

## OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER DENISE L. NAPPIER

## **NEWS**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Nappier Receives Awards Citing Leadership, Accomplishment in Advocating Financial Education

Connecticut Treasurer Recognized by Consumer Credit Counseling Services and Connecticut Affiliate of American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

(Hartford) -- State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier's advocacy and accomplishments in furthering financial education in Connecticut has been recognized by two statewide organizations, each presenting her with an award honoring her leadership and contributions to financial literacy.

The awards, presented by the Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) and the Connecticut affiliate of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFC), cite Nappier's commitment, effectiveness and track-record in serving as an effective leader promoting financial literacy throughout the state.

"Financial education is absolutely essential as a building block for effective personal financial management and economic self-sufficiency," Nappier said. "I am pleased to receive this recognition from two such fine organizations who are leaders in financial education in their own right.

During Nappier's administration, the Treasurer's Office has developed an extensive financial education advocacy effort, working closely with numerous public and private organizations in the development and offering of programs that advance financial education and personal financial management skills among Connecticut residents.

Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) awarded Nappier the *Robert Haydock Award* for commitment to financial education. CCCS is a non profit organization that provides budget counseling, educational programs, debt management assistance, and housing counseling in a multi-language format. The award is named for Robert Haydock, an unwavering and enthusiastic supporter and advocate for financial education, through his work with the CCCS.

The Treasurer's Office has partnered with CCCS to bring programs including "Credit Where Credit is Due" and Get Checking", to Connecticut. The programs, which are offered free of charge to the community, were designed by CCCS to develop personal money management skills and encourage learning to use credit wisely, both solid foundations can be built for financial needs.

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In addition, the Connecticut Affiliate of American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) bestowed on Treasurer Nappier the "Friend of Connecticut Families" award. AAFCS is the professional organization for Family and Consumer Sciences educators.

The Treasury's financial education program is grounded in the belief that financial education can open the door to economic opportunity and the Treasurer's commitment to serve as a catalyst to accomplish that goal. The wide array of programs help to provide economic opportunities for Connecticut citizens and businesses through asset- building strategies and financial education. A major goal of the effort is to ensure the accessibility of these programs to youth, adults across the generations and underserved populations in the state.

"Financial education is important, during all stages of life, because economic opportunity can be a catalyst for change and enduring success," said Nappier. "We will continue working with organizations throughout the state that have the capacity to offer programs and assistance that can make a difference in people's lives and provide the skills and training necessary to build a better future."

In addition to the many programs co-sponsored by the Treasury in communities around the state, the Treasury also co-sponsors an annual Money Conference for Women, and manages the state's college savings program, CHET. Treasurer Nappier also spurred establishment and funding of Connecticut's IDA initiative, now administered by the Department of Labor. Individual Development Accounts (IDA) are matched savings accounts which enable low income families to save for first-time home purchases, job training and education or business start-ups. Financial literacy education provided to account-owners is an important element in IDA programs.

For more information of the Treasury's Financial Education efforts, please visit our website, www.state.ct.us/ott or contact Adrianne Baughns-Wallace, Director of Financial Education at (860) 702-3146.