



801 East Benjamin Avenue, P.O. Box 469, Norfolk, NE 68702-0469  
402/844-7063 • 800/348-9033 • Fax: 402/844-7400  
**CELL PHONE: 402/750-2471**  
E-mail: [jamesc@northeast.edu](mailto:jamesc@northeast.edu)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jim Curry (402) 844-7063

### **Northeast Community College hosts Personal Finance Institute for business instructors**

**NORFOLK** - Business instructors became students this summer as they completed an extensive study in personal finance. The three-day training allowed them the opportunity to learn more about personal finance content, innovative and creative teaching methods and resources, as well as earn financial education industry certification.

Nebraska's Personal Finance Institute was held recently on the Norfolk campus of Northeast Community College. The institute was open to any Nebraska middle school, secondary and/or two-or four-year college educator who intends to implement personal finance into their curriculum. Twenty-two educators took part in the institute.

The goal of the institute is to better prepare educators who teach personal finance. Participants earned college graduate credit for their work in developing or revising an existing personal finance course for implementation in their respective schools.

According to David Anderson, executive vice president of "WISE" (Working in Support of Educators), all of the teachers successfully passed the "WISE" Financial Literacy Certification with an 88-percent average, which is higher than the national average pass rate for teachers.

WISE's Financial Literacy Certification program strengthens the quality of personal finance instruction through teacher training and curriculum support and measures student achievement when they take the national standardized Financial Literacy Certification Test. Participants passing the test become Certified Financially Literate™.

Participants were required to enroll for graduate credit from either Wayne State College or the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

Instructors of the course were Sherry Roberts, of Middle Tennessee State University, and Mike Casey, of the University of Central Arkansas. Dr. Patricia Arneson, of Wayne State College; Dr. Tammie Fischer and Jennifer Davidson, both of UNL, and Angie Shaffer, Northeast business instructor, served as instructors/facilitators. Guest presenters were Dawn Friedrichs, of Wausa Public Schools; Tom Ramaeker, of Inceptia; Nicole Connelly of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank - Omaha and Brian Willett, Waddell & Reed, Lincoln.

Sponsors that made the Institute possible included Partnerships for Innovation, Nebraska Council on Economic Education, Federal Reserve Bank and the Nebraska Department of Education.

Participants in the Institute included: Janice Arent, Maywood High School; Dawn Beans, Cozad High School; Cindy Beebe, Schuyler Community Schools; Jeff Brokaw, Columbus High School; Jason Brown, Omaha Northwest High School; Andrew Conn, Palmyra District OR-1; Michael Davidson, Nebraska City High School; Tom Dickey, Omaha South High School; Katie Harmon, Omaha Westside High School; Stephanie Holdsworth, West Point-Beemer High School; Melissa Kapustka, Stapleton High School; Kyleigh Lewis, Dorchester High School; Kimberly Miller, Verdigre High School; Stephani Olson, Red Cloud High School; Mindi Reardon, Twin River High School; Celeste Rogers, Sandhills High School; Alexandra Shurter, Maxwell High School; Ayesha Station, Omaha North High School; Mary Sterkel, Plainview High School; Jamie Taylor, Thedford High School and Greg Warneke, Pierce High School.

### **PHOTO CUTLINE - Personal Finance**

Mike Casey, of the University of Central Arkansas, leads a course as part of the Nebraska Personal Finance Institute held recently on the Norfolk campus of Northeast Community College. The goal of the institute, which is open to middle school, secondary and/or two-or four-year college educators, is to better prepare educators who teach personal finance. (Courtesy Photo)