



The Office Of State Treasurer
Denise L. Nappier

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 2017

**TREASURER NAPIER ANNOUNCES 2017
CHET *Advance* Scholarship Winners**
200 Connecticut High School Students To Receive \$500,000



HARTFORD, CT – More than 200 people joined State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier recently at an inspirational ceremony at the Legislative Office Building to celebrate 100 ninth-grade students and 100 high school seniors who were selected as recipients of a 2017 CHET *Advance* Scholarship.



“The enthusiasm and promise that these students represent make this one of my favorite nights of the year,” said Treasurer Nappier, Trustee of the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). “These are kids with a vision for their future, and it’s especially gratifying to know that this scholarship will help them to further their dreams.”

2017 is the fifth year of the CHET *Advance* Scholarship program, which awards \$2,500 scholarships to high school seniors and an initial \$2,000 in scholarships to freshmen. The freshmen have the opportunity to receive an additional \$500 if the student’s family saves \$500 in a CHET account by the time the student goes to college.

Among the speakers at the December 1 ceremony was past scholarship recipient Dar’Ron Brown, who told the audience, “On this evening I would like to take the time to encourage the

seniors here tonight. I was in your seats a few years back thinking that I had my life all together and figured out. But when you get to college, let me explain that the bills don't stop, the stress doesn't stop. You have to keep pressing on. You may fall but get back up."

Brown was one of the first 200 students in Connecticut to receive the CHET *Advance* Scholarship when the program launched in 2013.

Also speaking at the ceremony were two high school seniors, as recipients of a 2107 scholarship: Jessica Aca-Tecuanhuehue, from Central High School in Bridgeport; and Michael Austin, from Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury. Aca-Tecuanhuehue spoke of being one of seven children and, with her father as sole breadwinner, that the scholarship "has given me the opportunity to cover basic school needs." Austin noted that he has applied to five schools, at a cost of almost \$500, so the scholarship will be "really helpful." "I assure you it will definitely be put to good use," he said.

Treasurer Nappier, in her remarks, told the students, "Know this: As long as you believe that 'the sky is the limit,' it will be. So, if entering the CHET *Advance* Scholarship contest and winning has inspired or encouraged you to step up your commitment to your future, then you're already on the path to success. Now all you have to do is work to stay on that path."

The winners, who were randomly selected from a pool of more than 3,300 applicants, hail from high schools across the state. All five congressional districts are represented among the winners. Of the winners, 117 are girls and 83 are boys.¹

"The process of researching, applying for and deciding what college to go to is incredibly stressful for students and families. If we are able to help reduce that stress level by a small amount or help fill the cost gap with CHET *Advance* Scholarship, then that's a win in my book," Treasurer Nappier said.

CHET *Advance* Scholarship is administered by the Connecticut Higher Education Trust, Connecticut's 529 college savings plan. As Trustee of CHET, Treasurer Nappier negotiated for the establishment of the scholarship program. 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 scholarship program, under their contracts with the Treasurer's Office to manage CHET 529. No state funds are used for awards issued under CHET *Advance* Scholarship.

To ensure the impartiality of the random drawings, International Scholarship and Tuition Services, which has more than 25 years of scholarship administration experience, administers the selection process with oversight from TIAA.

About CHET

The Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) direct-sold college savings plan was established in 1997 and has enjoyed steady growth, surpassing \$2.9 billion in assets under management and more than 116,000 accounts. CHET Advisor, started in 2010, also has seen consistent growth, surpassing \$500 million in assets and more than 28,000 accounts.

¹ See Attachment A for a full list of the names of the 2017 CHET *Advance* Scholarship recipients.

Since CHET's inception, more than \$1.6 billion in qualified withdrawals have been taken to cover college costs for approximately 47,000 students attending nearly every public and private college in Connecticut and several out-of-state schools.

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.

Connecticut taxpayers are eligible to receive a Connecticut income tax deduction of up to \$10,000 per year for married couples filing jointly and \$5,000 per year for individuals on contributions made to CHET.

Investment earnings are exempt from state and federal taxes if used for qualified educational expenses.

