FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON P.O. BOX 55882 BOSTON•MA 0 2 2 0 5

Contact: Thomas L. Lavelle, Assistant Vice President and Public Information Officer

617-973-3647 For release: IMMEDIATELY

Palmer High School wins State LifeSmarts Championship

Boston, March 4, 2005 -- The Palmer High School "Panthers 2" beat out 20 teams from across Massachusetts to claim the state's 8th Annual 2005 *LifeSmarts* championship yesterday at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

After many rounds of intense play at the Bank, the Palmer team met Medfield Regional High School's "Warrior Blue" team in the finals. On the last question of the day, Palmer's Ben Mastay, Kailee Kozlik, Jesse Kumpalanian, and Nate Smith captured the trophy by correctly answering a question on FICA, Social Security, and Medicare. This is the second consecutive year that the school's coaches, Helena Naglack, Henry Naglack and Steve Kusek, Jr., have brought home the championship, and their third year overall.

LifeSmarts is a consumer education competition, testing student's knowledge of personal finance, health and safety, environmental issues, technology, as well as consumer rights and responsibilities. It is sponsored by the National Consumers League. Volunteers from the Fed, FDIC, and Massachusetts' Attorney General's Office organized and officiated the event.

Today's winner will go on to represent the Commonwealth at the *LifeSmarts* 2005 national competition in San Francisco, California, on April 16-19.