



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 13, 2024

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Stevenson High School Students Win Financial Literacy Competition, Head to Cleveland for Nationals May 19-20

*State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, UIC sponsored
Illinois Personal Finance Challenge*

SPRINGFIELD – A team of students from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire is headed to the [National Personal Finance Challenge](#) in Cleveland on May 19-20 after winning a state competition sponsored by the University of Illinois Chicago’s Center for Economic Education and Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs’ Office.

Stevenson students Sid Singh, Sahana Harini Raja and Yug Mehta emerged victorious in a contest that provided students with an opportunity to build, apply, and demonstrate their knowledge in areas like earning income, spending, saving, managing credit, investing, and managing risk.

“Financial literacy is not a subject. It is a skill for lifetime,” Singh said. “Earning money is important but understanding money is critical.”

Raja said she appreciated overcoming challenges during the competition.

“My experience has been a blend of intellectual stimulation, enjoyable discoveries, and profound rewards,” she said. “Each moment spent delving into new concepts sparks curiosity and challenges my thinking, making the journey both engaging and thought-provoking.”

Teams competed through an online exam in fall 2023 and spring 2024. Top-scoring teams then took part in a virtual case study for the Illinois semifinal round.

“The students really enjoyed the case studies and making the video,” said Stevenson economics teacher Sandra Wright, who worked with the students involved in the competition.

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This year, 544 students from 16 schools comprised the participating 137 teams. Community High School in West Chicago is also headed to Cleveland. The four other semi-finals schools were Kenwood Academy High School in Chicago, Collinsville High School in Collinsville, Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora, and College Preparatory School of America in Lombard.

The competition is held each year, and students from this year's winning teams highly recommend it.

"I would absolutely recommend this competition to family and friends," Mehta said. "This competition provides participants with a meaningful experience educating students about realistic financial situations and how to be financially responsible while also fostering fun times and memories."

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs advocates for the importance of financial literacy at every age. Illinois residents have access to free resources on topics like saving for an emergency, retirement planning, planning for a child's education, managing debt, buying a home and estate planning at the [FinWell Hub website](#).

"I am a strong believer in giving people the tools so they can invest in themselves," Frerichs said. "We wish the teams from Lincolnshire and West Chicago the best of luck in Cleveland."

About the Illinois Treasurer

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is a powerful economic engine that invests in people to drive prosperity, development and growth throughout the state. As State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs (FRAIR'-iks) is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$60 billion. The investments help families pay for college and trade school; workers save for a dignified retirement; and local governments process bill payments more efficiently so they can pass along the savings to taxpayers. The office provides financial institutions money to loan to farmers, small business owners, and qualified individuals at below-market rates because better jobs create stronger communities. The office operates the state's largest consumer-protection initiative, the missing money I-Cash program, which has returned a record-breaking \$1.9 billion since Frerichs was elected.

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