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## Teens win cash awards in state essay contest

(Salem) — The Department of Consumer & Business Services presented checks to three Oregon teens who won an investment literacy essay contest.

The department's Division of Finance and Corporate Securities (DFCS) awarded a first-place \$1,500 check to Alexander Angstadt, a 14-year-old home-schooled student from Grants Pass. Angstadt is the son of Peter and Denise Angstadt.

The second-place \$1,000 prize went to Christine McReynolds, a 16-year-old sophomore at Cottage Grove High School. McReynolds, daughter of Kit and Pamela McReynolds, participates in volleyball, wind ensemble, and pep band.

Vladislav Kostin, a 17-year-old who recently graduated from Hermiston High School, won third place and \$500. Kostin, son of Larry and Marina Picker, is involved with karate, the STARS program, and soon will receive his Eagle Scout award.

The judges selected the winning essays from 48 statewide submissions. Eric Kleinman, investor information coordinator for DFCS, said that, as in years past, this year's entrants did an outstanding job of addressing the contest's essay question: "How can good investment habits help you avoid bad personal debt?"

"It is so important for young people to develop the discipline and habits of sound financial decision making now, so that they can enter adulthood as savvy consumers and investors," Kleinman said.

DFCS launches the essay contest each April as part of Financial Literacy Month. The division contacts Oregon high schools and public libraries to solicit entries. This was the third year of the contest, and the first year a third-place prize was offered. The purpose of the contest is to get teens thinking about the benefits of saving, investing, and financial planning. All Oregonians aged 14 to 18 are eligible to enter essays.

Kleinman speaks to groups throughout Oregon about investment-related topics at no charge. To schedule a presentation, call (503) 378-4140 or e-mail [Eric.D.Kleinman@state.or.us](mailto:Eric.D.Kleinman@state.or.us).

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