

NEWS

University of South Carolina Lancaster
Lancaster, SC 29720



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
LANCASTER

A Regional Palmetto College

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First Personal Finance bootcamp a success!

USC Lancaster offered a free 6-hour personal bootcamp for the community on April 4, 6, and 7 with over 140 in attendance each night. As part of its Town and Gown initiative, the University of South Carolina Lancaster offered the community a FREE Personal Finance Bootcamp to enrich citizens' mastery over their personal and generational wealth. The target market for the bootcamp was middle, high school, college students and their parents or legal guardians. Dr. Walter Collins, Palmetto College Dean at USC Lancaster, noted, "We wanted to make this a family enriching program to include the entire family unit allowing parents to echo the basic financial principles and learn a few new ones too."

The bootcamp was funded in part by a Horizon Education Grant awarded by the Arras Foundation. Mr. Albert Blackmon, USCL's Director of Corporate Partnership and Engagement and Adjunct Faculty, stated "Most adults agree that students should be exposed to personal finance concepts in secondary school (middle and high school in particular), yet today it's not a required course. Based on USCL's desire to execute an effective Town and Gown initiative, I wanted to do something to help our community become more knowledgeable about personal finance. I felt the need to offer some sort of educational exposure to personal finance for parents, legal guardians and adults too; hence the request for the Horizon Education Grant."

Many organizations and institutions made it possible to offer a FREE program to the public which featured dinner each evening, over 30 door prizes, and a wealth of information delivered via the program's "Drill Sergeants" aka Business Professors at USC Lancaster. In addition to the Arras Foundation, many other community partners made the bootcamp a success. Additional partners included Founders Federal Credit Union, Comporium, Nutramax Laboratories, the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce, the Gregory Family YMCA, Sharonview Federal Credit Union and various departments within USC Lancaster (USCL Bookstore, Admissions Office, Palmetto College, TRiO Programs, Maintenance and Custodial, Office of the Dean, and Public Information).

The bootcamp presenters included Prof. Albert Blackmon, Prof. Phillip Parker, Prof. Stan Emanuel, Prof. Mike Sherrill and Prof. Brandon Newton, all of whom teach Personal Finance (FINA 369) at USC Lancaster. Topics from the bootcamp included budgeting, planning, taxes, credit scores/reports, emergency funds, retirement, and financial advisors to name a few. The drill sergeants were engaging and pushed the attendees to dig deep when assessing their financial wellbeing. Based on the survey results from the participants, the bootcamp was very informative, professional, and thought provoking. As attendee Linda Brumskine stated, "I walked away with a much better understanding of my finances, and more importantly, I'm eager to get my finance house in order to build my personal and generational wealth."

Based on the high registration rate and actual attendance, USC Lancaster plans to partner with Founders Federal Credit Union and the Arras Foundation to establish a routine personal finance program. A collaborative program is forthcoming under its new name of Learn2Earn. Keep watching for announcements regarding the next program which is tentatively planned for October 2022.

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