PRESS RELEASE

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Methuen High School Seniors Participate in 'Credit for Life' Fair with Merrimack Valley Credit Union

Experiential event taught nearly 350 MHS seniors about personal finance and budgeting

Lawrence, Mass (April 17, 2019) – Knowing that financial literacy is not currently part of the state public school curriculum, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) partnered with Methuen High School to bridge that gap with a hands-on experience for students. On Friday, April 12, nearly 350 Methuen High School seniors participated in the second annual "Credit for Life" Fair, designed to equip them with the budgeting and personal finance skills they'll need to be successful after graduation.

"As a community credit union, we strongly believe in helping everyone – no matter how old or young – acquire a solid foundation of personal finance and budgeting skills to help them manage their finances," said John J. Howard, President and CEO, Merrimack Valley Credit Union. "Teaming up with Methuen High School to host the experiential 'Credit for Life' Fair is just one of the ways we're helping community members prepare for their future. We look forward to working with these students as they get ready for graduation and the excitement that waits beyond."

Over the course of a two-hour fair, students selected a career and created budgets with the corresponding salary to guide their decision-making process. The students then visited 16 booths that represent financial decisions they would encounter as adults, making choices that are both required (housing, insurance, education) and discretionary (vacation, gym membership). While navigating the booths, students also spun the "Wheel of Misfortune" to receive unanticipated events, which could obliterate or save their budgets.

Once students visited all 16 booths and made their financial decisions, whether they stayed within that budget or not, they met with credit counselors individually to discuss financial choices and results. Knowing financial decisions and security can impact all aspects of an individual's life, counselors reviewed each student's budget and provided feedback on making more informed financial decisions.

"Preparing graduates for post-secondary life is an enormous responsibility. Financial literacy is a critical lifelong skill that students must acquire to enjoy future success," said Richard Barden, Principal, Methuen High School. "Through our partnership with Merrimack Valley Credit Union, we have been fortunate to provide our students with a fun and engaging way to experience real life financial decision making. The Credit for Life Fair allows students to have conversations with community members, who encourage them to be thoughtful while making informed decisions. We are grateful for the support of MVCU and look forward to continuing to provide students with this unique educational experience."

Caption 1: On Friday, April 12, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) partnered with Methuen High School to host the second annual "Credit for Life" Fair, teaching nearly 350 seniors the budgeting and personal finance skills they'll need to be successful after graduation. Pictured above, Anthony Marino, Senior Vice President, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (left) speaks with three Methuen High School seniors from the credit counseling table.

Caption 2: On Friday, April 12, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) partnered with Methuen High School to host the second annual "Credit for Life" Fair, teaching nearly 350 seniors the budgeting and personal finance skills they'll need to be successful after graduation. Pictured above, Danielle Collins, Director of School Nutrition Services, Methuen School District (right), speaks with two Methuen High School seniors about health situations that may impact their finances in the future.

About Merrimack Valley Credit Union

Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) is a state-chartered community credit union with $1 billion in assets. MVCU serves anyone who lives, works, volunteers, or attends school in the Merrimack Valley region or Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk or Plymouth counties. MVCU offers a wide range of savings and loan products to meet the financial needs of its members, and has 10 branch locations in Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth, and Quincy Mass., and Plaistow and Seabrook, N.H.

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