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Four Bands distributes teacher tool kits to implement financial literacy and entrepreneurship into classrooms

In conjunction with Four Bands’ Entrepreneurship Fair, teachers from Dupree, Eagle Butte, Takini and Tiospaye Topa schools convened on February 24th at Upper Elementary to learn about their role in the Making Waves program. The special session was held to provide teachers with information and tool kits for a project they are participating in to implement financial literacy and entrepreneurship into their classrooms.

Thirty teachers received tool kits with projects that support Four Bands’ Making Waves program. The teacher tool kits feature lessons that support content standards in each of the four core areas; math, science, reading/language arts, and social studies; and are developed for students from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Each of the lessons relate to the Making Waves financial literacy ABCs; assess spending, build credit and create assets; and the Entrepreneurship ABCs; assess options, build experience and create markets.

Before receiving their tool kits, teachers participated in one of the lessons. Teachers were given a certain amount of money to spend for grocery shopping and had to use a sale flyer from a local business to purchase a balanced meal on a budget. Stephanie Charging Eagle, Four Bands’ consultant to the Making Waves program, presented the lesson to the teachers.

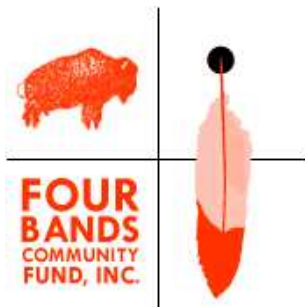
“The goal of the Making Waves tool kits is to prepare youth with the knowledge and skills they need to make wise financial decisions and create their own jobs,” says Tanya Fiddler, executive director, Four Bands Community Fund. “By providing this information early, Reservation youth will be ready for successful and self-sustaining futures resulting from their career and financial choices.”

Throughout 2009, Four Bands staff will work with teachers who are part of the project to support them in integrating lessons into their classrooms. Staff will also seek feedback from teachers about the lessons and invite ideas on how to expand and improve the tool kits.

Making Waves is a program developed by Four Bands Community Fund to replace poverty and unemployment with financial literacy and entrepreneurship. The activities are concentrated in two areas; K-12 classrooms and community organizations.

To learn more about the teacher tool kits or the Making Waves program, contact Four Bands Community Fund, 605-964-3687 or email to MakingWaves@fourbands.org.

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Stephanie Charging Eagle explains a lesson included in the Making Waves teacher tool kits on February 24th. The toolkits are part of Four Bands' Making Waves program and provide lessons that integrate financial literacy and entrepreneurship education into K – 12 classrooms.