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

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ATTACHMENT A

December 6, 2017

CHET *Advance* Scholarship Recipients The full list of the 2017 CHET *Advance* Scholarship recipients is as follows:

9th Grade Student Winners:

- Noah Alberti, Oxford
- Daniya Ali, Fairfield
- Kaylee Allegretti, Middletown
- Lindsey Arduini, Plantsville
- Lauren Borchert, Southington
- Madeleine Brouillad, Vernon
- Layla Browne, Windsor
- Ryan Bucciferro, Beacon Falls
- Andrew Buck, Fairfield
- Jillian Burns, Wallingford
- Karla Calderon, Bridgeport
- Tiffany Chum, New Haven
- Madilyn Crawford, Lebanon
- Kyara Crespo, Meriden
- Grace Dauch, Newtown
- Meghan DeGray, Norwalk
- Emelia Dooling, Naugatuck
- Samantha Erickson, Unionville
- Ryan Galdenzi, Fairfield
- Jadah Gale, Meriden
- Kathryn Galvin, Vernon
- Andre Gomez, New London
- Jennifer Gonzalez, New Haven
- Jaquay Grace, Meriden
- Jason Green, Bridgeport
- Kitty Guo, Middletown
- Erick Morales, New Haven
- Colleen Mullane, Stratford
- Alexandra Northrup, New Haven
- Keira O'Connor, Shelton
- Cristian Ortiz, Wallingford
- Ashley Ortiz, Meriden
- Jerick Pallasco, New Haven
- Brett Paquette, Griswold
- Matthew Paul, Southington
- Jacob Paulhus, East Hartford
- Gabriel Petshaft, Fairfield
- Kenelly Poutou, New Haven
- Audrey Ray, Oxford
- Tyler Gutsfeld, Simsbury
- Nicholas Gwiazdowski, Southington
- Morgan Hanks, Stafford
- Aidan Hanson, Quaker Hill
- Chad-Wayne Harris, New Haven
- Luke Impelluso, Berlin
- Mia Kelley, Unionville
- Kiley Keough, Farmington
- Olivia Kilgus, Manchester
- Samuel Klau, Southington
- Allyson Koliani, Beacon Falls
- Braeden Kosiewicz, Madison
- Faith Kosior, Southington
- Rachel Kinka, Stonington
- Cameron Kuselias, Middletown
- Chase Lapierre, Berlin
- Christopher Lee, Torrington
- Jacob Lee, Monroe
- Abigail Luis, New Milford
- Yahaira Maca Salgado, Willimantic

Contact: David Barrett, Director of Communications, (860) 702-3164

David.S.Barrett@Ct.Gov

- Mateo Macias, Waterbury
- Bailey McGuigan, Trumbull
- Rosemary McKerley, Coventry
- Shannon McKinley, South Windsor
- Emma McQuiston, Webster
- Sophia McSherry, New Milford
- Jesus Mejia, New Haven
- Claudia Meyer, Redding
- Rebecca Milewski, Wallingford
- Kenny Miller, New London
- Luis Montanez, Meriden
- Alexa Reis, Shelton
- John Riccio, Shelton
- Joseph Rice, Vernon
- Trevor Rinaldi, Hawinton
- Rachel Rodriguez, New London
- Anthony Romano, Wallingford
- Caitlin Rorke, Southport
- Evan Schlein, Niantic
- Carley Simler, Vernon
- Caitlyn Simler, Vernon
- Nora Smith, Middletown
- Samuel Snyder, Monroe
- Katherine Spangenberg, Monroe
- Zachary Stock, North Stonington
- Emma Stronge, Monroe
- Skyla Thomas, New Haven
- Kiara Thornton-Bey, Manchester
- Adrian Torres-Maginot, Stamford
- Nyah Traverso, Meriden
- Payton Turnquist, Southington
- Lenie Urbina, Sandy Hook
- Analis Vazquez, New Haven
- Yaselie Veras, Windsor
- Molly Verespie, Seymour
- Alexander Viar, South Windsor
- Isabella Weber, New Milford
- Jeremiah Williams, Meriden
- Matthew Williams, Sandy Hook
- Christopher Wilson, Farmington
- Grace Zambarano, Monroe

