

# POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Money Thing course gives Point Park students a real-world education on personal finance**

--April is National Financial Literacy Month--

**PITTSBURGH, PA** – While many students graduate from college ready to take on the professional world, many are not ready to take on their own personal finances.

According to a [2016 College Students and Personal Finance Study](#) conducted by LendEDU, 43 percent of respondents could not, in fact, name one major difference between a credit card and debit card, while 68 percent did not know the purposes of a 401(k) and an IRA. Some 58 percent of students surveyed said they were not working to build good credit.

While designating April as National Financial Literacy Month puts a temporary spotlight on an issue plaguing millions of Americans, the Rowland School of Business at Point Park University understands the need to focus on it year-round.

A financial literacy course called The Money Thing, offered through the Rowland School of Business to all Point Park students, has proved enormously popular, with up to a dozen classes running in any given semester.

“Point Park University has long prided itself on providing students with an experiential, real-world education,” said Paul Hennigan, president of Point Park. “Giving them the tools to manage their personal finances is a logical and necessary part of that.”

Versions of The Money Thing course have been taught at Point Park for about a decade, according to Steve Tanzilli, dean of the Rowland School of Business. Over the years, he has been motivated to see the course continually evolve and expand, and now views it as one of the most important taught through Rowland.

“So many of our students are already engaged in adult experiences, whether it’s working full-time, renting an apartment, owning a car or beginning to invest in the markets,” Tanzilli said. “The Money Thing really provides them with necessary tools to help them make more informed decisions at the ground level.”

The Money Thing provides students an engaging and approachable framework for developing greater financial literacy and creating financial plans as they prepare to move out into the professional world. Topics such as student loan consolidation, balancing consumer needs and savings, creating financial budget and plans, maintaining a healthy credit standing, and developing long-term financial horizons are a few of the areas covered in the one-semester course.

Throughout the semester, part-time professors and speakers from area financial institutions such as PNC Financial Services, First National Bank and Citizens Bank are brought in to speak to the students.

Given the need -- and popularity -- of The Money Thing, Tanzilli saw it as a natural progression to build it into the new Practical Educational Model for the Rowland School of Business. In their first year, Rowland students are paired with a mentor from the business world who will be available to them through graduation. Sophomore year brings a diet of business management courses, including the option of taking The Money Thing. Once they hit year three, internships and the Cooperative Education Program provide opportunities to work in the real world and get paid as they earn college credits.

“The new educational model allows students to learn in the classroom while gaining valuable experience in the professional business world,” Tanzilli said. “Providing them the tools necessary to manage their personal finances while gaining that experience, ensures students leave Point Park well-rounded and ready for success.”

**Note to media: Steve Tanzilli is available to discuss The Money Thing and the importance of financial literacy for college students.**

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*Founded in 1960, Point Park University, a [College of Distinction](#), is a dynamic, urban university with a strong liberal arts tradition. Located in Downtown Pittsburgh, Point Park enrolls more than 4,000 full- and part-time students in more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs offered through the School of Arts and Sciences, Rowland School of Business, School of Communication and Conservatory of Performing Arts. Visit [PointPark.edu](#) to learn more.*