



hartford region

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**Valerie Coleman Morris Reminds Crowd of 375
“It’s Your Money So Take It Personally”
at YWCA’s Money Conference for Women**

Hartford, CT—“Build your wealth over a lifetime,” financial journalist and keynote speaker, Valerie Coleman Morris, told the crowd of 375 at YWCA Hartford Region’s 13th annual *Money Conference for Women* on October 25th. “You do that by paying yourself first,” she said.

Coleman Morris closed her presentation by giving tangible tips that the audience could implement immediately to improve their finances. These included: “Know where your money is going,” “know how much you are saving,” “schedule meetings with your partner to make sure you are on the same page,” and “manage your own money.”

Now in its 13th year, the *Money Conference for Women*, hosted by YWCA Hartford Region with Honorary Chair, State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, offers help to women of all ages and encourages women to take charge of their financial futures.

“You work hard for your money so make sure your money works hard for you,” Treasurer Nappier said at the conference. She added, “Today’s conference is all about taking stock. We know how important regular check-ups are when it comes to our physical well-being. Regular financial check-ups are just as important, especially for women.”

YWCA Hartford Region CEO Deborah Ullman said, “As women, we tend to be more intimidated about financial issues, less informed about ways to secure our financial future and we are more conservative investors. Being here today, you have clearly chosen to be proactive in managing your financial future.”

The *Money Conference for Women* is designed to address the unique financial challenges women face in their work and personal lives. In Connecticut, female workers are still paid, on average, only 74 cents for each dollar made by men for the same job. The wage gaps amounts to \$443,360 of lost wages over a 40-year period of full time work. A woman would have to work

almost 12 additional years to make up this gap. The wage discrepancy for women of color is even larger.

The *Money Conference for Women* continues to evolve to address the variety of financial challenges women face. In addition to the keynote presentation, participants choose to attend two workshops from a variety of financial topics based on their specific needs. These workshops range from *The Basics of Money Management* to *Advanced Investing*. This year, a new workshop aimed at female small business owners was introduced. The *Develop a Vision for Your Small Business* workshop was one of the most popular workshops at the conference.

YWCA thanks the individual donors and sponsors who make this conference possible. **Presenting Sponsor:** Prudential Retirement. **Gold Sponsors:** Bank of America, Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET), and TD Bank. **Silver Sponsor:** Connecticut Light & Power and Yankee Gas - Northeast Utilities Companies. **Bronze Sponsors:** Berkshire Bank, Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Fairview Capital Partners, Inc., Landmark Partners, RBC Wealth Management and University of Saint Joseph. **Media Sponsor:** Hartford Courant.

Photo Caption: YWCA Hartford Region CEO Deborah Ullman, Keynote speaker Valerie Coleman Morris, Connecticut State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier.

Photo Credit: Stephanie Pliskin, YWCA Hartford Region

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, a women's membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy and economic empowerment. For more information about YWCA Hartford Region, visit www.ywcahartford.org and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).