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Dr. Michael Thomas serves as a lecturer in the Department of Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics at the University of Georgia. He teaches *Introduction to Personal Finance* to 2,000 undergraduate students each academic year. Dr. Thomas' research interests focus on understanding empathy and self-compassion's impact on financial well-being, and how data visualization influences financial behavior. He has created financial capability programs for kids and adults: Money Dawgs and Discovering Money Solutions. He currently serves on the board of The Ark and the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE). Dr. Thomas is also well known for his TED Talk – *Financial Empathy: Exploring the Story Beneath the Numbers*.

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