



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

NEWS RELEASE

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Student Winners of Statewide Poster Contest Announced

MONTPELIER, Vt.—In a State House ceremony today, three Vermont students were recognized by State Treasurer Jeb Spaulding as the statewide poster contest winners of a competition that challenged each to visually portray the theme, “Financial Responsibility Begins with Me.”

“This contest presented a great opportunity to motivate kids to think about what they can be doing now to responsibly manage their money,” said Spaulding.

The Treasurer’s Office, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of New Hampshire and Vermont, and the Vermont Bankers Association sponsored the contest as a way to promote financial education for youth. The statewide contest was part of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling’s (NFCC) annual national poster competition.

The winner of the elementary division was Kelsey Craige, a 4th grade student at Allen Brook School in Williston. The character in her poster is portrayed using her “head” to make financial decisions, such as saving for college, instead of following her “heart” and spending money on shopping trips and movies.

Dominic Wysolmerski, a 7th grade student at Christ the King School in Rutland, was the winner of the middle school division. His money-man cartoon lists a range of financially responsible choices, including not squandering allowances and saving birthday gift money.

The high school division was won by 12th grade student Katherine Derby of the Windham Regional Career Center in Brattleboro. The poster she created shows the personal choice between saving or spending money at the local mall. Derby participates in a school program that allows her to train and receive job experience as a student teller at the Career Center Branch Bank. She will include her poster in her student portfolio.

“It is such an important issue to teach my students about,” said Deborah Serafino, a math teacher at Christ the King School. “They will soon face issues like managing a credit card and learning to live within their means. The poster theme gave me a great opportunity to discuss such things in class.”

Each student received a \$100 U.S. savings bond and the student’s school a \$100 cash award. The prizes were provided by the Vermont Bankers Association.

“The Vermont Bankers Association has a long-standing commitment to the support of financial literacy for our youth,” said VBA President Chris D’Elia. “This poster competition

helps build awareness of the importance of teaching our kids money management skills like saving, responsible use of credit, and budgeting.”

The students' posters were entered in the national NFCC competition, but were not selected as national winners. The overall national winner this year was Harrison Noh, an 8th grade student from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The national student winner and a parent will be flown to Washington D.C. later this month where the student will receive a \$500 savings bond.

“The poster contest was a great opportunity to get children of all ages thinking about money and open discussions with teachers and parents about financial matters,” said CCCS Education Director Becky Palmer.

The poster winner announcement was part of a proclamation signing ceremony in which Governor Jim Douglas proclaimed April as Financial Literacy for Youth Month.

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