Wi$e Up Teleconference Call
April 28, 2006
Invest for Your Success
Opening remarks – Angela Rizzolo

Coordinator: Hello, and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. After the presentation, we will conduct a question and answer session. To ask a question, please press star followed by 1 on your telephone touchpad. At the request of the company, this conference is being recorded.

It is now my pleasure to turn the meeting over to your host, Ms. Angela Rizzolo. Ma’am, you may begin your conference.

Angela Rizzolo: Thank you very much, Lindie. Thank you and good day to all of you across the country. Welcome to today’s monthly Wi$e Up teleconference. This teleconference entitled “Invest [for] Your Success” is the third in the 2006 series. Again, my name is Angela Rizzolo, and I’m the Program Specialist for Region I, the New England office of the Women’s Bureau.

On behalf of our Wi$e Up team, we want to thank each of you who are participating with us today. I, along with my colleagues Pam Felton of our Seattle Women’s Bureau office, Dorothy Witherspoon from our Kansas City office, [and] Frances Jefferson of our Denver office, will introduce today’s speakers.

As most of you know, Wi$e Up is a financial education demonstration project being offered online with an e-mentoring component and also in a classroom setting. The program team leaders, Beverly Lyle who is a Regional Administrator for the Texas region and Jane Walstedt of the National office, have spearheaded this program since its inception. These monthly teleconference calls are a component of the
demonstration project. The theme of today’s call, which will last about an hour, is again, [Invest for Your Success].

It is not unusual for women to hold the reins on family finances, juggling household budgets and allowances, but more and more often they are also faced with taking over the traditional male role of managing their family’s investment portfolio.

According to Oppenheimer, a financial firm, women earn $1 trillion a year, yet they still often lack the knowledge and confidence to invest their money. A recent Harris poll showed that 53% of women have the confidence to invest as compared to 82% of men who are confident investors. Investing principles are largely the same for women and men; however, women do tend to have some unique circumstances, and they tend to take time to learn about investing and money management.

Statistics show that women, in general, outlive men. So anyone counting on a husband to tend to finances forever is on very dangerous ground. Making matters worse, many women spend a number of years out of the paid workforce to care for their children or their aging parents. Doing so leaves them with a smaller nest egg.

In addition, many women are more risk averse than they need to be and invest too conservatively. Stocks shouldn’t be shunned. As long as your investment horizon is 5 to 10 years or more away, you should be able to start a nest egg at any time.

I hope today is a wake-up call for women. Many of us tend to neglect [our] financial house and [our] retirement planning. By ignoring our financial and investment education today, we seriously jeopardize our
financial success later in life. To ensure this education is not ignored, we should seek the financial and investment knowledge we need to achieve and maintain financial security throughout life.

Angela Rizzolo: Today we have three very dynamic experts who will be addressing these issues. Each of our speakers will be introduced by the members of our Women’s Bureau staff, and each presenter will speak approximately 7 to 10 minutes. We’ve built in time for questions at the end of their presentations.