



**OFFICE OF
STATE TREASURER
DENISE L. NAPPIER**

NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 22, 2001**

**STATEWIDE FINANCIAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY STATE
TREASURER, FLEET BANK, NATIONAL SELF-HELP INVESTMENT PLAN;**

***COMMUNITY-BASED SERIES OF CONFERENCES WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL
EDUCATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PARTICIPANTS***

(New Haven) - State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier and Fleet Connecticut President Chandler Howard, in partnership with the National Self-Help Investment Plan (SHIP), launched a statewide financial education initiative today that will include a series of community-based conferences and follow-up technical assistance for conference participants by Fleet Bank.

The **Connecticut Sullivan Financial Education Program** initiative is aimed at providing individuals, non-profits, small businesses and neighborhood economic development organizations with information they need to prudently manage, save and invest their money. This type of financial education will help provide a foundation for achieving economic security and is critical to building assets. Conferences will be held in New Haven, Waterbury, Hartford, Stamford, Bridgeport, and New London during the next 12-16 months. The first conference will be in New Haven on Saturday, November 17, the second in Waterbury in February.

The initiative is designed to assist individuals in the initial stages of savings and investment activities, as well as those with modest levels of financial experience. The conferences will include workshops and seminars that will be supported by ongoing technical assistance.

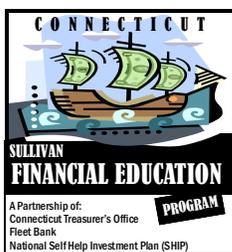
Treasurer Nappier, who described the public-private financial education partnership as a "landmark program" for Connecticut, said "it will be a sustained, comprehensive statewide effort. The health of the state is inextricably tied to the fiscal health of our citizens. This innovative initiative is designed to make a real and long-lasting difference in people's lives."

In addition to working with the SHIP organization to plan the conference sessions, Fleet Bank is providing funding for the program and professional staff from Fleet will continue to work with conference participants following the sessions to provide them with the technical assistance that they need to pursue their savings goals.

Fleet-Connecticut President Chandler Howard said "the financial education program is an extension of Fleet's commitment to the communities we serve. It is also consistent with Fleet's goal of making certain that everyone can share in the opportunity and prosperity our nation has to offer."

MEDIA CONTACTS:

**BERNARD L. KAVALER, TREASURER'S OFFICE, (860) 702-3277
DENNIS S. SCHAIN, FLEETBOSTON FINANCIAL, (860) 986-1383
TODD PRIDE, NATIONAL SELF-HELP INVESTMENT PLAN, (215) 717-1108**



Another central component of the program is the involvement of community-based organizations in the planning and follow-up for the conferences. For example, several community-based organizations have already begun meeting to provide input for the New Haven conference to be held next month.

The Philadelphia-based SHIP operation was created in 1993 by the late, Rev. Dr. Leon H. Sullivan, a pioneer civil rights leader who focused on community economic empowerment initiative. His efforts to use financial leverage to combat apartheid in South Africa led to the enactment of the Sullivan Principles, which gained worldwide endorsement and contributed to the end of apartheid.

“The Connecticut Sullivan Financial Education Program is the result of over 45 years of activities by the late, Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan in leading community economic empowerment efforts beginning with his Selective Patronage initiative that served as Dr. Martin Luther King’s model for his March on America. Rev. Sullivan’s early efforts in the 1950’s were followed by several domestic and international operations focused on empowering the disadvantaged and underserved. SHIP is carrying on his economic legacy in the U.S. and the support of the Sullivan Financial Education Program by the Treasurer Nappier and Fleet Bank exemplifies the type of partnership needed to effect change in our communities,” said Managing Director Todd A. Pride.

The goal of the SHIP operation is to provide individuals with the tools to pursue financial opportunities that will help improve their personal circumstances and give them knowledge to help make better decisions about economic development activities in their neighborhoods. Pride said that National SHIP is viewing the Connecticut initiative as a model for other communities across our nation, and he hopes to take the Connecticut experience to other states to establish similar partnerships to provide financial education.

