

state and local educational organizations for activities that include distribution of curricular materials, replication of best practices and teacher training.

EEE is a targeted, demand-driven, grass-roots program. Three quarters of the funding goes directly to ongoing state and local economic education and financial literacy initiatives with proven track records. The program also requires a thorough review and assessment of the use and effectiveness of the sub-grants. Finally, federal resources are leveraged through the requirement that sub-grant recipients match EEE funds dollar-for-dollar.

Since that time: 48 states and the District of Columbia have been served by Excellence in Economic Education (EEE) sub-grants in project years 2004–08; 495 sub-grants were awarded in that time-frame; \$5,418,539 has been awarded to grass-roots organizations nationwide; over 1,500 copies the 2007 Survey of the States were distributed to individuals and agencies interested in improving economic and financial literacy.

During Financial Literacy Month 2009, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, Junior Achievement, and the Council for Economic Education hosted the Financial Literacy Day Fair on Capitol Hill in collaboration with myself and Congresswoman BIGGERT in our roles as co-chairs of the Caucus. Over 800 people attended this year's Financial Literacy Day Fair on April 30, 2009 in the Cannon Caucus Room, 345 Cannon, and more than 50 vendors participated presented their financial literacy pamphlets, brochures, DVDs, and more at the Fair. The youngest participant was an 11 week old baby girl named Juliana and a man in his late 80s/early 90s who has worked on Capitol Hill for quite some time.

Also during Financial Literacy Month 2009, bankers across the United States taught savings skills to young people on April 21, 2009, during Teach Children to Save Day. This Day was started by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation in April of 1997 and has now helped more than 72,000 bankers teach savings skills to nearly 3,200,000 young people.

Staff from America's credit unions made presentations to young people at local schools on financial topics such as student loans, balancing a checkbook, and auto loans during National Credit Union Youth Week, April 19–25, 2009;

More than 100 Federal agencies have collaborated on a website, [www.consumer.gov](http://www.consumer.gov), which helps consumers shop for a mortgage or auto loan, understand and reconcile credit card statements and utility bills, choose savings and retirement plans, compare health insurance policies, and understand their credit report and how it affects their ability to get credit and on what terms.

In my district, I've held four different financial literacy events at four different schools. I was able to host financial literacy programs at four different schools in the Beeville as well as the Edinburg area of my district. We provided financial literacy workshops to well over 400 high school students in three days. I hope to add even more events in my district during Financial Literacy Month 2010.

Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of other financial literacy programs out there for us to tap and integrate into resolutions, legislation, authorizations and appropriations.

It is important that we support the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including

raising public awareness about financial education; recognize the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing personal debt in the United States; and, that the President, the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.

I am pleased to insert at the end of my remarks a Presidential Statement I received April 30, 2009 from President Barack Obama. In it, he states that he is "pleased to join all who are observing Financial Literacy Month." He goes on to state that "It is more important than ever to understand how to balance a checkbook, budget wisely, plan for retirement and avoid accumulating debts that could harm your financial future. A strong American economy depends on everyone . . . We must pass along such fundamental knowledge to our family and friends, because financial literacy empowers all of us."

I am personally thrilled that President Obama has issued this Financial Literacy Month Statement, and I look forward to working with him, his staff at the White House, staff at Treasury, and other federal agencies on financial literacy issues now and well into the future.

I am also inserting at the end of my remarks a list of the Members of Congress who are part of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and have given permission that their names be listed publicly as members of the Caucus.

Together we can improve our economy. Together, we can re-establish our prominence in the global marketplace, and together we can work to ensure that the United States remains at the top of the global economy by teaching our youth as early as possible how to manage their finances.

We need to act soon. We need to act fast, and we need to act prudently and decisively. Si, Se Puede!

CURRENT LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC LITERACY CAUCUS WHO HAVE AGREED TO MAKE THEIR NAMES PUBLIC

Joe Baca, Melissa Bean, Judy Biggert, Brian Bilbray, Dennis Cardoza, William "Lacy" Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, Tom Cole, Jim Costa, and Joseph Crowley.

Elijah Cummings, Geoff Davis, Eliot Engel, Scott Garrett, Al Green, Jim Himes, Ruben Hinojosa, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Patrick Kennedy, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Carolyn McCarthy, Earl Pomeroy, and Loretta Sanchez.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, April 2009.

Sound financial planning and responsibility are essential to our families and our economy, and I am pleased to join all who are observing Financial Literacy Month.

It is more important than ever to understand how to balance a checkbook, budget wisely, plan for retirement, and avoid accumulating debts that could harm your financial future. A strong American economy depends on everyone—from individuals and homeowners, to investors and entrepreneurs—practicing financial responsibility. We must pass along such fundamental knowledge to our family and friends, because financial literacy empowers all of us.

The emphasis on financial literacy awareness and education must extend beyond

April. I hope the insights you have gained this month will continue to improve the quality of life for you, your family and community, and I wish you all the best.

BARACK OBAMA.

CONGRATULATING THE KEYSTONE ADVENTURE SCHOOL AND FARM FOR WINNING THE PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and commend the Keystone Adventure School and Farm in Edmond, Oklahoma, which is in my congressional district. Through a dedicated school-wide effort the Keystone Adventure School and Farm has been awarded the President's Environmental Youth Award.

These hardworking and committed students have created an environmentally sustainable project called the Kid's Café. This Café is run entirely by the students and involves growing their own fruits and vegetables, maintaining bees to pollinate plants and create honey, and numerous other environmentally friendly enterprises. Much of the money brought in from these endeavors is used to help less fortunate children in Thailand create their own green gardens to supplement their diet.

This student run Café enhances their educational experience at the Keystone Adventure School and Farm by exposing them to some of life's most important lessons and offering them a chance to help their community and the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the achievements of Keystone Adventure School and Farm. I believe that they have set an outstanding example for all of Oklahoma and the nation to follow.

RECOGNIZING THE 2009 RECIPIENTS OF THE MCGOWAN COURAGE AWARD

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, seven high school students in my congressional district will be recognized on May 12 for their efforts to overcome physical, economic, and social adversities. I am pleased to join the Rotary Club of Mansfield in honoring the achievements of these McGowan Courage Award recipients:

Kelby Lunsford, Crestview High School—Kelby has worked through numerous autism-related difficulties stemming from his premature birth. His work ethic, determination, and passion for reading and historical studies are an inspiration to his parents, teachers, and fellow students.

Nathan Volz, Lexington High School—Faced at age 10 with the divorce of his parents, Nathan has long been tasked with helping to raise his younger brothers and assisting with