



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **California Department of Real Estate Launches Financial Literacy Outreach Program**

### ***Financial Sense to White Picket Fence***

Sacramento – In April 2010, designated as Financial Literacy Month in California, the California Department of Real Estate (DRE) launched its Financial Literacy Outreach Program. In an effort to educate all Californians to fully understand the complexities of real estate transactions, from school-aged kids to senior citizens, the DRE through this program and by partnering with other government agencies dedicated to Financial Literacy, will promote a wide range of activities, resources, workshops and other important events.

“Buying a home or getting a mortgage is the largest financial transaction most people will be involved in during their lifetime, yet few people really understand the complexities of these transactions,” said Real Estate Commissioner Jeff Davi. “Recent events in the market have complicated the issues even further. Through the Financial Literacy Outreach Program, consumers will be given the tools to make sound financial decisions regarding the purchase and financing of a home”.

The Financial Literacy Outreach Program is part of the DRE's continued consumer outreach efforts. In this regard, the DRE has partnered with the California Community Colleges who will host several Financial Literacy workshops to be conducted on California Community Colleges throughout the state by the end of 2010. These informative one-day workshops are presented by local Colleges for the educational benefit of the community and free to the public. This is not a commercial “home-ownership seminar” but a true opportunity for consumers positioning themselves to take advantage in today's affordable housing market.

The first Financial Literacy seminar will be held at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, California on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. The seminar entitled, *Financial Sense to White Picket Fence*, will educate consumers in the components of sustainable home ownership. The topics covered include: budgeting, saving, renting, home buying, understanding loan options, and maintaining one's home for the long term. Subsequent seminars are planned for community college locations in Ontario/San Bernardino (September), Long Beach (October), and Sacramento (November 2010).

The workshops are led by Christopher Sorensen, Homeownership Education Learning Program (H.E.L.P.) As the Founder and Executive Director of H.E.L.P., Chris has taught thousands of homeowners and home buyers about their rights as well as their responsibilities of homeownership. The H.E.L.P program believes that a well prepared homeowner or home buyer is a benefit to not only themselves but their community as a whole.

These are free workshops brought to you by the California Community College System in partnership with the DRE. All interested consumers are urged to attend. You do not have to be a community college student to attend. Spanish language simulcast will be available. Detailed event information and preregistration is available at [www.CaliforniaFinancialLiteracy.org](http://www.CaliforniaFinancialLiteracy.org). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook group *California Financial Literacy*.

For more information about the DRE Financial Literacy Outreach Program, please go to the DRE's web site [www.dre.ca.gov](http://www.dre.ca.gov) and click on the Financial Literacy section for current information and events.