

PRESS RELEASE

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From: Denise Duperre, Chairperson

### STUDENTS ATTENDING FINANCIAL FITNESS FAIR ELIGIBLE FOR \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP

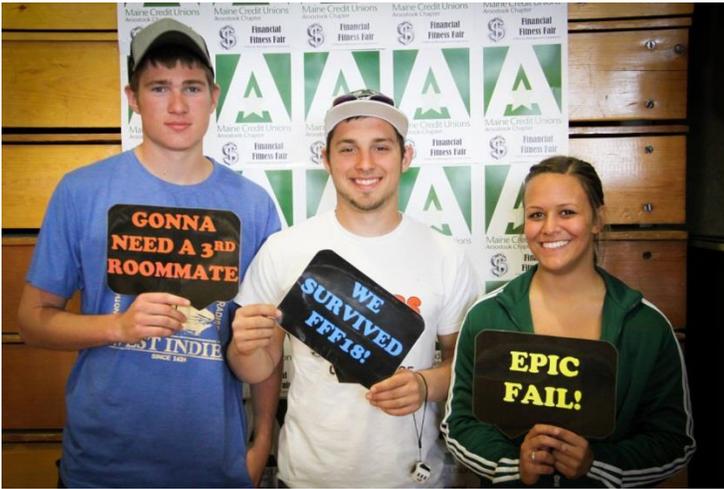
AROOSTOOK COUNTY – For the past 11 years, the Aroostook Chapter of Credit Unions, which include Acadia FCU, NorState FCU and The County FCU, have work side-by-side to host an annual financial literacy fair for Aroostook County high school juniors.

The ‘Financial Fitness Fair’ starts planning for the following year almost immediately after the fair is done. This year’s fair was held on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Loring Job Corps in Limestone.



Tammy Wortman and Denise Plourde, both from NorState FCU show students participating in the Aroostook Chapter of Credit Union’s Financial Fitness Fair at Loring Job Corps in Limestone on May 22<sup>nd</sup>s, some different home furnishing options as they work through their budget worksheets/

Students are given a career and monthly income and visit booths with various expenses that an adult is faced with such as transportation, housing, food, student loans, clothing, insurance and other day to day expenses. Then, using a monthly budget tracker form, each student calculates if they can live within their means. They are given credit scores, and financial emergencies that make them go back to recalculating their budget.



Three students (unidentified) also had fun with the Instagram challenge of posting about the event during the day's event. Students, educators and volunteers alike were encouraged to Hastag CUFFF18 to raise awareness about financial literacy



The Aroostook Chapter of Credit Union's Financial Fitness Fair held at Loring Job Corps on May 22<sup>nd</sup> was not all work and no play. Over 300 junior high school students who attended the fair were fed a bag lunch prepared by LJC culinary students and many were picked out of a hat to receive a \$25 Visa Gift Card or a chance to enter the money booth for 30 seconds and 'grab the cash' ...walking away with over \$50 at times! Pictured is Caribou student Tia Cyr with her \$25 gift card.

With over 300 students participating in the financial literacy event, it was not just a learning experience but lots of fun as well. Part of the closing session includes a bagged lunch prepared by LJC Culinary Students for each attendee and fun and games with cash prizes to be won.

Also, each student are also given the opportunity to apply for a \$1000 Scholarship payable to them upon graduation from their High School to be used at a school of high learning.

Michelle McLaren-Toussaint who attended the event in 2017 as a junior from Fort Kent Community High School was the lucky recipient of the Chapter's Scholarship. Pictured with Michelle from L-R are Acadia CEO David Desjardins; NorState's CEO Susan Whitehead, Toussaint and representing The County, Executive Vice President Dan Bagley.



Toussaint address this year's juniors in attendance about the ease of application that was included in all fairgoer folders, and stressing to them that the June 30 deadline would soon be upon them and the time it took her to fill out and submit was minimal, so to take advantage of this great opportunity.



Michelle McLaren-Toussaint from Fort Kent Community High School is the Aroostook Chapter 2017 Financial Fitness Fair \$1000 Scholarship recipient. Toussaint is pictured talking to over 300 high school juniors who attend the event at Loring Job Corps on May 22, 2018.

One student who attended the 2018 Financial Fitness Fair and applies for scholarship will be awarded \$1000. In order to eligible, applicant must meet a few criteria's.

Applicant must attend the Aroostook Chapter of Credit Unions Financial Fitness Fair; Plan to enroll in a two-year or four-year college or university; Must be a member, or have a parent who is a member of a credit union in Aroostook County and fill out the scholarship application in its entirety and submit it to any of the three credit unions by June 30, 2018. Scholarship applications are available from all three credit union websites.

For more information regarding attending this annual event, contact your local high school guidance office or the Chapter's chairperson, Denise Duperre at NorState FCU by calling 1-800-804-7555.

For a video presentation on the recent fair, you can find it on YouTube. Courtesy of The County FCU.

<https://youtu.be/Gilx8dg3HTg>