

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hillman Students Learn Financial Skills with State Representative Peter Pettalia and Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union



In photo: Hillman High School teacher Douglas Hyde, AAACU employee Lauren Clarke, and State Representative Peter Pettalia.

Hillman, Michigan, April 18th, 2011— Students at Hillman High School in Hillman met with State Representative Peter Pettalia on Friday April 15th, 2011 as part of the Michigan Credit Union League’s Financial Literacy Legislative Challenge. This is the eighth year of the challenge, which in 2011 will connect 50 state legislators with students during April, which is celebrated as Financial Literacy Month.

“This is a great opportunity for students to pose questions to their local leaders and to learn important financial skills,” Donald J. Mills, President and CEO of Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union commented.

Lauren Clarke, SEG Coordinator for AAACU, taught the importance of using credit wisely, how credit works, and debt repayment tips. Rep. Pettalia discussed the importance of credit from his experience as a business owner, how a bad credit score can affect your life and how our state government works.

“I am here to teach you how to make better financial decisions,” Mrs. Clarke stated to the class.

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Michigan's credit unions are national leaders in youth financial education, reaching more than 48,000 students during the 2009-2010 school year and organizing more than 366 student-run credit unions across the state – both are the most in the country.

“MCUL is proud to bring lawmakers into classrooms to encourage financial education,” says David Adams, president and CEO of the Michigan Credit Union League. “As personal debt and foreclosures are at an all-time high, we appreciate the work of our elected representatives to help pass on the critical message of personal finance to students. Credit unions are committed to encouraging financial education for their members and in their communities.”

April's Financial Literacy Month includes a variety of local workshops and programs put on by financial institutions across the state. In 2011, credit unions will host or sponsor more than 75 events.

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union serves members primarily in Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Iosco counties with 8 locations—a main office located in Alpena, with branch offices in Ossineke, Lincoln, Atlanta, a Tiger Branch in Alcona Community Schools, Oscoda and Tawas offices, and an additional branch in Alpena. As of March 31, 2011, Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union provides service to 27,075 members and has total assets equal to \$249,467,322.14.

Organized in 1934, the Michigan Credit Union League is a statewide trade association representing Michigan's 335 credit unions. Based in Lansing, the MCUL offers credit unions assistance in the areas of regulatory compliance, legislative advocacy, media advocacy and operational information. For more information, visit www.mcul.org and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MICreditUnions.

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