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## **SUNY University at Buffalo Professor Receives Award from Financial Literacy Group**

WASHINGTON – May 18, 2004 - **Lewis Mandell, Ph.D. is the 2004 recipient of the Jump\$TART Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy's William E. Odom Visionary Leadership Award**, which recognizes individuals who provide outstanding service in the arena of personal finance education. The award was presented on April 1 at Jump\$TART's biennial awards dinner in Washington, DC.

Dr. Lewis Mandell is Professor of Finance and Managerial Economics, and former Dean of the School of Management at the University at Buffalo, the main research campus of the State University of New York. He has been Dean of the business school of Marquette University, Associate Dean of the business school at the University of Connecticut and a Division Director in charge of three departmental groups at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

"Dr. Mandell has made significant contributions to the area of personal finance education throughout his career," said Laura Levine, executive director of the Jump\$TART Coalition. "He has served as the primary researcher of our biennial surveys of high school seniors since 1997, and during this time he has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to the education of young people on money matters."

With degrees in economics from the City University of New York, Northwestern University and the University of Texas, Dr. Mandell began his career at the University of Michigan where he ran the nationwide Survey of Consumer Finances and developed his lifelong interest in consumer financial literacy and behavior. In addition to his academic career, he served as Director of Research for the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency in Washington D.C. and as a consultant or director of many major corporations in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Mandell is the author of 17 books in economics and finance, largely concerned with consumer financial products, behavior and literacy. The MoneySKILL electronic textbook in financial literacy for high school students was his 18<sup>th</sup> book and his 19<sup>th</sup>, a report on the fourth biennial nationwide survey of financial literacy among high school seniors will be published later this year. He has also written many articles for academic journals and was the founding editor of *Financial Services Review* the leading academic journal dealing with individual financial management.

In accepting the award at the dinner attended by many notables including Senator Daniel Akaka, SEC Board Chairman William Donaldson and SEC Commissioner Cynthia Glassman, Dr. Mandell thanked those in attendance and all supporters of financial literacy.

"Today, for the first time since we began measuring the financial literacy of young adults in 1997, we have seen an increase in scores," said Dr. Mandell. "We believe this is a bona fide turning point, resulting from the concerned efforts of many people  
(More)

-- including legislators, government officials, corporations, foundations, teachers, parents and the students themselves. More students are taking classes in financial literacy and these students are leading their peers with improving scores. With your continued help, we hope to equip all of our young people with the tools they need to make our complex financial system work for them," he added.

Last year's recipient of the William E. Odom Visionary Leadership Award was Dr. William L. Anthes, president and CEO of the National Endowment for Financial Education.

### **About Jump\$tart**

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the personal financial literacy of young adults by developing, disseminating, and encouraging the use of standards for grades K-12; and by promoting personal finance education at home and in school. Jump\$tart's mission is supported by 140 corporations, government agencies, education associations and nonprofit providers of financial education across the United States. For more information, visit [www.jumpstart.org](http://www.jumpstart.org). This site offers teacher training and guest speaker locators, monthly mini-lessons, links to partner organizations, and helpful tips on budgeting, saving, and investing.

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