



extension
IMPACTS

To help overcome the financial educational deficiencies in the state's population, the Wyoming Jump\$tart Coalition was created to emphasize the financial education of youths.

Wyoming Jump\$tart Coalition provides youths financial education

Situation:

In Wyoming, the 2006 National Endowment for Financial Education's (NEFE) national personal finance survey of high school students found participants could only answer 52 percent of finance questions correctly. No corresponding study of the adult population exists, but it is expected results would be similar.

To help overcome the financial educational deficiencies in the state's population, the Wyoming Jump\$tart Coalition was created in 2005 to emphasize the financial education of youths.

Coalition activities cover a range of audiences, from legislators to educators to youths directly. The University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES) is a key partner in the coalition providing leadership, expertise, and resources. These activities have been supported by a \$15,000 grant from the Daniels Fund, for which UW CES led the application, as well as financial support of 107 coalition funding partners.

Impacts:

Provided Youth Activity

This year, the coalition introduced *Jump\$tart Your Money Conference*, a special conference specifically targeted to youths. It provided a half-day activity to southeast Wyoming eighth graders at which they were engaged in fun and relevant financial literacy trainings around the theme *Do You Think Like a Millionaire?* The program was provided twice, reaching a total of 450 youths.

Hosted Annual Capitol Luncheon for Legislators

State legislators are in a position to greatly affect positive change regarding financial literacy. To help legislators understand the state of the educational need as well as what actions might be taken to address it, the Wyoming Jump\$tart

Coalition hosted a luncheon for legislators, staff members, and decision makers at the state capitol during the legislative session.

Provided Teacher Education

The front-line for youth financial education in Wyoming is high school teachers. To teach financial literacy, many use NEFE's specially designed High School Financial Planning Program teaching materials and student workbook. To help these educators become proficient with the materials, the Wyoming Jump\$tart Coalition co-sponsors a two-day training.

Four hundred and fifty eighth graders in southeast Wyoming are now aware of financial literacy basics, legislative leaders are more aware of the need for education in personal financial management, and teachers are better able to provide education to their students using the training the coalition provides. Specific outcomes include those below.

The eighth-grade audience of ***Jump\$tart Your Money Conference***

1. Learned the value of savings and deferred gratification,
2. Learned the power of compounding, and
3. Received a tool to facilitate savings.

The Capitol Luncheon attracted Wyoming legislators, staffers, and decision makers to an educational event hosted by the coalition that informed participants with statistics and stories that describe the low state of financial literacy, and

1. Informed participants of model legislative actions and the resources available to address needs, and
2. Motivated participants to take action to increase financial literacy.

The teacher training made it possible for high school educators to maximize their teaching ability of the High School Financial Planning Program teaching resources. Informal evaluation at the conclusion of the training indicated all participants became familiar and comfortable with using the materials in their classroom.