

Financial Literacy for Success: AAP GPS Partners with CalKIDS Institute and HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA

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The Academic Advancement Program (AAP) Graduate & Professional School (GPS) Exploration Services welcomed the UCLA CalKIDS Institute and HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA to its Winter 2025 Financial Literacy Workshop: From Stress to Success—Mastering Your Money Mindset. This collaborative event marked a significant step in AAP GPS's mission to equip students with essential academic and financial tools for long-term success.

AAP GPS's Annual Winter Workshop

AAP GPS Exploration Services provides AAP-eligible students and alumni with personalized mentorship, workshops, and resources to navigate graduate school applications and professional opportunities. This year, the program expanded its focus to financial literacy, ensuring students gain the knowledge needed to manage financial stress and build wealth for the future.

The CalKIDS Institute Presentation

As part of the workshop, the UCLA CalKIDS Institute delivered an engaging session on the CalKIDS program, a statewide initiative that provides children's savings accounts to eligible students for college and career training. Attendees learned how to claim up to \$1,500 in funds and explored strategies for using these resources effectively.

During the session, students were guided through:

- ***Eligibility Requirements:*** CalKIDS funds are available to California public school graduates (classes of 2022, 2023, and 2024) and newborns born on or after July 1, 2022. Eligible students include those from low-income households, English learners, foster youth, unhoused students, and migratory students.
- ***Claiming Funds:*** Attendees received step-by-step instructions on using their Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) to check eligibility and access funds.
- ***Financial Well-Being Tips:*** The presentation emphasized how these funds can alleviate financial burdens by covering tuition, school supplies, or other qualified educational expenses.



Nayiri Nahabedian, Director of the UCLA CalKIDS Institute, presents the program to students. Photo by Jimmy Meija

HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA: Empowering Bruins with Financial Knowledge

HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA is dedicated to closing the financial literacy gap by providing students with practical knowledge through interactive workshops, discussions, and real-world applications. From budgeting and credit management to student loan strategies and wealth-building, the organization helps Bruins take control of their financial futures.



Josiah Campbell and Mathias Wodaj, How Money Works Facilitators, introduce the program to students. Photo by Jimmy Mejia

Meet the Leaders of HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA

- **Josiah Campbell**, a CFE Certified Financial Educator and third-year Economics student, serves as the President of HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA. A Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholar and Learning Facilitator with The Lantern Network, he leads workshops and one-on-one coaching to help students break cycles of poor financial habits and achieve financial independence.
- **Mathias Wodaj**, a first-year Computer Science student and the organization's Director of Media Relations, focuses on expanding the reach of financial education through media and outreach. Passionate about social impact, he is committed to using technology and storytelling to make financial literacy more engaging and accessible.

Financial Literacy Resources

To further support students, attendees were introduced to Change Your Literacy, Change Your Life, a foundational guide that serves as a prequel to the HowMoneyWorks series. Additionally, students were encouraged to assess their financial literacy using the Financial Literacy Index at financialliteracyindex.com/josiahcampbell/ (password: shopww!).

The partnership between AAP GPS, the CalKIDS Institute, and HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA reflects UCLA's ongoing commitment to student success and financial equity. By integrating

financial literacy into academic support services, UCLA ensures that students not only excel in their studies but also gain the skills to navigate life's financial challenges with confidence.

For more information about CalKIDS, visit CalKIDS.org and [CalKIDS Institute YouTube](#). To learn more about GPS Exploration Services, visit [AAP GPS Website](#).