

# Money Bus goes

Tuesday, September 25, 2007, NFI's Money Bus® departed from its usual route of traveling to 3rd-5th graders at schools across Indiana. Instead, on its longest trip ever, it visited Washington, DC. Parked on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, it allowed members of Congress and their staff to experience in-person the nation's first financial literacy classroom on wheels and its accompanying *Kids Count*™ curriculum.

At the same time, NFI also released to Congress the results of its national study measuring the financial literacy attitudes and aptitudes of K-12 teachers, including their views about the importance of the subject and the quality of available curricula and classroom materials.

Disturbing news about upward spiraling credit card debt, home foreclosures and personal bankruptcies has focused the country's attention on the need for financial literacy "life skills" education. A growing number of experts and advocates believe that this education should start as early as possible to help students develop financial behaviors that will serve them throughout their lives. This was the reason that NFI first introduced the Money Bus in the spring of 2006.

Importantly, there is also a direct link between the Money Bus and the results of NFI's polling of K-12 teachers, according to David L. Godsted, NFI's director of financial literacy. Godsted helped to develop the study and documented its findings.

"One of the objectives of the study was to determine barriers to financial literacy education in our classrooms," Godsted explained. Teachers, while in favor of financial literacy education, cited a long list of barriers to teaching it: no linkage to state-mandated educational standards, lack of access to quality teaching materials, no professional development and training in the subject for teachers, and many other obstacles.

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"The key point," stressed Godsted, "is that the Money Bus and the *Kids Count* curriculum remove virtually all of these barriers. They demonstrate that financial literacy education can be made engaging and effective, that it can relate directly to state educational mandates, and that it is a reality happening every day in Indiana."

Equally as significant, the great success of the Money Bus shows that children as young as 3rd through 5th graders can grasp and master financial literacy concepts. "We're not teaching young kids the details of reading mortgage or credit card

contracts," said Godsted. "We are helping them acquire behaviors, attitudes, and basic skills underlying responsible financial decision-making. And, our final testing clearly establishes that they can easily learn such things as budgeting, the difference between needs and wants, and applying the notion of delayed gratification."

"We thought it was relevant for those helping to make policy in Congress to see the workings of the Money Bus, to hear what a great success it has been in Indiana, and to realize that it's an approach that can be duplicated nationally," Godsted concluded.

Back home again, the Money Bus is fully scheduled for trips to Indiana schools over the next year and a half. With demand beginning to run far ahead of what one Money Bus can do, NFI is looking for other ways to export the experience. One approach under serious consideration is to simulate many of the benefits that students now receive from visiting the Money Bus and enhance the learning of *Kids Count* by integrating an Internet-based experiential learning component to the program.

Quite possibly, the day is coming when real or virtual Money Busses will be traveling much farther than to Washington, DC. By taking early financial literacy education to schools in every part of the U.S. they could lay the groundwork for a future populace much better able to handle money matters and avoid financial pitfalls.

# to Capitol Hill



# *intro to the Real World*

If you've hired a new college graduate lately, you know that young professionals today are more savvy, driven and confident than many of their predecessors. You also know that in any stack of resumes, there is a natural divide between those that "make the cut" and those that fail to catch your attention. That's why scholars in the Networks Professional Development program dedicate hours each week to honing their own job-related skills. An integral component of the program is the industry internship.

Usually completed between the junior and senior years, the internship experience is an irreplaceable method of introducing today's students to tomorrow's workplace. While a financial services focus is required in the placement, scholars can pursue opportunities in any location they choose.

These aren't your parents' internships, either. Forget stuffing envelopes and sharpening pencils. Today's interns are put to work with real responsibilities and accountability. Carrie Perkins, a senior Networks Scholar, recently completed an internship at Rolls-Royce Corporation, with a focus in accounting. "Prior to my internship experience," says Carrie, "I thought I knew what my career in accounting would look like. Working at Rolls-Royce, I saw first-hand how dynamic the job really can be. And even at a big company, I definitely saw how important it is for every individual to take responsibility for the quality of their work. I am more prepared to make the transition from school to work."

## JUNIOR INTERNS

Miranda Boyles  
**Orbital Sciences Corp.**

Scott Garrigus  
**Comprehensive Retirement Solutions**

Sean Harmon  
**Hamon Custodis Inc.**

Katrina Heflin  
**K & K Insurance**

Whitney Lewis  
**Global Village Internship Program  
& Networks Financial Institute**

Jessica May  
**Baker and Daniels Consulting**

Carrie Perkins  
**Rolls-Royce Corporation**

Tiffany Root  
**Indiana State Board of Accounts**

David Santelik  
**Indiana State Board of Accounts**

Shanna Switzer  
**Atlantic Bank & Trust**

Amber Williams  
**Indiana State Board of Accounts**

Brian Winkler  
**Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group**

## SOPHOMORE INTERNS

Erik Andersen  
**Lockton Companies, Ltd.**

Betsy Bender  
**ISU Foundation**

Todd Byram  
**Farm Bureau Insurance**

Zach Goodman  
**Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center**

Scott Koresel  
**Gregory & Appel**

Casey Lock  
**Walgreen's Accounting Firm**

Jon Lough  
**Lockton Companies, Ltd.**

Racheal Titus  
**Doehiring, Winders & Co. LLP**

Kelsy Wilson  
**Svihla & Associates**

# Meet Three Networks Scholars Alumni

After graduating from ISU and the Networks Scholars Program, **Ashley Cameron**, **Danielle Thompson** and **April Huey** are all working in the financial services industry.



