

## Absegami High School Professional Development Newsletter

**PD Connections***"Support—Collaborate—Learn"***New Year's PD Resolutions, Anyone?****SMART Goal Setting—****Goals should be:**

- Specific
- Measurable
- Attainable
- Realistic
- Time-Bound

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Philadelphia Federal Reserve Helps District Teachers Incorporate Finance and Economics Into Classroom

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*By Dawn Koska*

It's that time of year when many of us have made personal "New Year's Resolutions." It's the end of January—are you still going to the gym and opting for the baby carrots over the chocolate chip cookies?

How about setting some goals for your professional and career development? Schedule a "meeting with yourself" to reflect on last year's accomplishments and successes.

This will give you the motivation to keep moving forward, build your confidence and perhaps inspire others!

Consider long-term issues: developing your skills (or those of your team), the challenges that may be ahead in 2009 and how you will tackle them!

Write down your goals! Studies have shown that this works! According to a goal setting survey of Harvard graduates 10 years after they graduated: 83% had NO specific goals; 14% had specific goals but they were NOT written down; 3% had specific goals that were written down. PAYOFF: Those 3% who had written down their goals earned 10 times as much as those with no goals!

**It's "Mid Term Week" —****Do You Know Where Your Professional Development Is?***By Dawn Koska*

**Just a Reminder:** Our last full day in-service is quickly approaching, and is scheduled for **February 25, 2009.**

The online registration deadline for your 12:45-2:35 workshop is **January 30, 2009.** So don't delay—See your e-mail for workshop selections and more information!

**February 25th Schedule****7:20-8:20**—HSPA Training**8:30-10:30**—PLCs**10:40-11:45**—Small Discussion Groups**11:45-12:45**—Lunch on your own**12:45-2:35**—Workshops

Interested in joining the Professional Development Committee?

Attend our next meeting in room 402 Feb. 2nd at 2:45 p.m.

Contact Lynda Leahey for more details.

## Workshop Highlight: Philadelphia Federal Reserve Helps District Teachers Incorporate Finance and Economics Into Classroom

*By Dawn Kosko*

*“In today’s complex financial markets, financial education is central to helping consumers make better decisions for themselves and their families.” –Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve.*

In these chaotic financial times, it is more important than ever that young people (and the not so young) understand the basics of personal finance and the economic way of thinking. Educators from Absegami High School and Oakcrest High School learned new ways to integrate personal finance and economics lessons into their curriculum when representatives of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia visited Absegami High School to conduct an in-service day workshop on October 24, 2008.

Andrew T. Hill, Ph.D., Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank Economic Education Advisor, and Todd Zartman, Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank Economic Education Specialist, provided the teachers with engaging hands-on student activities, active discussion on the current financial crisis and “credit crunch”, materials including lesson plans and a DVD entitled “Making Sense of the Federal Reserve,” and many other resources.

The workshop, Personal Finance and Economics in the High School Classroom, was designed specifically for the Greater Egg

Harbor Regional High School District in-service and gave an introduction to Federal Reserve Economic Education. Topics included how to get students to understand and use “economic thinking” – good decision making; how product and resource markets work; the role of The Federal Reserve System and how it has responded to the current economic crisis; how money is “created” in the economy; the importance of a solid personal finance program and curriculum in a K-12 environment; and building wealth in the long term.

Teachers evaluated the workshop as “excellent” and many expressed interest in follow-up sessions. Comments made on evaluations included “great stuff” and “time well spent.” The Philadelphia Federal Reserve offers a range of educational materials for teachers, including teacher training programs, online lesson plans, the Keys to Financial Success High School Personal Finance Program (used in our full-year business education elective: Personal Finance), podcasts, the *Intersections* newsletter, and the Money in Motion Exhibit at the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank. More information about these programs can be found at <http://www.philadelphiafed.org/education>.



*L to R: Andrew T. Hill, Ph.D., Philadelphia Federal Reserve; Linda Thompson, Absegami Business Education Teacher; Tina Boylan, Absegami Business Education Teacher; Brian Tickle, Absegami Math Teacher; Todd Zartman, Philadelphia Federal Reserve.*



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