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**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEWS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

For more information, contact:  
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Consumer Protection Agency  
Phone: 903-3424

**Consumer Protection Agency Receives Prestigious "ACE" Award**

Hillsborough County's Consumer Protection Agency received the 2006 Achievement in Consumer Education (ACE) award in the *Best Program* category, from the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA). Consumer Protection Agency Administrator Jim Sudberry accepted the award during NACAA's annual conference on June 19, in recognition of the county agency's teen fraud prevention program entitled, "*Adding Teen Consumer Fraud Education to the 3 R's*".

In 2004, the Consumer Protection Agency launched its initiative to teach teens throughout Hillsborough County about consumer fraud issues and how they can reduce their risk of becoming a victim. Debbie Brown, the agency's Community Education Coordinator, created and teaches the curriculum directed to junior and senior students who are embarking into areas of credit card applications, lease agreements, auto loans and searching for scholarship money. The program is ongoing and currently reaches the students in more than 16 public high schools.

Students throughout Hillsborough County have learned about a variety of consumer education topics including *Teen Credit and the Identity Theft Crisis*; *Cyber Crime*; *What Teens Need to Know About Internet Fraud*; *Lease Agreements and Florida's Landlord/Tenant Law*; *Modeling and College Financing Offers – Are They Legitimate or Fraudulent?*; and *Buying a Car – Leasing vs. Buying, Service Contracts and Auto Repairs*.

The program, designed to highlight fraud prevention at its core, is updated each year to include the most recent information for teens preparing to enter the adult financial world.

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**Teachers interested in scheduling one or more of these programs can contact Debbie Brown, Community Education Coordinator, Consumer Protection Agency, at 903-3424.**

***Prensa: Para mas información, llamar al 272-5314.***