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FORT WORTH, TX -- First Command Educational Foundation (FCEF) has announced a \$10,000 donation from the Phillip and Janice Levin Foundation to promote financial literacy education. The unrestricted gift will help the 24-year-old nonprofit public charity to broaden its outreach and provide money management training to more citizens.

“We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Levin Foundation,” said Vickie C. Mauldin, Executive Director of FCEF. “Our organization is passionate about empowering consumers with the most thorough and up-to-date information available. We relish the experience and expertise this partnership brings.”

The Levin Foundation, headquartered in North Plainfield, New Jersey, has dedicated significant resources to education. It funds several long-standing scholarship programs at Rutgers University’s Mason Gross School of the Arts, as well as both Rutgers’ Law Schools (Newark and Camden). The foundation also sponsors a scholarship at New York University Medical Center.

Outside of the university systems, the foundation has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to support cultural literacy. It has helped subsidize Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) programs in partnership with WNET, and funded the construction and ongoing preservation of the Philip and Janice Levin Music Center in Tel Aviv, Israel. Additionally, the Levin Foundation has been a major supporter of the New York City Parks Conservancy, the Foundation of Art and Preservation in Embassies, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and a variety of dance and music programs at Lincoln Center.

“Supporting education has been one of the hallmarks of our foundation throughout its history,” said Adam Levin, President of the Levin Foundation. “It is central to our mission, and that includes ongoing adult education. We believe the objectives of FCEF are very compatible with our goals.

Levin is co-founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Credit.com, Inc., an online source for credit education, advice, consumer advocacy, and financial products and services. He is also Chairman and co-founder of Identity Theft 911, LLC, an identity theft education and resolution provider serving over 300 institutional clients that represent more than 10 million households.

FCEF has also dedicated its resources to promoting financial and credit literacy to teenagers and young adults. “One of our most important achievements is the creation and publication of a curriculum for Texas high schools that addresses the unfunded mandate to provide financial literacy to juniors and seniors,” Mauldin added. “Our 12-module manual was approved for statewide distribution by the Texas State Board of Education. In addition to the contribution to FCEF, Credit.com also provided editorial assistance for the credit education portion of the curriculum.”

“The most important thing we, as partners, can do is to provide consumers with real-world education and tools they can use every day, ones that actually help them manage their resources better, rather than just providing abstract lessons,” Levin explained. “Sound money-management tools and techniques often exclude vital subject areas, such as credit education, for example. This is a huge mistake. Using credit wisely plays a major role in our financial well being, and this holds true whether you’re just getting started in life, buying a house, or building a significant portfolio. All too often, wealth-building education emphasizes the investment portfolio but ignores the *credit* portfolio. This strikes me as being very odd given that credit has such a profound impact on our financial lives, such as the interest rates we pay and the loan terms we receive. We want to help consumers learn how to honestly evaluate their financial circumstances and give them the knowledge they need to take charge of their situations.”

“Since 2001, FCEF has distributed more than \$3.5 million in scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students across the country,” Mauldin explained. “We also have provided over 500 classes to more than 40,000 participants. The subjects of our classes range from how to create a spending plan to retirement savings. Our goal is to provide the tools and knowledge base for good money management, including the intelligent use of credit. These classes are provided to consumers at little or no cost.”

“It has always baffled me that most of us graduate high school knowing trigonometry but not knowing how to balance a checkbook or monitor our credit reports,” said Levin. “While honing mathematical skills is valuable, learning financial life skills is practically a matter of survival. We hope this partnership helps fill some of the significant financial educational gaps consumers face.”

FCEF’s dual mission is to increase financial literacy and provide scholarships for higher education. Organized in 1983 as a 501(c)(3) private foundation to provide scholarships to military personnel and their families, FCEF began broadening its efforts at the turn of the century and, in 2006, obtained public charity status.

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