

**Community Service 2011 Partner of the Week: Working in Support of Education (w!se)
Week of July 17, 2011**

The w!se Financial Literacy Certification Program

“Learning about personal finance before you graduate high school is so important because money and finances are things you have to successfully manage for the rest of your life. The sooner you learn about them the better!” {Stephanie Haight, Arlington High School, NY}

Stephanie is one of the more than 50,000 students from high schools nationally that participate in the Financial Literacy Certification Program, a program of leading educational not-for-profit, **Working in Support of Education (w!se)**. Participating schools teach a course on personal finance and at the end, administer w!se’s national, standardized Certification Test. Teachers receive a curriculum aligned to national and state standards; a directory of instructional resources; an invitation to our annual professional development conference, a pretest; practice tests and the Certification Test. Students passing the Test become Certified Financially Literate, earning a CFL which can help in their jobs and search for work.



Teachers are honored at w!se’s 2010 MoneyPOWER Conference for Financial Literacy.

“Young adults are the fastest-growing age group filing bankruptcies,” notes Phyllis Frankfort, w!se’s President and CEO and the architect of the Financial Literacy Certification Program. “We are tackling this issue by helping students become financially capable before they graduate high school, so that they can enter college or the workforce knowing how to manage their money and with a credential – our CFL - to prove it,” she adds.

w!se has now reached more than 175,000 students with the Program and 75% of those who have taken the Certification Test have earned their CFL. Experts in personal finance are taking notice. As part of April's Financial Literacy Month celebrations this year, Suze Orman held a lively and interactive discussion with 500 students from 11 New York City schools that participate in the Program. w!se orchestrated the event as a partner in Financial Literacy NOW, an initiative of The McGraw-Hill Companies.



Suze Orman celebrates Financial Literacy Month with students from Midwood HS.

Congratulations Working in Support of Education (w!se)!