



**THE OFFICE OF  
STATE TREASURER  
DENISE L. NAPIER**

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**NEWS**

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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Treasurer Nappier Announces 2013 CHET  
Dream Big! Competition Winners**

**HARTFORD** – More than seven dozen aspiring surgeons, ballerinas, teachers, paleontologists and, yes, Presidents of the United States are the winners of the fifth annual CHET Dream Big! Competition. The contest encourages Connecticut students in kindergarten through fifth grade to share their dreams about life after college through drawings and essays.

The winners, who each will receive a \$300 contribution to a Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) direct-sold 529 college savings plan, were recognized at a ceremony held today at Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

“We were impressed with the heartfelt essays and expressive artwork that our talented young entrants produced for this year’s competition. It was challenging to pick winners from among more than 2,200 submissions; all of the students put forth a great effort with their drawings and essays,” said State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, who serves as Trustee for CHET.

The State of Connecticut offers CHET to help families save for future college costs. Funds deposited into a CHET account have tax advantages and can be used at accredited colleges and universities across the country, including vocational and technical schools, and some colleges abroad.

CHET is an investment vehicle, not merely a savings plan. It offers eleven investment options, allowing participants to select an option or combination of options that best fit their higher education saving needs and investment philosophy. Options vary depending on the age of the beneficiary and the participant’s tolerance for risk.

The CHET Dream Big! Competition is an annual contest that builds awareness of CHET among students, their parents, and teachers. In 2012, 376 new accounts were opened directly as a result of the competition, an increase over the 341 new accounts in 2011.

Treasurer Nappier noted, "This competition is just one of our various initiatives to promote the importance of saving for college. I am delighted that so many families learn about CHET through the competition and open CHET accounts. Dream Big! did not have just 93 winners – all the children who participated are winners by giving thought to what they would like to do after college and by learning the importance of saving for college."

"All children—no matter what they aspire to be— deserve a chance to pursue their dreams. Parents who invest in a CHET account when their children are elementary school aged are setting them off on a bright future. But it is never too late to open a CHET account. And during this period of slow economic recovery, with college costs increasing rapidly and many families struggling to make ends meet, every dollar invested can help provide some relief in paying for college. We are therefore delighted to offer Connecticut families and loved ones an affordable, accessible and tax advantaged way to save for higher education costs," Treasurer Nappier said.

The Dream Big! Competition includes two categories: Students in kindergarten through grade three were asked to draw a picture that answers the question, "What do I want to do after I go to college?" Fourth and fifth graders were asked to submit essays responding to the question, "How will I change the world after I go to college?" Entries were judged on three criteria: creativity, originality, portrayal of theme, and for the essays, also spelling and grammar. One girl and one boy from each grade from each of the state's eight counties were selected as winners.

CHET Dream Big! entrants were both very adventurous, and in some cases, very specific about what they wanted to be when they grew up. Professions included FBI agents, pediatric nurses, Life Star pilots, animators, bakers, authors and fashion designers, among many others. The inspiring upper elementary students who wished to change the world shared creative solutions for helping to stop bullying, to improve the environment, to better homeless individuals' lives, to cure cancer and to aid patients with memory loss, among other altruistic ambitions.

Additionally, the CHET Dream Big! Competition awarded the first 100 teachers to submit entries on behalf of their students with a \$50 gift card for school supplies.

The CHET Dream Big! Competition ran from January 22 through March 22, 2013. Winning entries are viewable at: <http://www.chetdreambig.com>.

**List of winners follows.**

## **About CHET**

The CHET direct-sold 529 college savings plan was established in 1997 and as of March 31, 2013 has grown to more than \$1.9 billion in assets and more than 86,300 individual accounts. Connecticut State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier serves as Trustee of CHET. The plan manager is TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. For more information about CHET, visit [www.aboutchet.com](http://www.aboutchet.com) or call the customer service center at (866) 314-3939. Find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/CHETcollegesavings](https://www.facebook.com/CHETcollegesavings)) or follow us on Twitter (@CHET529).

**Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) 529 College Savings Plan. Please visit [www.aboutchet.com](http://www.aboutchet.com) for a Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully.**

## 2013 Dream Big! Competition Winners

- Sedona Lathrop - **Fields Memorial School, Bozrah**
- Sebastian Arias, Reyes Avendano-Garcia, Loren Hawash, Tah'zyon Rogers, Cadea Thomas and Melanie Zamora - **Park City Magnet School, Bridgeport**
- Aidan Krok - **Edgewood School, Bristol**
- Nicholas Galaska, Lilith Griswold, Sophie Kisner and Jack Poland - **G.H. Robertson Intermediate School, Coventry**
- Jake Gottfried and Isabelle Smith - **Hindley Elementary School, Darien**
- Noelle Vaillancourt - **Center Elementary School, East Hampton**
- Ankit Roy - **Windermere Intermediate/Elementary School, Ellington**
- Lauren Ji - **Osborn Hill School, Fairfield**
- Miranda Lien - **Roger Sherman Elementary School, Fairfield**
- Domenique Fontano, Jeffery Gilliam and Christian Thrower - **Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School, Hartford**
- Grace Gunning - **Kinsella Magnet School, Hartford**
- Mimi Tran - **Parkville Community Elementary School, Hartford**
- Joshua Hudson - **Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, Hartford**
- Elizabeth Atkins - **Harwinton Consolidated School, Harwinton**
- Kevin Gamache and Grace McKenzie - **Burr Elementary School, Higganum**
- Sarah Ney - **Oak Grove Montessori School, Mansfield**
- Sophie Kulas - **Brewster Elementary School, Middlebury**
- Brandon White - **Long Meadow Elementary School, Middlebury**
- Grace Hinsch, Thomas Kannam and Alyssa Larkin - **John Lyman Elementary School, Middlefield**
- Sam Maldonado and Jamil Sampel - **Macdonough Elementary School, Middletown**
- Shane Gagne Lemay - **East Haddam Elementary School, Moodus**
- Leala Angeline Torres - **Maple Hill Elementary School, Naugatuck**
- Wiktorja Galazyn - **Chamberlain Primary School, New Britain**
- Lexxel Maldonado, Dezarya Trusty and Zarya Trusty - **Smalley Academy, New Britain**
- Craigrianna Golding - **Davis Street Arts & Academics Interdistrict Magnet, New Haven**
- Judah Maples - **Edgewood School, New Haven**
- Elijah Charles, Joseph Hardwick and Attilia Vendetto - **Nathan Hale Elementary School, New London**
- Trevor Belot - **Sarah Noble Intermediate School, New Milford**
- Joseph Fappiano - **Montowese Elementary School, North Haven**
- Molly Butremovic, Grace Cassata, Wyatt Elliot and Wyatt Hayes - **North Stonington Elementary, North Stonington**
- Aliveya Gebhardt, Betim Klobocishta, Sara Mustafi and Adriana Rinaldi - **Polk Elementary School, Oakville**
- Giovanna Lucia Parnoff - **Children's Tree Montessori School, Old Saybrook**
- Alexandra Lippke - **The Rectory School, Pomfret**
- Samantha A. Strell - **Algonquin Elementary School, Prospect**
- Sawyer Stewart - **Putnam Elementary School, Putnam**
- David Burns - **Somers Academy, Somers**
- Pio Castellano - **Strong Elementary School, Southington**

- Cassandra Harvell - **Stafford Elementary School, Stafford**
- Jack Poitras and Jessica Roy - **West Stafford School, Stafford Springs**
- Dominik Janik - **Newfield Elementary School, Stamford**
- Drake Fuller and Emily Shamback - **Sterling Community School, Sterling**
- Trinity Cote, Laniyah Robichaud and Jarred Schrader - **Wequonnoc Elementary School, Taftville**
- Maria Cayward - **Birch Grove Primary School, Tolland**
- Allen Cuello and Taylor Dvorovy - **Vogel-Wetmore School, Torrington**
- Colin Csizmadia - **Jane Ryan Elementary School, Trumbull**
- Ellis MacKay - **Mohegan School, Uncasville**
- TJ Arduini - **Pond Hill School, Wallingford**
- Emmett O'Malley, Ona Fae Swanson and Gavin Ukers - **Washington Primary School, Washington**
- Jazzmare M. Paneto - **Carrington Elementary School, Waterbury**
- Jayden Bailey, Eric Moreno, Sibora Oosja and Janaya Santos - **M.M. Generali Elementary School, Waterbury**
- Alesandro Gopal - **Beecher Road School, Woodbridge**
- Kristen Ash, Sophie Gronski, Karissa Minkema, Maxwell Racicot, Owen Rigney, Sydney Schuler and Markus Soderstrom - **Woodstock Elementary School, Woodstock**

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