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Students Honored at 2014 w!se Scholars' Reception

NEW YORK, N.Y. – On Monday, Working in Support of Education (w!se) hosted its annual Scholars' Reception to honor high school students who earned a score of 95% or higher on w!se's 2013-14 national standardized Financial Literacy Certification Test. The Test is administered nationally each year in high schools that participate in w!se's award-winning Financial Literacy Certification program.

The Reception was held at the elegant Museum of American Finance in New York City. Students received w!se's National Scholars Award for their outstanding achievement; those who earned a perfect 100% score on the Test also received the "Centurion's Honor Cord". Featured speakers included Judy Chapa, Financial Services Roundtable and Dave Hull, Allstate Insurance. Senior representatives from other leading financial institutions, including NYSE Euronext, were also in attendance.

"Congratulations to these remarkable students for their achievement on the w!se Certification Test," said w!se President & CEO Phyllis Frankfort Perillo. "They have truly demonstrated that they will graduate high school with the personal finance knowledge and skills to lead a life of financial wellbeing."

Two of this year's Scholars, Zach Krivine from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in New York City and Tiffany Towerly from Bay High School in Bay, Arkansas, also shared their experiences with the w!se program and how it has affected their own money habits.

"w!se taught me the importance of saving. While my friends are out on the weekend spending money, I'm babysitting and putting money away for my future," commented Krivine.

Since the program's inception in 2003, less than 5 percent of participants have been named National Scholars, further emphasizing the significance of earning a score of 95% or better on the Test.

About the w!se Financial Literacy Program

The Financial Literacy Certification program is an innovative and high impact initiative in financial education designed to help high school students graduate financially literate. Participating schools teach a course on personal finance and then administer w!se's national standardized Financial Literacy Certification Test. To support instruction, w!se provides professional development, a curriculum aligned to national and state standards and other value added teaching tools. A hallmark program feature is the w!se CFL™. Students passing the Certification Test become **Certified Financially Literate (CFL™)**. The program, now in 36 states, is rapidly growing and has become integral to personal finance instruction in thousands of classrooms. It is supported by leading U.S. institutions including The NYSE Euronext Foundation, Inc., The Allstate Foundation, Citi Foundation, McGraw Hill Financial, Wells Fargo Foundation, Voya Financial, Bloomberg, The Utah Division of Securities, kasina, GE Capital Retail Bank, the New York City Council and Signature Bank.

About w!se

Working In Support of Education (w!se), an educational not-for-profit, improves the lives of young people through programs that develop financial literacy and readiness for college and the workplace. Our Initiatives are built on five pillars – relevancy, real world experiences, strong partnerships, volunteerism, and evaluation.

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