

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sunwest Bank Provides Funding for Financial Literacy Lessons to Students in Orange County

California Council on Economic Education recently received \$10,000 for EconWorks to reinforce Sunwest Bank's commitment to financial education in Orange County.

LOS ANGELES, CA (December 5, 2012) — Sunwest Bank is helping hundreds of Orange County teachers and thousands of students improve their financial literacy knowledge and skills.

Sunwest Bank is providing funding and technical assistance to bring financial literacy lessons to the Orange County area, with a focus on low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.

Training will be done in partnership with California Council on Economic Education, the leading provider of financial literacy training to California's K–12 teachers, using their innovative, online learning platform, EconWorks.

The highly scalable platform will deliver two programs: MoneyWiseTeen and Teacher Guide to California Economic Standards. All lessons align with California's Common Core Standards in Mathematics, Reading, English Language Arts and History/Social Studies.

The award-winning MoneyWiseTeen program uses 10 animated stories relevant to teens to teach lessons, such as: Benefit/Cost Analysis, Decision Making and Scarcity and Alternatives. Teacher Guide training includes 23 lessons to help teachers select the right lesson for their classroom, including Cost of Choice, Challenges in the Labor Market and Saving and Investing.

“Lack of solid personal financial literacy is an epidemic in California. Weak financial skills have the potential to leave the state with a generation of young people who are not prepared for tomorrow's global economy,” noted William Coffin, CCEE Chairman. “With Sunwest Bank's support, EconWorks allows us to reach more teachers and students in rural and urban areas.”

“Supporting EconWorks reinforces our mission to foster a philanthropic corporate culture and to assist people in need within the Bank's communities,” said Chris Walsh, President and CEO at Sunwest Bank. “Our primary focus is caring for vulnerable children by providing for their basic needs and financial literacy has become more important than ever.”

About California Council on Economic Education

For nearly a half-century, California Council on Economic Education, a nonprofit organization, has been dedicated to advancing the economic reasoning and financial literacy of Californians. CCEE prepares students to participate in the global economy by providing educational



programs and materials to K–12 teachers. Information about professional development for teachers, workshops, programs and student contests can be found at www.ccee.org.

About Sunwest Bank

With over 40 years in business, Sunwest Bank is one of the strongest community banks in the western region of the United States. Named a “Best Performer” in American Banker magazine’s May 2012 issue, Sunwest Bank was ranked fourth out of the 200 top community banks and thrifts nationwide, as ranked by a three-year average return on equity. Sunwest Bank has banking offices in Anaheim, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Tustin, and San Clemente, California. In addition, the bank has branches in Flagstaff and Cottonwood, Arizona. The bank specializes in meeting the credit and cash management needs of small and mid-size businesses. Visit www.sunwestbank.com to learn more.

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