

**NEWS FROM TIAA-CREF**  
**“BIG DREAMS START SMALL” COLLEGE FUND CONTEST LAUNCHED**

NEW YORK, N.Y. (September 5, 2013) -- To raise awareness of the benefits of state 529 college savings plans and to help one student’s dreams come true, TIAA-CREF has launched the “Big Dreams Start Small \$100,000 College Fund Contest.”

TIAA-CREF is one of the largest service providers to state 529 college savings plans in the country, including CHET Direct, Connecticut’s 529 College Savings Plan under the umbrella of the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier is Trustee of CHET.

The winner of the college fund contest will receive \$100,000 for their grandchild or child, contributed to a state 529 college savings account sponsored by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. The contest is part of AARP College Savings Solutions from TIAA-CREF, which aims to educate individuals, particularly grandparents, about the benefits of saving for college.

Earlier this month, Treasurer Nappier announced a new initiative for Connecticut, CHET *Advance* Scholarship, to help students pay for college.

In the fall, CHET *Advance* Scholarship will hold random drawings totaling \$500,000 to provide up to 200 Connecticut high school seniors with a \$2,500 scholarship for college expenses. Applications to participate in the drawings will be accepted online at [www.chetadvance.com](http://www.chetadvance.com) beginning at 8 a.m. on September 16 and ending at 5 p.m. on October 4, 2013.

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. and The Hartford, plan managers for CHET Direct-Sold and CHET Advisor-Sold, respectively, contribute annually into a Scholarship account to finance the CHET *Advance*, under their contracts with the Treasurer’s Office to manage CHET. No state funds will be used for awards issued under CHET *Advance* Scholarship.

The separate national contest sponsored by TIAA-CREF in partnership with AARP runs through the end of the year. To apply and for further information, go to <https://bigdreams.aarpcollegesavings.com>.

Click [here](#) to read the press release on the national “Big Dreams Start Small” contest.