

LEARNING LIFE SKILLS

Program Helps Students Make Sense Of Dollars

(NAPSA)—Merrill Lynch, the nation's largest brokerage firm, is using an educational program to invest in young people.

Students will learn what makes it possible to own a business, buy a home, live debt-free and make it to college. Personal finance, investing, taxes, savings, career and ethics are also part of the course.

The program is built on the need for young people to have a better understanding of how money works. Recent survey results indicate that 60 percent of all students and 75 percent of low-income students lack a basic grasp of financial terms and principles. It is also a response to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan's call for greater involvement on the part of corporations and advocacy groups to educate youth on finance.

The program—called Investing Pays Off (IPO)—was created by the National Foundation For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) for the Merrill Lynch Foundation. For 16 years, NFTE has been teaching low-income young people, ages 11 through 18, what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

The goal is to help them become productive members of society by improving their academic, business, technology and life skills.

If Laima A. Tazmin is any indication, it is doing just that. A program graduate and—at 13—the owner of her own Web site design business, Tazmin said, "The skills that I learned have already changed my life and made a big difference in the way I look at myself and the world around me."



A new program is designed to help low-income students become financially literate.

To date, NFTE has worked with over 65,000 low-income, underserved young people in programs across the country and around the world.

"The Merrill Lynch Foundation," said Eddy Bayardelle, Ph.D., FVP at Merrill Lynch and Head of Global Philanthropy, "focuses our support on programs that build a world of increased opportunity for underserved children and youth. With this program we seek to promote exciting, new long-term partnerships that will result in serving unmet needs and involve volunteers from our workforce."

Through the Foundation, the brokerage has contributed over \$100 million to philanthropic programs since 2000.

To learn more about the Investing Pays Off program or to download a free, 15-lesson curriculum visit the Web site at www.ml.com/philanthropy/ipo.