



## **Grants provide teachers finance training from Wall Street**

January 2, 2008

Wall Street West is training high school teachers in northeast Pennsylvania in the finer points of finance in hopes of sparking students to enter the financial services field.

Misericordia University and the University of Scranton recently received more than \$153,000 in grants from Wall Street West to establish the Financial Literacy Institute for Junior and High School Teachers and Students. The two universities matched these grants for a total of more than \$300,000.

The institute will train high school teachers in a nine-county area — including Monroe County — in financial literacy skills. Funding will pay for substitute teachers, teaching materials and fees for graduate course or Act 48 credits.

Wall Street West is a federal- and state-funded program that was created to develop a backup solution for New York City's financial institutions in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Misericordia and Scranton universities will work in conjunction with Northampton Community College, Economics Pa, Susquehanna Patriot Bank and Intermediate Units 14, 19, 20 and 21.

The financial services sector needs a skilled workforce and has seized on junior and senior high school-level instruction as the most effective way to train future workers. Teachers in the region, however, lack the training and teaching materials they need.

The institute will provide training and teaching materials to teachers in Berks, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike and Wayne counties. The institute will reach 2,000 students during the first year of funding and 2,000 in each subsequent year in which the program is funded.

The institute will offer classroom training to 100 teachers in grades 7-12 across the nine Wall Street West counties through interactive video conferencing. The teachers will be trained to teach selected financial economics skills to their students. In turn, the newly trained teachers will serve as resources for other teachers in their respective schools.

The program will also tie selected financial services industry skills to Pennsylvania academic standards in career education and work, economics and mathematics.

Training begins Jan. 22-23, when John Sumansky, director of the Center for Economic Education at Misericordia University, and Edward Schahill of the University of Scranton, teach a course with selected teachers through interactive video online to about 10 educational sites.

For more information about the institute, please call Misericordia University at (570) 674-6400 or visit online at [www.misericordia.edu](http://www.misericordia.edu).