### Improving Financial Literacy and Capability: What Works?

The George Washington University School of Business, June 21, 2012

### Evaluating Workforce Financial Education and Encouraging New Hires to Save for Retirement

### ANNAMARIA LUSARDI THE GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



A joint center of the RAND Corporation, Dartmouth College,

# Our approach to workplace fin education

- Identify who's not well-equipped to make key financial decisions
- Demonstrate how financial literacy enhances retirement security
- Develop tools to enhance financial literacy & planning
- Show how to deliver financial literacy most effectively and how



# Workplace fin educ: Helping new hires

- The Dartmouth Project
  - **Supported by NEFE**
  - Motivated a book on how to improve fin. education







### Helping Young Workers: Five Steps to Planning Success

• Risk diversification = don't put all your eggs in one basket





# A deeper look

• Evaluating workplace education in six big firms





and the Wharton School

### New York Stock Exchange

Home | Learning Center | History | The Bell | Visiting the Exchange | Financial Fitness Kit

### Your Team's Financial Fitness Kit





The Employer Checklist

Ten key steps to financial fitness, divided into basic, intermediate and advanced stages

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The recent financial crisis has taught us many things. Chief among the lessons learned is that financial illiteracy is widespread and that the consequences of making poor financial decisions are severe. Decisions about how much to save to secure a comfortable retirement, how to invest, and how to protect wealth are overly complex. Without guidance, employees may end up without the financial fitness necessary to meet short- and long-term goals.

#### EMPLOYEE CORNER





#### The Financial Health Quiz

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#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM



boost your team's financial fitness. MORE



#### Punam Anand Keller and Annamaria Lusardi bring an impressive amount of research and experience to help you

About the Program

Two toolkits-one for employers and one for employees-designed to empower employees to understand and meet the left mendel and a



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#### Did You Know?



Bells were introduced on the NYSE when continuous trading was instituted in the 1870s. Originally a Chinese Gong was used, but brass bells

have been used since the Exchange moved to its current location in 1903. Visit our history page to learn more fascinating facts. MORE

The Experts

### Workplace Financial Fitness Toolkit



#### Follow Us



### The Employer Checklist

Ten key steps to financial fitness, divided into three stages and designed to help employees meet their financial goals.

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The success of employee benefit programs depends on employee participation rates! Nearly four in five employees claim they would benefit from financial advice and answers to everyday questions. Improve employee participation rates, employee welfare and your company's bottom line by using our customizable employer and employee financial fitness toolkits.



#### THE BASICS

#### Automatic Enrollment

Participation soars when employees are automatically enrolled.

#### Automatic Escalation

Scheduled increases make the most of automatic enrollment.

MORE

#### Lifecycle Asset Allocation

Give employees the chance to grow their retirement savings.

MORE





#### Did You Know?



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used, but brass bells have been used since the Exchange moved to its current location in 1903. Visit our history page to learn more fascinating facts. MORE



#### INTERMEDIATE



Employee Toolkit Increase participation rates by empowering employees to customize programs. MORE



Direct Deposit Increase safety and lower administrative costs at the same time. MORE



Financial Planning and Tax Preparation Employee satisfaction is as a competitive advantage. Create a culture of caring for employees. MORE



Credit Scores Improved employee credit scores have direct and indirect benefits to employers. MORE

#### ADVANCED

#### Debt Management

Help with debt management can prevent an employee's loss of focus and performace.

#### Health and Financial Fitness Assessment

Data enables employers to design an evidencebased benefit plan.

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#### Financial Planning Seminars

Educate your employees about the customized financial plans available to them.

MORE



## New book

• Financial Literacy: Implications for Retirement Security and the Financial Marketplace

EDITED BY OLIVIA S. MITCHELL AND ANNAMARIA LUSARDI

#### Financial Literacy

Implications for Retirement Security and the Financial Marketplace





## Newer projects on workplace fin education

- Writing a "Best Practice" manual for financial education
  - Supported in part by FINRA Investor Education Foundation
- Working with the Federal Reserve System to design and evaluate financial education programs for their employees
  - Supported by the Federal Reserve System's HR Office



## Best practice: 10 Recommendations

- Do not underestimate the importance of information about pensions
- Every employee is different
- Understand how employee debt profiles relate to saving needs and saving ability



## Best practice: 10 Recommendations

- Think carefully about plan design
- Understand the power of auto enrollment
- Think carefully about default setting and default asset allocation



## Best practice: 10 Recommendations

- Take steps to improve employees overall financial literacy
- Provide financial information and counseling
- Remind employees of the value of taking advantage of 401(k) plans
- Targeted programs will improve effectiveness and impact



## Future work

- Enrich *Best Practice Manual* by incorporating more workplace fin education work
- Provide a ready-to-use package with material
- Continue working with existing firms to assess medium/long run impact
- Incorporate financial literacy games and other innovative programs in workplace fin education