Treasurer Nappier said, “Our aim is to help people navigate through the financial bureaucracy, and increase their likelihood of success in achieving their savings goals and building assets. These conferences should help to provide participants with the tools they need to empower them to make informed financial decisions that can help to build a better future.”

Howard added that “As a result of the Sullivan Financial Education Program, more people will be in a position to open bank accounts, start investment portfolios, buy their own home or even own their own business. And at Fleet, we’ll be ready to assist them with our small business lending, affordable housing and community banking initiatives.”

The conferences in each city will be similar, but may differ based on the input of community organizations and leaders. The goal is to build conferences that respond to the specific needs of residents in each of the communities.

Fleet is the largest bank in Connecticut, with 184 branches and nearly 400 ATMs. It is part of FleetBoston Financial, the seventh largest financial holding company in the United States.

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Connecticut Sullivan Financial Education Program

Denise L. Nappier, Treasurer, State of Connecticut

Denise Lynn Nappier is the 82nd Treasurer of the State of Connecticut. As Treasurer, she is principal fiduciary of the state's \$20 billion pension fund and is responsible for managing Connecticut's cash accounting system, through which nearly \$34 billion in cash in-flows and out-flows pass each year. When she took office in January, 1999, she became the first African-American woman elected to serve as a State Treasurer in the United States, the first African-American woman elected to a statewide office in Connecticut, and the first woman elected Treasurer in state history.

Treasurer Nappier has made sweeping changes in Connecticut's higher education savings program, CHET, that has made it more affordable and accessible for Connecticut families and resulted in the state-sponsored program being ranked as one of the top programs in the country. She also initiated successful efforts to establish a statewide asset-building initiative for low and moderate income families and is a strong advocate for financial literacy programs for state residents, especially youth.

Ms. Nappier is a native of Hartford, where she served as City Treasurer for nearly ten years. Prior to that, she was Executive Director of Riverfront Recapture, a not-for-profit organization that successfully spearheaded the redevelopment of Greater Hartford's riverfront area. Ms. Nappier holds a B.A. from Virginia State University and a master's degree in Community Planning from the University of Cincinnati.

Chandler Howard – President, Fleet Connecticut

Chandler Howard is President of Fleet Bank in Connecticut. In this role he is responsible for managing Fleet's overall operations in the state, including government relations, community affairs and corporate giving. Chandler also serves as Executive Vice President and Market Manager of Fleet's branch banking franchise for Connecticut and western Massachusetts. This network consists of 212 branches and approximately \$14 billion in deposits.

Chandler has long been active in a number of community organizations. He served as Chairman of the Greater Hartford American Heart Walk for 2001 and currently serves as Chairman of the boards of Charter Oak State College and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. He is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Greater Hartford Urban League and the Greater Hartford Regional YMCA.

He also serves on the Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology, the Greater Hartford Alliance Board of Directors, the Board of Fellows for the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, the Executive Committee of The United Way of the Capital Area, the Board of St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, the Advisory Committee for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the Mount Sinai Hospital Community Advisory Committee, the Advisory Board of the Greater Hartford Urban League and is a current Board Member of the Greater Hartford YMCA

Chandler received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Connecticut, and a Master's Degree in Finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Chandler resides in Farmington with his wife and four children.

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Todd A. Pride - Managing Director, National Self-Help Investment Plan (SHIP)

Mr. Pride has served as the Managing Director of the National SHIP operation since November of 1999. Prior to this, Mr. Pride served as the Managing Director of the Urban Equity Partnership, a community investment banking organization based in Philadelphia, PA focused on providing advisory services to basic sector small and middle market companies, non-profit organizations and government agencies. Prior to this Mr. Pride served as the Managing Partner of Margretta Capital, Ltd, a Philadelphia, PA based merchant banking firm that serviced development stage and growth stage manufacturing and energy companies in the Mid-Atlantic region of the country. Mr. Pride resides in Philadelphia, PA and serves on the boards of a community financial institution, educational and arts-related non-profit organizations.

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