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Public learns how to safeguard finances and identity when mitigating financial troubles

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25, 2014—Financial Beginnings, a Portland-based nonprofit that provides financial education programs, hosted an Unraveling the Mysteries of Your Money public forum on Tuesday night helping attendees safeguard their finances and identify when mitigating financial troubles.

Over 100 people were in attendance at the Tigard Library receiving answers to their questions about identity theft, scams, and predatory lending along with learning how to mitigate financial troubles and move forward. Panelists included Linda Navarro, CEO, Oregon Bankers Association; Diane Childs, State of Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services; Sgt. Jamey McDonald, Tigard Police Commercial Crimes Unit; and Clarke Balcom, Attorney, Clarke Balcom Law.

Eighty Eight percent of attendees said they are likely to change the way they think about identity theft and there were several requests for additional forums. Melody Bell, executive director of Financial Beginnings states, "The success of this program has helped consumers stay informed of the ever changing issues around their personal finances and I am happy that we can partner with Brent Hunsberger to provide this valuable resource. "

Unraveling the Mysteries of Your Money is a series of *free* forums open to the public. These forums provide expert panelists who field questions and discuss finance topics that are relevant and important in today's economy. The forums are organized and hosted by Financial Beginnings in partnership with The Oregonian newspaper and Brent Hunsberger, writer of the *It's Only Money* column on personal finance. The attendance numbers for these panels have been continually increasing. This was the last panel for the third year of the Unraveling the Mysteries of Your Money. Financial Beginnings will be announcing the fourth year's forum topics in June.

About Financial Beginnings

Formed in 2005 and based in Portland, OR, Financial Beginnings is a nonprofit organization that provides multi-session courses, free of charge, to students and young adults throughout the Pacific Northwest through visits to their individual schools or community groups. The courses incorporate all aspects of personal finance to provide individuals the foundation needed to make informed financial decisions. More information is available at www.financialbeginnings.org.