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Students' Net Worth Soars by Flexing their Financial Fitness

Thousands of High School Students Nationwide Compete for [College Scholarships](#) from H&R Block

(KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 17, 2009)—Fifty percent of high school seniors fail when tested on general personal financial knowledge but H&R Block is working to improve students' financial fitness through a new philanthropic program. Getting a job, coordinating transportation, improving their credit score and paying bills are just a few of the challenges thousands of high school students nationwide are now learning how to handle through H&R Block Dollars & Sense™.

[H&R Block Dollars & Sense](#) has donated more than \$1 million in personal finance curriculum grants to high schools nationwide. The grants provide Virtual Business-Personal Finance interactive software and 18 lesson plans that assist teachers with [personal finance education](#). In addition to the curriculum, the H&R Block Dollars & Sense National Challenge lets students who demonstrate an understanding of personal finance skills compete for more than \$50,000 in college scholarships.

"The experience gained by playing Virtual Business-Personal Finance could not have come from a classroom environment. The Challenge allowed us to consider many aspects of life we never considered before," said Taran Patel, a student at Kamiakin High School in Kennewick, Wash.

Students like Patel aren't just playing. They're learning real-life skills in a fun, interactive environment. "The Knowledge Matters simulation donated by H&R Block provides students with some of the most critical life lessons today," said Greg Eppes, a teacher from Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas. "With an economy that relies on credit cards and debt, it is encouraging to see a company incorporate technology in a fun learning atmosphere to provide students with positive lessons in education, hard work and personal finance. The kids are begging to learn every day."

H&R Block partnered with [DECA](#) to execute the National Challenge. Teams of one to three students register to compete in two online qualifying challenges. Based on their net worth from the virtual world, the top eight scoring teams from each online challenge will advance to the finals at the 2010 DECA International Career Development Conference, April 24-27 in Louisville, Ky. The first online challenge ended November 20 with more than 4,500 students competing. Qualifying schools represent Nebraska, Illinois, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington, Arizona and Canada. The second online challenge will be conducted January 4-29, 2010.

The winning three teams will be decided at the National Challenge finals and will receive the following prizes:

- \$10,000 scholarships for each first place team member
- \$5,000 scholarships for each second place team member
- \$2,000 scholarships for each third place team member
- \$2,500 classroom grant for winning team advisors

To learn more about increasing teens' [financial fitness](#) and scholarship opportunities available through H&R Block Dollars & Sense, visit hrblockdollarsandsense.com.

About the Partners

H&R Block Inc. (NYSE: HRB) is the world's preeminent tax services provider, providing income tax return preparation and related services and products via a nationwide network of approximately 13,000 company-owned and franchised offices.

H&R Block launched H&R Block Dollars & Sense™ to increase the [financial fitness](#) of high school students through a partnership with Knowledge Matters and DECA. Knowledge Matters is a leading developer and publisher of educational software. DECA is an international student organization with over 185,000 student members. DECA is committed to the advocacy of marketing education and the growth of business and education partnerships.