



The Office Of State Treasurer  
Denise L. Nappier

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## News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS JOIN TREASURER NAPIER ON VISIT TO COLLEGE CAMPUS** *CHET Celebrates College Savings Month*

HARTFORD, CT – A musician. A chemist. A doctor. A teacher. A pharmacist. These are just some of the career aspirations students from across the state shared as part of the CHET Dream Big! Competition earlier this year. Today, some of those same students were given the opportunity to visit a local college campus to learn how to make their dreams a reality.



State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier invited students from three elementary and middle schools in New Britain to Central Connecticut State University (“CCSU”) for a College Savings Month celebration. The event, which included a campus tour, gave the students an opportunity, where possible, to talk to older students with similar interests while focusing on the importance of saving for college and working hard in school. The tour was led by college students majoring in elementary education, psychology and communications.

Attending the event were students from three schools that had high participation rates in the Dream Big! Competition – Vance Village Elementary School, Smalley Academy and the House of Arts Letters and Sciences (HALS) Academy.

Nathan Velez, a second grader at Smalley, said during the tour, “I can see my future!”, as the group was walking into the athletics building.

Earlier, the students met Tyson Batiste, a freshman on the CCSU men’s basketball team, and Donyell Marshall, coach of the team and a former University of Connecticut and National Basketball Association star. Marshall told the students, "Don't let anyone stop you from following your dreams. If you can dream it, you can achieve it.”

In remarks, Treasurer Nappier told the 34 students to “pay yourself first. How do you pay yourself first? You save your money so it can grow,” she said.

At the event, each student received a CHET piggy bank with a dollar inside as a reminder to save early and often.

“We saw this as an opportunity to help young students connect their dreams with going to college in order to make those dreams come true,” said Treasurer Nappier, Trustee of the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (“CHET”), the State’s 529 college savings program. “For most of these students, it was the first time they ever stepped foot on a college campus. We want them and their families to start thinking about and saving for college.”

CHET also is celebrating College Savings Month with a series of webinars and employer events as well as through the recent launch of the fourth annual CHET *Advance* Scholarship program. High school seniors and freshmen can apply to participate in CHET *Advance* Scholarship online at [www.chetadvance.com](http://www.chetadvance.com) through Wednesday, October 5. It will provide grants of up to \$2,500 to 100 high school seniors and 100 high school freshmen. Six hundred students have received \$1.5 million in CHET *Advance* scholarships since the program launched in 2013.

### **About CHET**

Since CHET was established in 1997, approximately \$1.3 billion in qualified withdrawals have been taken to cover college costs for approximately 38,000 students attending nearly every public and private college in Connecticut and several out-of-state schools.

Today the number of CHET Direct-Sold 529 accounts stands at over 101,000 and total assets are at \$2.5 billion. That compares with 4,000 accounts and \$18.5 million in assets in 1999 when Treasurer Nappier took office.

Connecticut residents are allowed to deduct 529 contributions from their state income taxes up to \$5,000 for an individual or up to \$10,000 for a married couple filing jointly. Investment earnings are free from state and federal taxes if used for qualified educational expenses. A CHET account can be opened online with as little as \$25.

For more information about CHET, visit [www.aboutchet.com](http://www.aboutchet.com) or call the customer service center at (866) 314-3939. Find CHET on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CHETcollegesavings) (facebook.com/CHETcollegesavings) or follow it on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CHET529) (@CHET529).

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