## Ashley Cameron

Graduated May 2007

Credit Analyst, National City Bank

### What are your career goals and how does this position fit in your career plan?

I want to pursue a career in commercial banking. The credit analyst position is the first stepping stone to becoming a commercial lender.

### What does this employer offer that will help your career grow?

National City offers an elite commercial banking program to develop individuals into commercial lenders. As a credit analyst, we obtain extensive training on how to assess the risk involved with lending.

### Any surprises after graduation?

I wish I would have known having an address from Shelbyville versus Indianapolis really impacts your auto insurance premium. And, I wish I would have known I would be making my first mortgage payment even before I moved in.

## Danielle Thompson

Graduated May 2007

Associate, Zurich North America

### What are your career goals and how does this position fit in your career plan?

I wanted a company with a good training program. Since I wasn't 100% sure what part of the insurance industry I wanted to go into, I have the opportunity to learn and experience all areas of the company and make the correct career decision for my future.

### What does this employer offer that will help your career grow?

Zurich's program allows me to train for two months in each discipline (Risk Engineering, Claims and Underwriting) all over the country. At the conclusion of the program, I will be able to choose which segment I want to go into and build my career from there.

### Any surprises after graduation?

I didn't know how confusing benefit plans could be. Also, since this is the first time there have been four generations in the workforce at one time, generational differences come up quite often. Most importantly, I use the things I learned in the NFI program daily. As a student I don't think you can fully appreciate your educational experience until you actually get a chance to use what you have learned.

## April Huey

Graduated May 2007

Staff Auditor, BKD, LLP

### What are your career goals and how does this position fit in your career plan?

I want to pass the CPA exam and either become a partner in a CPA firm or work as a vice-president of finance or controller for a not-for-profit organization or medium-sized business.

Working at BKD is the perfect place for me to start my career, no matter which career path I choose to take in the future. If I chose not to stay in public accounting, I find it very important to at least have experience in public accounting. Such an experience is giving me the opportunity to learn about many different forms of businesses and corporations and the differences in accounting work done for each.

### What does this employer offer that will help your career grow?

BKD has already offered many opportunities for my career growth. My firm pays for the Becker CPA Review Course. BKD also offers many Continuing Professional Education (CPE) courses.

Also, within a few weeks of starting work, I was put out into the field for audits. This has challenged me and helped me learn a lot which will help in studying for the CPA exam.

### Any surprises after graduation?

I have taken one section of the CPA exam and passed it (and have the other 3 sections scheduled to be finished by January). I bought a new car. And, my parents have not given me any money since my first paycheck! They seem to like that.

# NEW DEAN NEW IDEAS

NFI's support is central to the College of Business' distinction and excellence in financial services programming... We look forward to deepening our partnership with NFI and to extending Indiana State University's reach of outstanding programming in the financial services arena.

*Nancy* J. Merritt has been selected to head the College of Business at Indiana State University. Previously, she was the senior associate dean of the College of Business Administration at Bowling Green State University.

A former retail business co-owner and manager, Merritt holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Montana State University and a PhD from the University of Arizona.

Merritt has experience in college development and fundraising, and strategic and operational planning. She developed executive, entrepreneurship and business engagement programs, including a Center for Executive Studies and a Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. She also worked with university development and corporate officers in formulating the Cooper Tire Teaching Mentorship.

"Nancy Merritt has extensive experience in teaching, research and community service, all the things that are so important to the mission at Indiana State. She also brings experience in college development and fund raising. These are vital skills as we look forward to the College of Business moving into a new home," C. Jack Maynard, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said in announcing Merritt's appointment.

"It is indeed a privilege to join Indiana State University and the Terre Haute and regional communities," Merritt said. "The achievements of the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Business bode well for enhancing its contributions to the university and broader communities, as well as advancing the economic development of the region.

"I am excited about opportunities to engage in productive relationships with business and alumni, to focus on quality and reach of student and community programs, and to support faculty in their teaching and scholarship," she added.

One of those relationships is with NFI. "NFI's support is central to the College of Business' distinction and excellence in financial services programming," said Merritt. "Critical activities include NFI support of faculty research and forums for industry and other leaders to inform the College and greater communities. Student scholar development programs by NFI are a model for leadership development across the College's students, and NFI financial literacy activities for pre-college students complement the collegiate financial literacy programs of the College. We look forward to deepening our partnership with NFI and to extending Indiana State University's reach of outstanding programming in the financial services arena."

Nancy Merritt had an opportunity to mingle with scholars at a networking reception at NFI headquarters in Indianapolis. From left to right: Abigail Carver, Tony Askins, Nancy Merritt and Todd Byram



# 5TH ANNUAL **INSURANCE** Reform Summit

SAVE THE DATE


**March 5, 2008**

8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building and

International Trade Center

Washington, DC



The NFI Insurance Reform Summit has earned a reputation as one of the most insightful and provocative annual events for the financial services sector. 2008 will be no exception, with Congress and the Administration stepping up their efforts to examine the current regulatory framework along with optional federal charter and other modernization/efficiency/competitiveness proposals. Mark your calendars now to be on hand with key Congressional, government and industry leaders and to hear academic experts present new research.



Watch for details coming soon!

Visit [www.networksfinancialinstitute.org](http://www.networksfinancialinstitute.org) for updates.

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