News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia Phinancial Literacy Week, CrossState Credit Union Foundation, & Philadelphia Financial Scholars Host Three-Day Financial Reality Fair

Philadelphia, PA – As part of Philadelphia Phinancial Literacy Week (PPLW), CrossState Credit Union Foundation and Financial Scholars have partnered to hold a three-day Financial Reality Fair for School District of Philadelphia students.

This collaborative event pulled 250 volunteers from credit unions and other financial institutions to help guide students through the budgeting process and learn how to save and make challenging financial decisions based on their monthly salary. The event served over 500 students from October 20–22. The event was also attended by special guests who were excited to see the students experience this unique opportunity.

"Understanding how money works early in life helps set people up for future financial success," said Pennsylvania Auditor General Timothy L. DeFoor. “Financial Reality Fairs give students the opportunity to practice making real-world financial decisions, ask questions, and learn from mistakes in a space where choices don't have lasting consequences. These experiences strengthen skillsets and help prepare young people for financial independence.”

“Schools can be hubs of financial empowerment, places where students, families, educators, and community partners come together to build knowledge, confidence, and

opportunity," said Dr, Noah Tennant, Interim Associate Superintendent of Secondary Schools, School District of Philadelphia. "That's how learning extends beyond the classroom. And that's how schools can make a meaningful difference in the lives of entire communities."

"Credit unions have a longstanding commitment to strengthening the financial well-being of the communities we serve, and that work starts with students," said Steve Miller, Vice President of Philanthropy & Community Engagement at Citadel Credit Union and Board Member of Philadelphia Financial Scholars. "Every student deserves the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions, regardless of their background or circumstances. Experiences like the Financial Reality Fair bring that commitment to life, empowering students with skills that can strengthen families and create opportunities across entire communities.

A Financial Reality Fair simulates some of the financial challenges students will face when they start life on their own, teaching them the value of using money responsibly. To participate, students chose a career, spun the "wheel of reality," and budgeted their money while navigating real-life situations. Simulated expenses included housing, utilities, transportation, clothing, food, and additional expenditures such as entertainment or travel.

The Financial Reality Fair was in coordination with Philadelphia Phinancial Literacy Week (PPLW), a citywide initiative that takes place from October 19-23.

With strong support from schools, government, and financial institutions, Philadelphia Phinancial Literacy Week continues spotlighting the city's leadership in preparing both students and families with the tools to build wealth and independence.

About Philadelphia Phinancial Literacy Week

Philadelphia Phinancial Literacy Week (PPLW) is a citywide initiative founded by Nisiar Smith to highlight the importance of financial empowerment for all Philadelphians. Through partnerships with schools, nonprofits, government, and the private sector, PPLW brings financial education to life for students and families across the city.

About Financial Scholars

Financial Scholars' mission is to prepare students and families with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to build strong financial futures.

We pursue that mission by partnering with schools to help them become hubs for financial empowerment, building the people, systems, and opportunities that allow high-quality personal finance education to reach students and families. We invest deeply in educators through professional development, coaching, shared assessments, and implementation support; connect students to enrichment, career exploration, and real-world financial experiences; and extend financial empowerment opportunities to parents, caregivers, and other members of school communities.

Today, Financial Scholars partners with 153 educators across more than 100 schools in Pennsylvania and Connecticut, reaching approximately 12,500 students. Learn more at financialscholars.org.

About CrossState Credit Union Foundation

The CrossState Credit Union Foundation is the charitable arm of the CrossState network and is driven to support financial education and professional development, develop the capacity of small credit unions to better assist their members, and assist credit unions when faced with natural disaster worldwide. The Foundation offers grants and programs and raises funds to support credit unions and their communities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.