



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Teens win cash prizes in financial-literacy essay contest sponsored by a state agency**

(Salem)Two Oregon teens will be presented checks as winners of a financial-literacy essay contest sponsored by the Department of Consumer and Business Services during the kickoff for the regional JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 28, at the Pearl District office of Chase Home Finance, 422 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland.

Cory Streisinger, director of DCBS, will award a first-prize check of \$1,000, to Jamie Moore, a junior from Gresham High and a check for \$500 to runner-up Hank Fields, a sophomore from Coos Bay's Marshfield High. Susan Castillo, state superintendent of public instruction, and Randall Edwards, state treasurer, are also scheduled to speak at the JumpStart kickoff.

Moore, 17, daughter of Craig and Cynthia Moore of Gresham, serves as secretary for Key Club and for the Young Democrats at her school. She is a member of the tennis team. Fields, 16, son of Mary and Robert Fields, Coos Bay, is on the forensics team and the soccer team at Marshfield. He will spend his next school year in Portugal as an exchange student.

Eric Kleinman, investment information coordinator of the Investor Information Program at the DCBS Division of Finance and Corporate Securities, said that judges selected Moore's and Fields' essays as the best from among 52 entries. He said that, overall, entrants did a good job of addressing the contest's essay question "Why is learning to invest safely important for young people today?".

Kleinman expects DFCS to take advantage of future opportunities for its Investor Information Program to collaborate with JumpStart, which, as a national nonprofit dedicated to improving personal financial literacy among K-16 students, shares a goal with the state Investor Information Program. He said DFCS' essay contest will continue as the Investor Information Program pursues more ways to address financial literacy among young Oregonians.

DFCS contacts Oregon high schools to solicit contest entries in April, which is Financial Literacy Month. This was the second year of the contest, in which DFCS offered cash prizes to get teens thinking about the benefits of saving, investing, and financial planning.

JumpStart Coalition offers financial literacy information online at [www.jumpstart.org](http://www.jumpstart.org). Ted Hillison, Chase Home Finance, is serving as the director of the Oregon chapter of JumpStart. He may be contacted by e-mail, [Edward.b.hillison@pmchase.com](mailto:Edward.b.hillison@pmchase.com).

Kleinman speaks to groups about investment-related topics at no charge. He may be reached at DFCS, (503) 378-4140, or send e-mail to [Eric.D.Kleinman@state.or.us](mailto:Eric.D.Kleinman@state.or.us).

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