



WPI

Dollars and \$ense

Financial Wellness Newsletter, C-term 2016

Financial Literacy

Workshops:

Upcoming sessions...

Education Tax Credits: How They Work

Fri. Jan. 29th

1:00 – 2:00pm

Sports & Rec Center, '61 Meeting Room

Join us and Brendan Leahey, CPA, as he talks about tax credits & deductions available for college students. Don't leave money on the table!

Homebuyer Workshop:

Wed. Feb. 3rd

12:00 – 1:00pm

Higgins House, Great Hall

Join us and real estate expert Erika Hall, *Keller Williams*, for an informative discussion about owning real estate. Topics include buying vs. renting, buying for investment, how student loan debt affects credit, etc.

*This event is open to the full WPI Community! Welcome students, faculty, & staff!

Pizza will be served & prizes will be raffled at all sessions!

Every session you attend you're one step closer to winning our Grand Prize – a pair of Beats by Dre headphones! There will be 2 winners this year!

Register now on [Regi25](#) or on [Facebook](#)!



We'll be having more sessions throughout the year! Keep an eye out at: www.wpi.edu/+FinLit

New Year, New Name...

Notice anything different?

Announcing the Office of Student Aid & Financial Literacy!

For years we've been known as the Office of Financial Aid, but that's only been half of what we do here in our office. Our office has been renamed and rebranded as the Office of Student Aid & Financial Literacy!

Our financial literacy program has been immensely successful for several years now and has helped our students to be better prepared to properly manage their finances in a way that will lead to smart choices and financial security for the rest of their lives.

Be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#) for updates and to always know what FinLit sessions are coming down the pipeline (hint: something REALLY big in February!).

Savings Challenge #4

The 52 Weeks Challenge – Make this your New Year's Resolution!

This is a super popular one, and for good reason: it only requires you to put money into a jar once a week, and the savings are significant!

Get a big jar, box, what have you. Determine which day of the week works best with your schedule (establishing a routine always helps – or set a calendar reminder on your phone!) so that you will stick with it. Then it's time to get serious! On week 1 put \$1 in the jar, week 2 put \$2, and so on. The final week of the year you should be putting \$52 in the jar.

If you stick with it, your reward at the end of the year will be well worth it: \$1,378! Whoa.

Launch Your Financial Future!

Win a free 32" Smart TV, Beats by Dre headphones, and so much more!

**Tuesday, February 23rd
4-6pm, Alden Hall**

This is THE EVENT OF THE YEAR! Stop reading and put this in your calendar now! Ok...The Office of Student Aid & Financial Literacy has partnered with Country Bank to offer our students the first ever college financial literacy fair! Here's what's in store:

Financial experts: There will be 10 booths on 10 different topics – something for everyone...

- Employment Benefits
- Transportation
- Budgeting
- Insurance
- Housing
- Credit
- Student Loans
- Fraud Prevention

2016-2017 Requirements:

All returning students applying for need-based financial aid must complete the [Upper Class Application \(due March 18th\)](#), and the [FAFSA \(due April 15th\)](#) each year. Both are available now!

The UCA does need to be hand signed by both a parent & the student – no electronic signatures will be accepted! UCAs should be mailed to our Processing Center (address is included on the form). More information can be found on our [website](#).



Suggestions for workshops:

Questions/comments about our financial literacy program? Send us an email at FinLit@wpi.edu



Gilman Scholarship:

Do you plan to study abroad next fall semester? Are you a Federal Pell Grant recipient? Are you a U.S. citizen? If you answered yes to these 3 questions, then you may be eligible to apply for the [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#). The online application opens in mid-January and is due by **March 1st**. Please check your email in the coming weeks for an invitation to apply.

CashCourse:

As a WPI student you are eligible to take advantage of CashCourse for free! This site offers tons of free resources to help you manage your finances. Everything from creating a budget to comparing job offers. Sign up to today at www.cashcourse.org



Contact Us:

Office of Student Aid & Financial Literacy
2nd Floor, Bartlett Center
Phone: 508-831-5469
Email: FinAid@wpi.edu
www.wpi.edu/+FinAid
Mon. – Fri. 8:00am – 5:00pm

Our office will be closed on Monday, January 18th for Martin Luther King Day.

Saving & Investing Career Development

Guest speakers: This event has already garnered so much attention that we're lucky enough to have Massachusetts Treasurer Deb Goldberg and Massachusetts Senator Michael Moore attend! Both will be speaking at the start of the event, so be sure to come early!

Prizes: Random drawings throughout the event for tons of **gift cards!** The more booths you visit, the more entries you get for the big raffles!

One lucky winner will go home with a **32" Smart TV!**

All attendees will also be entered for our end-of-year Grand Prize – a pair of **Beats by Dre headphones!** Visit all 10 booths and receive 10 entries! There will be 2 winners – announced in D-term!

*Bonus: The first 50 students in the door will get a **free T-shirt!** So come early!

Food: We don't want you to have to worry about rushing through the fair in order to make it to the dining hall for dinner, so we'll be offering free pizza at the fair! Eat. Learn. Win.

We encourage you to register in advance at [Regi25](#) so that you can be kept up to date as the fair approaches. This way we can send you a reminder the morning of the fair!

FSA IDs

An important change when filing your FAFSA

In order to fill out the FAFSA you will now need to create an FSA ID, made up of a username and password that you create. Gone are the days of FAFSA PINs. Similarly to your FAFSA PIN, your FSA ID should not be shared with anyone, not even your parents! The FSA IDs are meant to be much more secure and eliminate instances of multiple PINs for the same individual.

Your FSA ID will be used to complete and sign the FAFSA, import your tax information onto your FAFSA via the Data Retrieval Tool, access your Student Aid Report (SAR), sign your Master Promissory Note, and complete your loan exit counseling.

The Department of Education has released a really helpful video that makes the process super simple! Check it out [here!](#)

5 Ways to Protect from ID Theft

You may be making yourself an easy target without even knowing it. Here are some easy steps to take to protect your identity.

1. **Don't keep your Social Security card in your wallet:** Leave it at home, in a safe place. There are very few situations in life where you actually need to produce your card so don't carry it around on a daily basis, and don't write the number on a piece of paper and carry that around either (does that go without saying?). Commit it to memory!
2. **Be mindful of talking in public:** Especially when you're on your cell. People can eavesdrop and write down any financial or personal information that you disclose. You may be too engrossed in your conversation to even notice.
3. **Be wary of "internet friends":** People are not always who they say they are. Don't let yourself get catfished! Even seemingly innocuous questions could lead to big trouble. "Where were you born?" could lead them right to tracking down your birth certificate.
4. **Don't put financial information on your resume:** Never put your SSN, date of birth, place of birth, or other financial information on your resume. Thieves will often prey on unemployed people who might be willing to share their information in the hopes of gaining employment.
5. **Don't trade financial information for freebies:** Many legitimate organizations will offer freebies in exchange for your info, but because of this, sometimes thieves will do the same. You might be putting your info directly into the hands of someone who plans to exploit you. The second you fill out that fake credit card app, it's already too late. Is that free T-shirt worth having your identity stolen?

Source: Bankrate.com