Beginning with the Basics

By Gary Case & Josh Siverson

Our office currently has an intern from Columbia High School, Josh Siverson, who has been observing and working in our office. I asked him to write a column about investing from his perspective. With a bit of editing on my part, here is his column:

There are practically endless possibilities to allocate money as you being your journey in the investment world. Often people get caught up and stressed over which investment is best for them and which one will make them the most money with the right amount of risk. Investments are designed to make money and should conform to each person's time frame and risk tolerance. People shouldn't conform to investments, investments should conform to us, and because we have such a diverse society, it makes sense that we have a diverse investment spectrum.

For those of us just starting out there is nothing wrong with easy to manage investments, such as mutual funds or bonds. For some people a good way is to start out with a savings account, and when sufficient funds are built up, then money can be transferred into investments designed for more growth.

In my experience with the business world I have learned that there is nothing wrong with sticking with what you know, because if you are to go and invest in some crazy investment that sounds good on paper, but you really don't know the ins and outs of it, how much confidence are you really going to have? With simple options you are able to have confidence, because you are able to have a good foundation of understanding.

In the end, as investors we all share a common goal; to grow our money and learn while doing so. Everyone's path is different, and the great thing about achieving that goal is not in meeting the goal itself, but the journey and experience we gain while pursuing our investment dreams, because the journey is actually the real goal.

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