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Financial Beginnings Partners with the Office of the Treasurer to Provide Free Reading Program to Oregon K-5 Students

50 Oregon College Savings Plan accounts, worth \$500 each, to be awarded

PORTLAND, Ore., November 29, 2010—[Financial Beginnings](http://www.financialbeginnings.org), a Portland-based nonprofit that provides financial education at no cost to children and young adults throughout the Pacific Northwest, today announced its partnership with the office of the Oregon State Treasurer and the Oregon College Savings Plan to offer the fifth-annual Reading is an Investment program to all Oregon elementary students in grades K-5.

The Reading is an Investment program will be presented to Oregon elementary students in conjunction with the Banking on Our Future program administered by Financial Beginnings. This program utilizes trained volunteers to teach students the basics of banking, budgeting, the power of credit, and sound investing.

Reading is an Investment is an effort designed to highlight the importance of reading, while teaching children about the world of money and basic financial concepts. By participating in the program, students will be entered into a drawing to win one of 50 Oregon College Savings Plan accounts worth \$500 each, and receive a prize packet and a certificate of achievement from the State Treasurer for participating in the program. Additionally, each public elementary school library in Oregon will receive two books that focus on personal finance for children, *The Penny Pot* and *Rickshaw Girl*.

"Providing Reading is an Investment and Banking on Our Future combines two great programs that teach vital life skills to Oregon students," said Melody Thompson, executive director of Financial Beginnings. "Literacy and financial education are the building blocks for making informed financial decisions now and throughout life, and we are pleased to partner with the Office of the Treasurer and the Oregon College Savings Plan to reach even more students this year."

For additional program details, please visit <http://www.ost.state.or.us> and click on the "Reading is an Investment" link, or contact the Office of the State Treasurer at 503-378-4329.

About Financial Beginnings

Formed in 2005 and based in Portland, OR, Financial Beginnings is a nonprofit organization that provides multi-session courses, free of charge, to students and young adults

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throughout the Pacific Northwest through visits to their individual schools or community groups. The courses incorporate all aspects of personal finance to provide individuals the foundation needed to make informed financial decisions. More information is available at www.financialbeginnings.org.