



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

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Director

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## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**March 27, 2008**

### GOVERNOR OTTER PROCLAIMS APRIL "FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH"

#### *IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND OTHERS OFFER MONEY SKILLS COURSE*

Boise, Idaho . . . Noting that "understanding basic personal finance concepts is now more important than ever", Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter today signed a proclamation establishing April as "Financial Literacy Month."

"Whether you have just started your first job, or you've just retired from your last job, knowing how to manage the financial assets you have is essential," Governor Otter said. "And with the many 'plain English' resources available today, anyone can become financially literate. I encourage every Idahoan to take advantage of the great free resources the State and others have available to learn about the wise use of credit, and the basics of saving and investing."

The Idaho Department of Finance, the Kootenai County Financial Literacy Task Force, and the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition (IFLC), an affiliate of the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, have joined together to sponsor "Financial Literacy Month" again in April. The IFLC is a partnership of private and public sector financial educators with whom the Kootenai County Financial Literacy Task Force is affiliated. The Department of Finance participates year round in the efforts of the IFLC and is proud to take part in this opportunity to draw attention to the need for all Idahoans to obtain basic money management skills.

The Governor signed the proclamation earlier today at a press conference sponsored by IFLC. Other events planned for Financial Literacy Month:

- ▶ "Your Money Matters" sponsored by the IFLC. This **free** event will be open to the public and held at the Nampa Civic Center, 311 Third Street South, Nampa, Idaho on April 18, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Reservations are requested by April 14<sup>th</sup> - RSVP at (208) 378-0200 x 751. Workshops will be offered encompassing such topics as:
  - Investing
  - Credit and Credit Scores

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<http://finance.idaho.gov>

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- Home Buying Tips
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- ▶ The Kootenai County Financial Literacy Task Force is sponsoring a week of financial education events during the week of April 21, 2008. On April 23, 2008 in Coeur d'Alene, Gavin Gee, Finance Department Director, will be featured as a keynote speaker during a luncheon for business and community leaders of northern Idaho. Also, the Department will present a free workshop entitled "What's Your Score" with topics on credit scores, reports and identity theft protection during a brown bag lunch on April 25, 2008 in Coeur d'Alene.
  - ▶ The Department will offer financial education presentations to Idaho's high schools, senior centers, and universities throughout the school year.
  - ▶ Weekly press releases will be issued by the Department during April focusing on various timely financial topics.
  - ▶ The Department has added a new section to its website devoted to Financial Literacy Month and highlighting the many resources that are available. Website resources include an assortment of financial literacy informational links and brochures, fraud prevention tips, and links to sites on such topics as "Online Fraud Prevention Tips", "Research your Broker", "Foreclosure Prevention Resources" and more. The website can be found at <http://finance.idaho.gov>.

The Department's presentations are drawn from *The Basics of Saving and Investing: Investor Education*, a personal finance teaching curriculum **available free of charge to Idaho teachers**, and *Money Smart*, a training program offered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. A presentation can be customized to the needs of a particular class.

For more information on any of these events or to schedule a high school, senior citizen, corporate, or collegiate presentation, please call Patricia Highley or Jo Ann Lanham of the Idaho Department of Finance at (208) 332-8004 or toll free within Idaho at 1-888-346-3378. All presentations will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet via the worldwide web at <http://finance.idaho.gov> and may be obtained by contacting the department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.