12th Grade Student Winners:

- Jessica Aca-Tecuanhuehue, Bridgeport
- Mehki Arline, Waterbury
- Aliana Artache, New Haven
- Christopher Attis, New London
- Michael Austin, Waterbury
- Brittany Bailey, New Haven
- Brandon Barnosky, Watertown
- Amber Basso, Winsted
- Calli Beatman, Berlin
- Kai Bolat, Wallingford
- Adolphe Mardochee Bouanga, New Haven
- Teniya Brookshire, New Haven
- Dwayne Carson, New Haven
- Alexander Cavalierem Marlborough
- Kaitlyn Chen, New Fairfield
- Sophie Chung, Monroe
- Julie Coppa, West Granby
- Mary Daniels, Bridgeport
- Chandler Davis, Windsor
- Alicia Davis, Warren
- Johanna Hernandez, Bridgeport
- Ny'Asia Davis, New Haven
- Aboubacar Diane, New Haven
- Samantha Dodge, West Haven
- Kayla Doner, Newington
- Doubenz Fabius, Bridgeport
- Theodore Farland, Branford
- Isabel Fitzsimons, Hartford
- Liz-Sola Francillon, New London
- Claire Fresher, North Haven
- Jake Frye, Ellington
- Falon Fuqua, Meriden
- Adelyn Garcia, New Haven
- Nia Gayle, West Haven
- Brianna Gibbs, Windsor
- Ben Gladstone, Torrington
- Yaakov Gottlieb, New Haven
- Thomas Greene, Waterbury
- Arron Hargrave, Bridgeport
- Broghan Henebery, Watertown
- James Heran, Newtown

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- Tyron Houtson, New Haven
- Noah Isaacson, Ridgefield
- Zoe James, New Haven
- Jacob Jankowski, Mystic
- Sierra Rose Jennings, Groton
- Romario Johnson, Bridgeport
- Illiara Juarez, Willimantic
- Mohammed Khair, Bridgeport
- Roheena Khan, Vernon
- Owen Lally, Lebanon
- Molly Leary, Portland
- Hannah Littlefield, New Milford
- Justin Luong, Farmington
- Faryn Malley, Southington
- Casey Martin, Darien
- Kaylee Miller, Stafford Springs
- Katherine Miller, Gales Ferry
- Noel Mitchell, New Haven
- Benjamin Morales, Greenwich
- Isabel Moura, Bridgeport
- Phoebe Mrozinski, Tolland
- Dejvi Mucka, Farmington
- Katelyn Mullen, Southbury
- Brianna Mulloy, Monroe
- Muniru Mumuni, Bridgeport
- Alisyn Narracci, Northford
- Rosalee Nicholson, New London
- Nicholas Niemiec, Brooklyn
- Kaitlyn Noyes, Waterford
- Lydia Ogbe, New Haven
- Sierra O'Keefe, Milford
- Madison Ortiz, Bridgeport
- Amberlynn Pantoja, Bridgeport
- Sapna Patel, East Hartford
- Mike Pauta, Derby
- Hallie Perrin, Middlebury
- Sunita Pfitzner, New Milford
- Kylie Poe, Old Greenwich
- Scott Preszler, Newtown
- Kella Psillas, Manchester
- Andrew Reagan, Middletown
- Kayla Resto, Shelton
- Grace Rosario, Manchester
- Rebecca Samuel, Windsor
- Justin Schiller, Fairfield
- Andre Service, Hartford
- Marshall Shields, Winsted
- Michael Smalls, New Haven
- Krishna Soni, Naugatuck
- Ghetchina St. Cyr, Bridgeport
- Lauren Stango, Middlebury
- Tate Sterner, Fairfield
- Naja Thompson, New Haven
- Jake Thornley, Monroe
- Abigail Tohill, Monroe
- Cherika Urquhart, East Hartford
- Rickqueal Warren, New Haven
- Tierra Whitaker, New Haven
- Miranda Zhang, West Hartford