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Director

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## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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

*Local non-profit groups and government agencies  
offer financial education*

Boise, Idaho . . . Noting that "given the current economic conditions, 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."

"Making your money work for you is critical." Governor Otter said. "Financial education helps you gain an understanding of how to manage your money. 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, the basics of saving and investing and home ownership preservation, and the pitfalls associated with mortgage modification fraud."

The Idaho Department of Finance, the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition (IFLC) ([www.idahoflc.org](http://www.idahoflc.org)), an affiliate of the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, and Get \$mart Idaho have joined together to sponsor "Financial Literacy Month" in April. The IFLC is a partnership of private and public sector financial educators with whom Get \$mart Idaho 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 money management skills.

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

- ▶ The Department of Finance will offer financial education presentations to Idaho's high schools, senior centers, and universities in April and throughout the school year.
- ▶ Get \$mart Idaho is sponsoring a luncheon on Monday, April 26th as part of Financial Literacy Week (April 26-30) in northern Idaho. The luncheon's keynote will be motivational speaker Sarano Kelley. Mr. Kelley is the founder of a not for profit foundation and author of "The Game: Win Your Life in 90 Days". He also has his own

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## NEWS RELEASE

March 31, 2010

Page 2

primetime television special for kids called "The Game: Winning at Life". You can purchase tickets to this event and check for other events during Financial Literacy Week at [www.getsmartidaho.org](http://www.getsmartidaho.org).

- ▶ Weekly Consumer Bulletins focusing on various timely financial topics will be issued by the Idaho Department of Finance during April.
- ▶ The Idaho Department of Finance 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 are free and 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.