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Confidence Rising

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Confidence Rising

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Participants of the world's largest student investment forum at the University of Dayton seem quite distrusting of the government, with only 2 percent of voters saying they trust Congress over Wall Street.

When asked, "When choosing between investors or lawmakers, do you place greater trust in?", Wall Street came in first with 60 percent of the votes, and 38 percent said they trusted neither, a drop from last year's poll where 62 percent said they trusted neither.

Students attending the first day of the RISE forum March 27 were invited to vote on six poll questions via text message. There were 181 respondents.

Other results were:

- For the fourth year in a row, petroleum received the most votes (49 percent) for the industry that would achieve the highest returns in the energy field in the next 10 years. Solar again came in second (32 percent) and nuclear came in third place with 12 percent.
- The federal budget deficit topped the list (35 percent) of the most important issues facing the U.S. today, surpassing last year's top vote, the economy, which came in a close second with 30 percent of the vote. Health care and education were equal in students' eyes with 18 percent each.
- Fittingly, deficit reduction topped the list (42 percent) of the federal action that would have the most positive effect on the economy in the next four years. Finding a balance between deficit reduction and increased tax revenues came in second at 35 percent, and spending on programs to boost jobs quickly came in third with 18 percent.
- The students seem optimistic about the Dow — 60 percent predict that it will be between 16,000 and 16,999 a year from now, March 27, 2015. The second place vote (24 percent) placed the Dow over 17,000, and between 15,000 and 15,999 was in third with 12 percent. Students were less optimistic a year ago, when only 13 percent accurately predicted the Dow would be over 16,000 in 2014.
- The vast majority (75 percent) of the respondents said it was extremely important or very important their careers or work result in a benefit to society, while 3 percent said it was not important.

Celebrating its 14th anniversary, RISE (Redefining Investment Strategy Education) is a financial forum for students, faculty and professionals featuring unscripted, interactive discussions with internationally known leaders on topics including markets, governance, risk management, energy and social responsibility.

RISE 14 runs through Saturday, March 29, with student and faculty breakout sessions, workshops, networking receptions and a career strategies forum.

Follow RISE on Twitter @RISEforum or by searching #UDrise.

For more on the event, visit udayton.edu/business/rise/.

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