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For Immediate Release

**IN HONOR OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL EDUCATION MONTH, THE FINANCIAL
EDUCATION AND CAPABILITY COMMISSION ISSUES**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND NEW SLOGAN

Free workshops and activities available to improve financial knowledge

Annapolis, Maryland. In celebration of National Financial Education Month, the Financial Education and Capability Commission issued a “Knowledge Pay\$ Off” calendar highlighting financial education opportunities across Maryland. The calendar lists free financial education classes and events which are open to the public and provide non-biased, fact-based information on a wide variety of financial topics. “We are committed to promoting financial education programs that provide high quality financial education services, so that our residents in Maryland have access to the information they need to build a successful financial life,” states Co-Chairs Senator Katherine Klausmeier and Delegate Dana Stein.

In addition to the events and classes listed on the calendar, other organizations are conducting financial education programs to help specific groups learn and grow their financial skills. The Maryland Bankers Association is participating in the American Bankers Association’s “Teach Children to Save,” which is a national program that organizes bank volunteers to help young people to develop savings habits early in life. Maryland Bankers Association’s members participate in this initiative by going into schools within their communities throughout the state Maryland each April. This year’s Teach Children to Save Day is on April 11, 2014.

Junior Achievement of Central Maryland will be hosting financial education events on April 11th at Commodore John Rogers Elementary School in Baltimore City and West Friendship Elementary School in Howard County. The Maryland Council on Economic Education and Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware sponsored the annual Personal Finance Challenge competition on April 9th at Towson University. Eighteen teams of high school students tested their knowledge of personal finance concepts and competed to represent Maryland at the National Personal Finance Challenge which will be held in St. Louis in May.

Maryland Supplemental Retirement Plans is hosting twelve events at State agencies or universities across the state. These events are directed to State employees to empower their financial planning for a secure retirement. The College Savings Plans of Maryland is promoting National 529 College Savings Plans Day on May 29. The goal of the day is to recognize the importance of saving for college with a 529 plan. Visit their website www.Maryland529.org for activities, including a partnership with the Maryland Zoo for a chance to win an opportunity to be a “zookeeper for a day.”

About the Financial Education and Capability Commission: *The Financial Education and Capability Commission was created through legislation in the Maryland General Assembly passed during the 2012 regular session. The Commission is chaired by Senator Katherine Klausmeier (District 8 –Baltimore County) and Delegate Dana Stein (District 11 – Baltimore County).*

The Commission has four core tasks: to monitor the implementation of public and private initiatives to improve the financial education and capability of residents of the state, make recommendations on the coordination of financial education and capability efforts across state agencies, make an annual report on or before December 1 each year to the Governor and General Assembly on its recommendations and the status of efforts undertaken by state agencies or in partnership with state agencies, and every three years, the report of the Commission shall include a comprehensive discussion of statewide efforts to improve the financial education and capability of residents of the state, including initiatives funded by the state or a local government and those undertaken in the private sector by nonprofit organizations, financial institutions, and other persons.

The Commission meets at least twice each year. Commission meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is May 2, 2014 from 10am-12pm at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, located at 100 Community Place in Crownsville, MD. The Commission is staffed by the Maryland CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Campaign, a non-profit that promotes programs, products, and policies that increase the financial security of low-to-moderate income individuals and families across the state of Maryland. Additional information on the Commission, including its 2013 report to the General Assembly, can be found at www.mdcash.org.