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## Alliance Benefit Group Offers Financial Education Program

10.18.06, 11:29 AM ET

Alliance Benefit Group (ABG), a leading provider of retirement plan services, is offering comprehensive financial education services to companies providing retirement plans through its 15 national licensed offices. Available in live workshops and through an interactive online program, Goodmoneyhabits.com, the education services will help employees of ABG clients plan and save for retirement.

The financial education programs were developed by The EDSA Group, a national leader in financial education solutions. Each lesson is designed to empower participants to take control of personal finances and take positive steps toward financial wellness and benefit maximization.

"By providing education for employees, we are helping the sponsoring company maximize the value of their retirement plan and manage the risks associated with the plan. At the same time, we are helping employees to develop money management skills, understand the need to plan for retirement and become more focused, productive employees. It is truly a win-win offering for all concerned," said John Blossom, Alliance Benefit Group president. "If employees do not understand the need to plan for retirement, then retirement plans are not fully utilized. Comprehensive financial education is the perfect tool to help employees of our client companies."

Employees are responsible for their own retirement income, yet many don't plan for it. The national annual savings rate is at its lowest level since 1934. A 2006 Employee Benefit Research Institute retirement confidence survey found 68 percent of workers are confident about having adequate funds for a comfortable retirement, but are deluding themselves because they have not saved nearly enough. The survey found more than half of all workers have saved less than \$25,000 for retirement.

"As an independent financial education company, The EDSA Group specializes in teaching people to manage their money effectively and to maximize their employer-sponsored benefit plans," said Susan Windham, chief executive officer of The EDSA Group. "Studies have shown that the information contained in Goodmoneyhabits.com and in our live workshops can increase plan participation."

Windham said everyone learns differently; some people prefer live workshops, some prefer the flexibility of online programs, and some people utilize both educational formats. She said offering a multi-solution financial education package gives employers maximum benefit from their investment in financial education.

"By offering both workshops and online financial education, ABG can work with each company to determine the package that best meets the needs of its workforce and increases retirement plan participation," said Blossom.

### ABOUT ALLIANCE BENEFIT GROUP

Alliance Benefit Group (<http://www.abgnational.com>), headquartered in Peoria, Ill., has independently owned and operated offices in more than 15 cities across the U.S. and provides retirement plan services for more than 3,300 plans with over \$5.9 billion under investment management. Alliance Benefit Group strives to provide employers with the 'perfect plan' through knowledge and independence.

### ABOUT THE EDSA GROUP

The EDSA Group (<http://www.theedsagroup.com>), headquartered in Baton Rouge, La., specializes in teaching people to make informed decisions about their personal finances and employer-sponsored benefit plans. In addition to Goodmoneyhabits.com, The EDSA Group offers live workshops for employers.

<http://www.forbes.com/businesswire/feeds/businesswire/2006/10/18/businesswire20061018005677r1.html>