

# EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***EGCSD STUDENTS EARN WISE FINANCIAL LITERACY AWARDS***



(Back Row L-R) Senator Roy McDonald, Columbia H.S. Principal John Sawchuk, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Angela Nagle, Allstate Insurance Representative Lisa Chenette, CHS teachers Tracy Farrell and Donna Shepardson, Chris Hewitt, Danielle Hinds, Jesann Prashaw, and Assemblyman Ron Canestrari, (Front Row L-R) Chris Adeigbo, Erin Blaney, Darian Govan, and Ben Roberts. Absent Alex Tesoriero and last year's graduate Danielle Sidoti.

East Greenbush Central School District's students, participating in the Columbia High School 2008-2009 Financial Life Skills class, were recently awarded special recognition for having earned above a 96% on the WISE (Working in Support of Education) Financial Literacy Certification Test. The award winning students are: Chris Adeigbo, Erin Blaney, Darian Govan, Chris Hewitt, Danielle Hinds, Jesann Prashaw, Ben Roberts, Danielle Sidoti, and Alex Tesoriero.

Assemblyman Ron Canestrari expressed his pride in the accomplishment of the students. Senator McDonald presented each of the students with a certificate of achievement sponsored by the New York Financial Literacy Coalition Certificate Program. The Coalition provides professional development and program materials in support of teaching professional finance in high schools. Also attending the ceremony and honoring the awardees were WISE spokesperson Eric Katzman, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Angela Nagle, Columbia High School Principal John Sawchuk, the students' teachers Donna Shepardson and Tracy Farrell, and All State Insurance

representative Lisa Chenette. Allstate Insurance is the sole source of funding of the Financial Literacy Certification Program in the upstate New York region.

"The efforts of Ms. Shepardson and her students in 2008/2009 have earned Columbia High School 'Blue Star Status' and 'Gold Star Status' for Ms. Shepardson," announced WISE spokesperson, Eric Katzman. "The coveted Blue Star award is bestowed by WISE to schools in which a majority of students on a grade level take the Certification Test and 75% or more of them pass the Test."

"Teachers become 'Gold Star' when 90% or more of the students in a class pass the Certification Test," said Katzman. "Gold Star teachers are recognized as America's Best Financial Educators."

The East Greenbush Central School District mandates its high school students take a course on personal finance. "WISE hopes to see a state mandate one day for personal finance education in New York State," said Katzman. Columbia High School's Financial Life Skills curriculum includes career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, investments, and insurance.

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