GRTS Fiscal Literacy Program

> Key Objectives

- Research the specific financial challenges our students encounter including, but not limited to, undergraduate student loans, housing expenses, transportation costs, supporting a family, credit card debt, low salaries upon entry into their fields, and the vocational implications of debt.
- Explore consortium agreements with undergraduate institutions, which enable maximizing dual enrollment and advanced standing opportunities to decrease the length of students' GRTS degree programs, thus reducing the cost to the student.
- Develop a comprehensive fiscal literacy program, which includes online and print resources, curriculum adaptations within core classes, student financial evaluations, and financial literacy tools for use beyond GRTS on a website developed for this purpose. The GRTS Fiscal Literacy Program will equip students with a comprehensive understanding of Biblical stewardship and the tools needed for personal and ministerial financial stability.

Significant Activities to Date

- Analyzed curriculum of three undergraduate institutions to develop consortium agreements for advanced standing
- o Implemented fiscal literacy components into the Ministry Residency course curriculum
- o Developed surveys for data collection

Important Resources

- CashCourse <u>www.cashcourse.org</u>
- USA Funds Life Skills http://www.usafunds.org/DefaultPrevention/Pages/LifeSkills.aspx

> Contact Information

 Tara Kram, Associate Dean of Students 1001 E. Beltline Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (616) 222-1437 tara.kram@cornerstone.edu