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# Introduction

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## **Purpose of this Publication**

The *Building a Better Future* Financial Education Program can be used to help newly arrived immigrants understand the financial system in the United States and to feel more comfortable using financial institutions and planning their financial future. While becoming familiar with the topics included in this curriculum, students will learn vocabulary they will need as they use a financial institution and communicate about personal finance issues.

The Latino Community Credit Union saw the need to develop a financial education curriculum in Spanish that would be appropriate for students with limited formal education who lack experience using a financial institution. The English as a Second Language (ESL) version of the curriculum was developed because ESL classes present a unique opportunity to reach new immigrants with useful financial information.

## **About the Latino Community Credit Union**

The Latino Community Credit Union (LCCU) is a community-based and member-owned nonprofit financial institution that provides protection of financial assets, access to loans, financial independence, and financial education. Based in North Carolina, LCCU is the first fully bilingual (English/Spanish) financial institution in the state. The Latino Community Credit

Union offers financial education classes and individual financial counseling to its members. It opened its doors in June 2000 as a response to the high rate of crime that Latinos were experiencing because they were not using financial institutions. For more information about the Latino Community Credit Union, please visit [www.cooperativa-latina.org](http://www.cooperativa-latina.org).

## **About the National Endowment for Financial Education® (NEFE®)**

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) foundation dedicated to helping all Americans acquire the information and gain the skills necessary to take control of their personal finances. NEFE provided funding for the development and publication of the *Building a Better Future* Financial Education Program. For more information on NEFE, please visit [www.nefe.org](http://www.nefe.org).

## **About the Authors**

**Alejandra Okie Holt** is Director of Community Education at the Latino Community Credit Union. She holds a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University. She earned a Master of Science in Community Forestry from North Carolina State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Latin American Studies and Sustainable Development from Appalachian State University. She

has worked with education and economic development projects with the Latino community in North Carolina and indigenous and rural communities in Central and South America.

**Cassandra Marshall** was Special Projects Assistant at the Latino Community Credit Union. She received a B.A. in Economics and Comparative Area Studies from Duke University. Cassandra taught English as a Foreign Language / English as a Second Language in Argentina and Durham, North Carolina. She is currently a law student at New York University.

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**Lesson Evaluation:**

Write one thing you learned.

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What is one thing that you do not understand?

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