



Money Talks

"Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." – Joe Biden

This Hidden Brain [podcast](#) explores the ways we use money to express our values, who we are, and what we want others to know about us. How rational is your pocketbook?

Win the Financial Literacy Quiz!

Gauge your financial knowledge by taking FINRA's Investor Education Foundation [quiz](#). Compare your score with the averages in your state (or the entire country) and let us know how you scored.



Meet our Team

If you were in the Abacus office last week, you would have seen a smile on every face. Team member [Abby Mason](#) announced that UNC Chapel Hill has accepted her into its [Masters in Taxation program](#). Abby is a senior financial advisor, CFP certificant, and mother of a toddler. Abby also leads the Abacus team in all athletic competitions, keeps us on pitch when we are serenading ourselves or our neighbors, and leads an in-office dancercise class. Join us in congratulating Abby as she also leads us in our [culture of seek mastery](#).

Federal Budget Updates Medicare

Prepare to pay more for your Medicare Part B premiums. The [2018 Medicare Access Act](#) lowered the income threshold to \$133,500 for the higher monthly adjustments to your Medicare B Premiums (if filing as an individual). The Budget Act also includes surcharges for a new income tier. With these two increases, older Americans in higher income tax brackets are edging towards paying the equivalent of premiums for private market health insurance coverage.



Athena's Corner: Narrative Economics

Is economics the dismal science? [Robert Schiller](#), best known for his book "[Irrational Exuberance](#)", does a bit of myth-busting in his [2017 Presidential address](#) to the American Economic Association with this engaging discussion of the correlation between human storytelling and economic fluctuations.

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