UAlbany’s Financial Literacy Initiative

Danes, Dollars & Sense
The University at Albany is committed to helping students reach their personal goals and preparing them for life after college. The financial decisions made as a student will have lasting consequences. The goal of this initiative is to provide students with the skills necessary to make informed, effective decisions about personal finance, debt and savings.

A Financial Literacy Team, comprised of 5 staff members (from Student Financial Services) implemented a soft roll out of the program in 2014. Approximately 600 UAlbany and local high school students participated and provided feedback, which shape both content and delivery method of the program. Traditional in-person and online workshops are offered throughout the semester. The initiative utilizes SUNY’s Smart Track program* as a tool in an effort to support SUNY’s student financial literacy mission. Incentives are offered to participants to complete a series of workshops.

April 2016 (Financial Literacy Month) marked the official launch of the Great Danes, Dollars & Sense program on campus. The Financial Literacy Team is working with the institution to incorporate peer counseling into the program in addition to wrapping this educational outreach into UNI course syllabi which is required for all freshmen. Outreach also occurs to both students and families during summer orientation.

*SUNY Smart Track Program
SUNY has partnered with the Inceptia Financial Avenue program to deliver a best-in-class financial education opportunity to all SUNY students. Financial Avenue is a series of 10 online courses based on the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Financial Literacy and Education Commission’s financial education core competencies. Courses include such topics as: College and Money; Credit; Debt and Repayment; Loan Guidance; Spending and Borrowing to name a few.