



THE OFFICE OF
STATE TREASURER
DENISE L. NAPIER

NEWS

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**State Treasurer Empowers Teenagers as Investors and Consumers
Launches Interactive "Green Investing" Stock Market Game**

More than 450 young people from dozens of Connecticut high schools learned how powerful their dollars can be as they gathered Tuesday, Feb. 5 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs for "Your Dollar, Your World," a personal finance and economics conference. The students also learned how corporate impact on climate change, global human rights and workplace practices can affect their consumer habits and investment decisions. The conference was spearheaded by the Office of State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier in partnership with the University of Connecticut, several Wall Street financial companies, representatives from the United Nations and experts from across the country on climate risk, human rights and workplace protections. UCONN President Michael Hogan was also in attendance to greet students and give opening remarks.

At the conference, held at the University of Connecticut's Storrs campus, students launched a newly developed special "green" division of the nationally syndicated Stock Market Game. The game has been adapted by the University's Center for Economic Education so students can use targeted investment screens to rate how well – or poorly – companies do when it comes to conducting their business in an environmentally and socially responsible way. Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to meet national industry experts in the areas of finance, corporate governance, human rights and climate risk, and explore how business sustainability efforts will have an increasing affect on their personal spending patterns.

"This conference offered a wonderful opportunity for students to assess their own financial clout and see first-hand how their actions as consumers and future investors directly and indirectly influence business management practices and products," said Treasurer Nappier.

Nappier added, "We have 34 million teens between the ages of 12 and 19 in this country who last year spent a total of \$176 billion. This makes high school students one of the most sought after target markets, putting them in an enviable position to shape how businesses respond to their societal concerns."

Joining Nappier at the conference were representatives from Bank of America, AIG Investments, Credit Suisse, Clean Air-Cool Planet, KLD Research & Analytics and the Kazanjian Foundation. In addition to the "green" investing stock market game roll-out, the conference highlights also included a viewing of the "Live Earth Concert" footage, presentation of "The Promise," a film on the Darfur genocide made by Danbury High School students, a mutual fund essay competition, and several break-out sessions on human rights and workplace protection, corporate social responsibility, energy alternatives and sessions on how students can organize a "green campaign" in their schools.

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