

Secretary of State visits North Montgomery

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LINDEN — North Montgomery teacher Pete Osterman's personal finance class had a visit from Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson on Tuesday. The visit was part of Indiana's involvement with Money Smart Week.

Money Smart Week, which is being celebrated April 22-27, is a product of the Federal Reserve Board in Chicago to promote financial literacy. Lawson is traveling the state to encourage citizens to learn about personal finances. She visited North Montgomery to spread the news about the importance of personal finance education.

"We need to encourage financial literacy in Indiana to help prepare for the future," Lawson said.

Lawson's PowerPoint presentation talked about basic financial principals including the need to save and invest.

Lawson demonstrated how saving \$5 per day, or the equivalent of the price of a cup of gourmet coffee, would add up.

"If someone can save \$5 every weekday, you will save \$1,300 per year," Lawson said. "That could start a nice rainy-day fund."

Lawson also warned students about scams and Ponzi schemes.

"Everyone needs to be aware that there are people who will try to take advantage," Lawson said. "If you are a victim don't be ashamed to call my office. Help put the criminals behind bars."

Lawson, who also spoke at Ivy Tech in Lafayette and Carroll High School on Monday, said she appreciates schools like North Montgomery that offer personal finance classes.

"I loved my time at North Montgomery," Lawson exclaimed. "I think North Montgomery is doing a great job because not many schools offer financial education. I believe it is crucial our students learn about financial responsibility."

North Montgomery School Superintendent Colleen Moran greeted the Secretary of State at the high school and voiced her pleasure to have her visit the school.

"Thanks to Secretary of State Colleen Lawson for taking the time to come visit North Montgomery High School," Moran said. "We are excited the Secretary of State wanted to visit us."

Indiana is one of 38 states that participates in Money Smart Week.

"We are learning that people really need information about how to budget, how to save, what is a need and what is a want," Lawson said.

Lawson launched a web page that contains a lot of financial information as well as information such as

a listing of licensed insurance agents and financial advisors. The information can be found at www.indianainvestmentwatch.com.

Before leaving, Lawson presented each student a video entitled “Financial Soccer” and a bag of shredded currency from the Federal Reserve Bank.