

LIBTA Fall 2025 Conference Recap

Filled with information and important contacts, this year's Fall Conference was a worthwhile two hours of professional development.

LIBTA members were welcomed into TFCU's updated conference space on October 28th by our hosts Chris DiLeonardo and Carina Pizzo. Chris informed us about the bank's teacher grants and contest program (with public voting). Teachers Federal also gives scholarships to seniors heading to college in the fall – up to 15 students get a \$2,500 scholarship (with a 3.0 GPA and TFCU membership). They will also come to your school to speak with your students about Financial Literacy. Please email Chris for more information and links to the applications. christopherdi@teachersfcu.org

Michael LaMastra from NYSED updated us with regard to:

- Portrait of a Graduate, adopted in July through the NY Inspires Plan, which will take us through the 2029-2030 school year. It redefines required credits and learning experiences and sunsets certain diploma assessments. The State will move to what they call the "One NYS High School Diploma."
- In November, there will be an Amendment to require personal financial education. This is great news for business teachers, but in no way forces districts to offer the requirement through our department. It is our job to show administration how well versed we are at delivering this content. It will be an instructional requirement that begins with the 26-27 school year, and is K-12 grade banded.
- MBA Research Consortium – if you don't have DECA in your school, you may not have heard about MBA Research. They write the content for the DECA exams and Key Performance Indicators. They also have multiple courses that NY teachers now have access to – some are free, some you have to pay for. Check out their offerings here: <https://www.mbaresearch.org/>
- Do you offer college credit for some of your classes? NYSED is asking districts to implement a Dual Enrollment Policy in response to Education Law 319 – every district will have to have a written policy. Public comment period open – NY is the last state to adopt.
- Federal Career Clusters – dropped to 14 from 16 – some have been combined.

Gina Farrell (Plainview-Old Bethpage) took us through the process of starting a real estate class in your school:

- Instructors must pass the exam and take a 77 hour course
- You apply for class approval through New York State
- Once approved, there is a workbook and you can offer the course for college credit through LIU
- The students take the NYS licensing exam (which is difficult) at the end of the year (June)
- Licensed students were immediately able to work in the industry and were sought after for internships
- Gina then demonstrated her "House Hunters" lesson (based on the HGTV show) which is a fun project and adaptable to other classes (Business Law, Investments)
- For more information, you can contact Gina at gfarrell@pobschools.org

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Our next presenter was David Kondrop from the Society of Human Resources Management (“SHRM”). David and his colleagues have updated the VHR credential (Virtual Human Resources Assistant) for today’s students and workplace. The program is free!

- Turnkey lessons delivered by an HR professional who makes 3 visits to your classroom
- Mock HR environment where students are evaluating resumes, discussing interview questions, doing a test run of an online job application, and learning about the skills and education one needs to succeed in the HR profession.
- To schedule a program for your class, contact David at David@AllBusinessManagement.com or Yesenia Rodriguez at jeseniarodriguez2022@gmail.com

Dr. Alison Matthews (Harborfields) then briefed us on the importance of having the Work-Based Learning certification as an add-on to your teaching degree. So many districts offer this option to their students that it has value from a hiring perspective. For more information, here is a link to CREA: <https://www.nyscrea.org/>

Dr. Matthews and Bryan Outsen (Huntington) described the new AP Business and Personal Finance elective currently in the pilot stage:

- Goal is for 10th graders to take it as a full year course. In addition, AP Marketing, Accounting, and Entrepreneurship have been proposed, but not approved. Any teacher who wants to teach it, you attend the summer course – in some instances, the College Board will pay for you to pilot the curriculum.
- They have a learning guide in a booklet – step by step daily plans, 28 case studies, and you are part of the AP business teacher portal (shared PPTs from around the country).
- There is a project element like VE: students come up with a business idea and create a business model (pricing model, customer profile) and add on to it with each unit.
- Then they have units in personal finance, banking, and business finance (such as calculating fixed & variable costs), which is more managerial.
- Unit 5 – (after the exam) – students act as a “Financial Advisor” – they get a client profile and build a recommendation for investments for a model family. Brian gets teacher volunteers from the building so the kids have someone to plan for, which is a great way to involve staff.
- For states that have financial literacy requirements, the course will satisfy it in 36 states.
- The AP exam is 60 questions, 70 minutes, open response (4 questions) – made for their business they created.