



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

COLUMBUS - State Treasurer of Ohio Josh Mandel announced today that registration has opened for the 2012 Smart Money Choices conference series, which for the first time will offer free post-bankruptcy certification for the budgeting and credit & debt courses. The Treasurer's Smart Money Choices conference series is a free half-day financial education program open to all Ohioans which will be presented in seven regions across the state with a variety of statewide and regional partners.

"The Smart Money Choices conference series is an excellent opportunity for Ohioans to learn more about personal finance issues. There is something for everyone, with courses on budgeting, investments, student funding, debt management, retirement, estate planning and more," said Treasurer Mandel. "My office is excited that this year, for the first time, we will be able to offer a free certified personal financial instructional course to assist Ohioans recovering from bankruptcy. This conference series helps to equip Ohioans with tools to improve their personal finances by providing free access to financial planning experts."

This year the Ohio Treasurer's office will offer free Post-Bankruptcy Certification during the conference to help Ohioans who are recovering from bankruptcy.* Ohioans who have recently experienced bankruptcy will benefit from courses taught by financial experts and earn post-filing certification for attendance to the budgeting and credit & debt management courses.

The conference is for Ohioans at every age and stage of life. A variety of course topics will be offered, including courses on:

- Student funding & debt management NEW;
- Budgeting;
- Credit & debt management;
- Social Security;
- Consumer scams;
- Estate planning;
- Retirement planning; and
- Investments.

The conferences will be held on Fridays throughout the summer and they begin at 8:00 am continuing until 12:15 pm, with registration beginning at 7:30 am. The conferences include an opening session, three breakout sessions taught by financial planning experts, and a closing session. Registration for the 2012 Smart Money Choices conference series is currently open.

For information on locations of Smart Money Choices courses or to register, please visit:
<http://www.OhioTreasurer.gov/SmartMoneyChoices> or call: (800) 228-1102, option #1

*The State Treasurer's office of Ohio, Community Education Department is approved to issue certificates in compliance evidencing completion of a personal financial management instructional course in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code in all



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jurisdictions of Ohio, Northern and Southern Districts. The debtor education course work (Budgeting and Credit & Debt Management) is approved by the United State Trustee in accordance with 11 U.S.C. §111 and is designed to assist bankruptcy debtors after bankruptcy in their understanding of personal financial management, but does not constitute professional or legal advice. Approval does not endorse or assure the quality of an agency's service.

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