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High-school students to compete for cash with essays about investing

(SALEM) Two Oregon teens will win cash in an essay contest by explaining the importance of investing safely. The contest, held in April by the Investment Information Program of the Division of Finance and Corporate Securities, is part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services' financial-literacy outreach to young Oregonians.

The division is offering a \$1,000 first prize for the best essay and a \$500 second prize for the runner-up. Essays, which may be in English or Spanish, must be submitted to DFCS by May 2, 2005. The contest is open to those 14-18 years old. Complete rules are available at dfcs.Oregon.gov. Click on "Investor Information Program," then "Teen Essay Contest."

"April is Financial Literacy Month," said Eric Kleinman, DFCS investment information coordinator. "We're taking advantage of this opportunity to get high school students thinking about their financial goals and the risks and rewards of investing."

Competing essayists may consider the following in addressing the topic "Why is learning how to invest safely important for young people today?":

- What are the benefits of investment education?
- What are your overall goals and what is the best way to achieve them?
- What does investing safely include?
- Where would you go to get financial advice and investment information?
- How would you determine if investment advice is legitimate?

As investment information coordinator, Kleinman travels around Oregon to speak to groups about the basics of safe investing. To schedule a presentation, call (503) 947-7492 or (866) 814-9710 (toll-free).

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