

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Monday, February 8, 1999

**STATE TREASURER NAPPIER DONATES \$10,000 TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND,  
ANNOUNCES NEW ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWED IN HER NAME**

High school students in the Greater Hartford area will be the beneficiaries of major new gifts to the non-profit Greater Hartford Interracial Scholarship Fund (ISF), including one in her name, State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier announced today.

Nappier said that her First Annual "State Treasurer's Black-and-White Ball," held last month shortly after her inauguration as State Treasurer, had raised more than \$10,000 for the scholarship fund, for which she has served as finance chair for the past several years.

In addition, Nappier announced, two anonymous local philanthropists have jointly endowed a \$1,125 annual scholarship in her name, which will be used to help pay college tuition each year for the top-ranking female scholar in one of Hartford's three public high schools. A recipient will be selected every other year, beginning this spring, and must attend an accredited four-year college or university. Each student selected to receive the scholarship will receive \$1,125 in each of their four years of college. As part of the new Nappier Scholarship, the State Treasurer has pledged to personally mentor the young women selected for the award.

"I am truly overwhelmed by the generosity of the local donors who have established the Denise L. Nappier Scholarship," the state treasurer said, "and I thank them from the bottom of my heart." Their gift is especially meaningful to me as a former ISF scholar."

Nappier, who served as Hartford's City Treasurer from 1989 to 1999, is a graduate of Hartford Public High School, Virginia State University and the University of Cincinnati. She added that the proceeds of her State Treasurer's Ball, to be held annually in January, will be used each year to benefit local charitable organizations to be selected by her and the Treasurer's Ball committee.

"Because the Interracial Scholarship Fund is so near and dear to me, I wanted my First Annual State Treasurer's Ball to benefit the worthy cause of making higher education more affordable to the most deserving and neediest students," Nappier said. "I am so pleased to be able to give this \$10,000 gift to the fund, and I sincerely thank all who supported this new annual event."

More than 650 people attended the State Treasurer's Ball, held at the Omni New Haven on January 9, 1999, just three days after Nappier was inaugurated as the first African-American female state treasurer in the history of both Connecticut and the nation.

Bernard Rosen, chairman of the ISF, said that the couple who endowed the new Denise L. Nappier

<http://www.state.ct.us/ott/press1999/pr020599.html>

Scholarship had specified that it was intended to honor Nappier's achievements as a pioneer, mentor and role model for girls and young women in Connecticut. He said that the criteria for the award, beyond academic performance, would include scholars who would be the first in their families to attend college and students with a special interest in entering the fields of finance or public service.

"It is thrilling for me to have the opportunity to establish a practical mentoring program that will encourage young women to enter careers within the financial industry and in public service," Nappier said. "I know how rewarding both endeavors can be."

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