



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 27, 2025

CONTACT:

Eric Krol 312.814.1252

Naperville Central High School Students Win Financial Literacy Competition Head to Atlanta for Nationals June 1-2

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

A team of students from Naperville Central High School is headed to the [National Personal Finance Challenge](#) in Atlanta on June 1-2 after winning a state competition sponsored by the University of Illinois Chicago's Center for Economic Education and Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs' Office.

Coached by social studies teacher C. David Ashton, Naperville Central students Rohan Jha, Rohan Jain, Audrey Cheng and Michael Antipov 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.

"The skills I've gained and the lessons I've learned will serve me life long, along with some lasting memories of the fun I had along the way preparing and competing with my teammates," said Jha, who took part in the competition for three years.

Jain said he learned skills that he can use in the future.

"In an age where transactions have become instant, it is more important than ever to learn how to properly manage your finances," Jain said. "The [Illinois Personal Finance Challenge](#) gives a window of opportunity to learn applicable lifelong knowledge."

Teams competed through an online exam in fall 2024 and spring 2025. Top-scoring teams then took part in a virtual case study for the Illinois state finals.

This year, 635 students participated in teams across the state. College Preparatory School of America in Lombard won second place and Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora won third place. Other semi-finalists included Collinsville High School, Lincoln Community High School, and Southwestern High School in Piasa.

-MORE-

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

"I'm happy I'm able to walk away from the competitions with new skills and knowledge," Cheng said. "You and your team walk away with valuable life skills that will benefit you for a lifetime."

Illinois 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 team from Naperville Central the best of luck in Atlanta."

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 unclaimed property I-Cash program, which has returned a record-breaking \$2.2 billion since Frerichs was elected.

For more news about the State Treasurer's Office, please follow Treasurer Frerichs on Instagram at [ILTreasurer](#), [LinkedIn](#) and Facebook at [Invested in You – Treasurer Michael Frerichs](#). You can find our weekly newsletter [here](#).

-END-