

## Mutual Benefits

### TeacherTech Produces Ongoing Returns for Business, Community

Few investments reap both immediate and long-term returns, but American Century Investments certainly knows how to identify and tap into the ones that do.

Such was the case in the summer of 2007, when the investment management firm made the decision to participate in the pilot year of TeacherTech, a program that not only aligned with the firm's community investment strategy, but also offered the potential of producing significant benefits for both American Century Investments and the community.

"As a business and as a corporate citizen, we cannot ignore the fact that there are future generations coming up behind us," said Scott Oberkrom, Community Investments Consultant. "When we invest in teachers, we establish a vital link between the business world, our future workforce and future consumers. At American Century Investments, we constantly seek opportunities to help students understand what is important to their future and TeacherTech helps us do that."

#### Higher Than Expected Returns

American Century Investments received more than it bargained for when it hired Oak Park High School Math Teacher Angela

Beshears as its first teacher extern. In her role as a curriculum developer, Beshears was assigned to work with the Community Investments Department to help identify niche opportunities for the firm's educational investment programs, *Tips for*



From left: TeacherTech Extern Angela Beshears and American Century Investments Community Investment Consultant Scott Oberkrom

*Kids*® and *Tips for Life*®. But by the end of her assignment, Beshears had accomplished so much more.

"Angela was able to hit the ground running and accomplish all that we originally set forth, as well as ancillary goals," Oberkrom said. "She went far above and beyond what was expected of her."

Likewise, Beshears gained more from the externship than she ever could have imagined. At the end of her eight-week assignment, she felt enlightened, re-energized and excited to bring back to her classroom all of the lessons she learned at American Century Investments.

"In addition to feeling better equipped to teach students about money matters, my externship made me realize how important it is to teach them about other basic business principles, such as timeliness, teamwork, accountability and ethics," she said. "And when I tell them, 'I know this because it's what I did last summer,' it gives life to what I'm teaching and makes everything more believable."

#### An Investment That Continues to Multiply

Beshears' students aren't the only ones benefiting from her experience at American Century Investments. Her colleagues are, too. She has been able to share new knowledge and resources with other math and business teachers and make recommendations during the school's improvement planning process.

"Through my research I discovered so many resources I didn't know were out there," she said. "I learned so much about how math and technology are used in everyday business and have now become a resource to other teachers."

Even during the school year, Beshears and Oberkrom continue to benefit from each other's expertise.

"Angela left great documentation that we often reference and many of her observations are being incorporated into our future business plans," Oberkrom said. "It's great knowing I still can call her to ask questions—and she knows my door is always open to do the same."

