

For Immediate Release

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Plano Financial Literacy Initiative Receives National Award

The US Conference of Mayors visited Monday to present Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere with the 2019 City Livability Award for large cities, recognizing Plano's Financial Literacy Initiative. The award recognizes mayoral leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America's cities, focusing on leadership, creativity and innovation.

Plano's Financial Literacy Initiative has a unique approach focusing on three main components:

- Financial education messaging, programming and exhibit provided by Plano Public Library
- Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program equipping high school students with experience and skills
- Plano Families First annual resource and job fair

Based on community input, the library recruited community partners to present programs for all ages addressing a range of financial topics identified as areas of interest. These programs complemented a nationwide traveling financial education exhibition, *Thinking Money*, hosted by Plano Public Library in May/June 2018. In addition to in-library programming, librarians also presented financial capability workshops as part of a job readiness program in partnership with Collin College.

Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere established the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program in 2014, which has placed hundreds of Plano students in paid internship positions. A financial education component is incorporated.

Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of the USCM praised Plano for "outstanding leadership in support of urban livability." This is the 40th year in which cities have competed for the awards.

Plano Public Library continues to offer financial education programs for all ages throughout the year. Upcoming in spring 2020, Haggard Library hosts *Thinking Money for Kids*, a new nationwide traveling financial education exhibition. Families benefit from educational programs that open up conversations within the home about important topics like the value of work, saving, considering costs when shopping, and using resources wisely.

"Plano has really been a leader in providing financial education," said Julie Gunter, Senior Advisor for Community Development with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, "and Plano Public Library is like community gold."

Find information about financial programs at www.planolibrary.gov.

Video: <https://vimeo.com/343529528>

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Editor's Note: Go to the City's [Media Center](#) for comprehensive information about the City of Plano.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 284,070 as of January 2019. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America's safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at plano.gov.