

News of Education

Free Lessons On Money Have Much Value

(NAPSA)—An educational program based on quarters is considered by many to be a shining example of how to make learning fun.

The United States Mint offers free lesson plans based on its popular 50 State Quarters™ Program. More than 125 million Americans collect these quarters. Now the quarters are also being used to teach students lessons steeped in the history, geography and the heritage of each state, as well as lessons in mathematics.

For the second year in a row of the ten-year state quarter program, the U.S. Mint developed three distinct sets of lesson plans, one each for kindergarten and first grade, second and third grade, and fourth through sixth grade using each year's new quarters. The lesson plans are designed by a panel of elementary school teachers and reviewed by education experts.

In a survey conducted earlier this year, 70 percent of the teachers who used the lesson plans gave them an overall rating of high satisfaction, with none of them expressing any dissatisfaction.

Eighty-one percent said they were satisfied with the plans' educational value and 85 percent with their ease of use.

"I have found the quality of the lessons and their ease of imple-



The 50 State Quarters™ Program aims to educate all Americans.

mentation to be excellent," said Janis Paushter, a principal in Fairfax, Virginia. "I believe that the teachers at my school and teachers at other schools across the country, who will receive these plans, will particularly enjoy the cross-curricular approach of the lessons."

The lesson plans have been described as some of the best history plans available because they are current, pertinent and real.

"The use of graphs, Venn diagrams, word problems, map reading, etc., are critical to the development of elementary age students," said Paushter.

The 2001 50 State Quarters™ Lesson Plans are available online free-of-charge. To download a copy, visit the U.S. Mint Web site at www.USMINT.gov and locate them under "Mint Programs/Education Initiative."