



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

NEWS RELEASE

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Students Shine Light on Need for Financial Literacy

MONTPELIER, Vt.—Whether it's mentally piecing together the puzzle of personal finance or simply saving money consistently, winning poster art by three Vermont students all portrayed the message that smart money choices now mean a brighter future tomorrow. Charlotte Brace of Union Elementary School, Dejah Lee of the Sharon Academy, and Haeji Joh of St. Johnsbury Academy were recognized today for their poster art at a State House ceremony. The ceremony was part of a celebration of April as Financial Literacy for Youth month.

"Programs like this yearly financial literacy poster contest help spotlight the importance of teaching Vermont youth about personal finances," said State Treasurer Jeb Spaulding. "This is the third year my office has co-sponsored the statewide contest. It provides teachers and parents with an opportunity to discuss personal finances with students and help them visualize ways to put smart money choices into action."

The 2010 poster theme was: "Smart Money Choices = A Brighter Future." Spaulding and Governor Jim Douglas recognized state winners in three grade divisions. 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. Division winners received a \$100 U.S. savings bond and their schools a \$100 cash award. The statewide competition is part of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling's (NFCC) annual national poster competition.

Below is a list of the students and their schools that were recognized in today's ceremony.

Elementary School Division:

First Place: Charlotte Brace, Union Elementary School, Montpelier

Second Place: Josie Langlois, Waterville Elementary School, Waterville

Third Place Tie: Nicolette Brown and Harvey Kelley, Newton School, South Strafford

Middle School Division:

First Place: Dejah Lee, Sharon Academy, Sharon

Second Place: Buddy Colgrove, home-schooled, Middlesex

Third Place: Emily Osiecki, St. Albans Town Educational Center, St. Albans

High School Division:

First Place: Haeji Joh, St. Johnsbury Academy, St. Johnsbury

Second Place: Lei Mao, St. Johnsbury Academy, St. Johnsbury
No third place finisher was named.

Posters were judged on expression of theme, artwork style and content, and creativity. A proclamation by Governor Jim Douglas designating April as Financial Literacy for Youth Month also was presented as part of the ceremony. Gregg Mousley, the President of the Vermont Jump\$tart Coalition, received the proclamation.

To view the winning posters and to access resources for teachers and parents on teaching financial topics to youth, go to www.MoneyEd.Vermont.gov. Vermont Jump\$tart also offers a comprehensive clearinghouse of materials through its web site at www.vtjumpstart.org.