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Merrimack Valley Credit Union partners with Methuen High School to host inaugural Credit for Life Fair

Senior class attends reality simulation

METHUEN, MASS. — On Friday, April 13, Methuen High School and Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) held the Credit for Life Fair for the high school's class of graduating seniors. The two-hour real life simulation introduced students to managing a budget and making financial decisions based on the income of a 25 year old in a profession of their choice.

The class of nearly 500 students stopped at 17 booths throughout the field house, including Housing, Transportation, Utilities, Clothing, Savings & Investments, and Fun, Fun, Fun! Each booth had a series of expenses, some required and some optional, and students had to decide which was right for their lifestyle and their income.

"Managing a budget and making financial decisions are situations that young adults are going to encounter in their lives," said Peter Matthews, MVCU President & CEO, and volunteer at the Fun, Fun, Fun! booth. "We were honored to have the opportunity to work with Methuen High School to provide these life-long lessons to these students as they graduate and start managing their own money."

Students also had to spin the Reality Wheel, which was covered in possible surprise expenses or income opportunities. Depending on where the wheel landed they may have experienced a \$1,000 expense for identity theft or a \$900 tax refund. The seniors then had to figure out how to make their budgets work after accounting for this unexpected cost or windfall.

The fair was made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts State Treasury. Additional funding and donations were provided by Merrimack Valley Credit Union, Heavenly Donuts, Valley 98.9 Radio, Paul Minear of Liberty Mutual Insurance, and the Methuen Public Schools Food Services.

The booths were staffed by local and state officials, and local volunteers. The planning team consisted of Judy Scannell, Superintendent of Methuen Public Schools; Richard Barden, Methuen High School Principal; Kristen Thomas, Methuen High School Associate Principal; Yean-Ai Long, VP of Marketing at MVCU; Anthony Marino, VP of Operations at MVCU; Andrea Manseau, MVCU Marketing Specialist;

Wendi Moreau, MVCU Methuen Branch Manager; and David Floreen, the co-chair of Andover High School's Credit for Life Fair.

About Merrimack Valley Credit Union

Merrimack Valley Credit Union is a \$600 million asset not-for-profit community credit union serving anyone who lives, works or worships in the Merrimack Valley region. MVCU offers a wide range of services to meet the financial needs of its members, and has branch locations in Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, and North Andover, Mass., and Plaistow and Seabrook, N.H. To learn more about Merrimack Valley Credit Union, please visit www.mvcu.com.

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