefits of a credit union membership.*

