

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

DASH for the STASH at your library

Columbus Public Library is once again participating in DASH for the STASH, an investor education and protection program and contest taking place March 15-May 15, 2016. We encourage everyone to stop by the library and compete in the 2016 DASH for the STASH! One statewide winner will be chosen in a random drawing of eligible participants who logged the correct answer for all four posters. The winner will receive a \$1,000 contribution to an existing or new Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for 2016. The DASH for the STASH program is being launched by the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance and the nonprofit Investor Protection Institute (IPI).

The DASH for the STASH contest is played much like a scavenger hunt. But instead of collecting objects, individuals collect information about saving and investing and leave answers to quiz questions. To enter the contest, you simply visit the Columbus Public Library, where a set of four investor education topic posters (and one rules poster) are displayed. Contestants read each poster and then access the quiz question for each poster.

We are very pleased to be involved in this novel way to make use of our facility as a way to help educate Nebraska investors. DASH for the STASH provides vital information to local citizens in an easy to understand format.

"DASH for the STASH is a great way to engage consumers, especially younger people, who have not yet started to pay attention to this critical part of their financial outlook," said Don Blandin, president and CEO of the Investor Protection Institute. "Our goal is to lead individuals to venues, such as public libraries, where they can find reliable investor education and protection resources."

The DASH for the STASH posters each have a QR code and a web link to a quiz that individuals will access to answer questions and participate in the contest. The posters cover four key topics: finding financial advisers, avoiding fraud, understanding investment fees, and building a nest egg. The easiest way to participate in the DASH for the STASH is to use a smartphone or mobile device to scan each poster's QR code, but you also will be able to use a laptop or desktop computer in the library. If you don't have time to take the quizzes during your visit to the library, you can write down the web links and visit each poster's quiz webpage from home.

In addition to two sets of English language posters, Columbus Public Library also has two sets of posters in Spanish. Ask a staff member to help you find the posters and get started! While you're visiting the library to participate in DASH for the STASH, check out some of our new financial education books or pick up federal tax forms and instruction booklets.

For more information about DASH for the STASH rules, go to http://www.iinvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/DASH-for-the-STASH_2016_Rules.pdf, or stop by the library.