



**SCOTT MEACHAM
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER**

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Treasurer Meacham, Economic Education Group to Help Students with Financial Skills

OKLAHOMA CITY – To help young Oklahomans manage their personal finances, State Treasurer Scott Meacham and the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education (OCEE) have partnered to distribute information regarding the proper use of credit cards to high school students across the state.

Through this joint effort they are offering a free booklet entitled “The ABCs of Credit Card Finance” to high school students, teachers and parents. Information on how to obtain credit reports, financial terminology, consequences of careless credit card use and sample budgets are included in the booklet to help students learn positive spending habits.

The project was announced at a news conference in the Blue Room of the State Capitol on Wednesday.

“For Oklahoma’s future and for the future of our young people, knowledge and sound advice are essential for managing credit card debt. Surviving and succeeding in the economy of the 21st Century requires our youth be taught responsible credit card use,” Treasurer Meacham said.

“With the average credit card debt among 18- to 24-year-olds jumping 104 percent from 1992 to 2001, it’s important that our young adults understand how credit works,” said Sue Lynn Sasser, president of the OCEE, a not-for-profit organization based at the University of Central Oklahoma that is dedicated to economic and personal finance education.

According to a recent study by Visa USA, plastic payments—debit or credit—now account for 50.4 percent of the spending among consumers ranging from 18- to 24-years-olds.

“With young adults relying heavily on debit and credit cards, it’s important for them to understand the advantages and disadvantages of paying in plastic,” added Sasser.

(more)

Meacham urged high school teachers throughout Oklahoma to take advantage of this free booklet. “We would like to hear from high school teachers who are interested in helping their students be better prepared for their future,” he said.

To request copies, call the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education at (405) 974-5343 or visit their Web site, www.ocee-ok.org. Classroom sets are also available.

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