



For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2006

**Contact:**  
NAST (859) 244-8175

## **FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE TOPS LIST OF EXCEPTIONAL SPEAKERS AT THE NAST AND CSPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Former Vice President Al Gore will bring his message of global warming to the National Association of State Treasurers and College Savings Plans Network Annual Conference. On the heels of his best selling book and successful film production, Mr. Gore will speak to the nation's treasurers and state financial leaders about his personal efforts to educate the public about global warming's deadly progress by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. Gore is just one of several high profile speakers lined up for the July 9-13 event. Other notable presentations will be delivered by:

**Jane Bryant Quinn** -Contributing Editor for *Newsweek Magazine* and a New York Times best selling author. Quinn has been named one of the "100 Most Influential Business Journalists" and she has been an avid proponent and monitor of college savings plans since their inception in the mid 1980s.

**Laurence D. Fink**-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BlackRock. The recently announced merger with Merrill Lynch's investment management business will create one of the world's largest asset management firms.

**Ronald E. Logue** -Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of State Street Corporation, the world's leading provider of financial services to institutional investors.

**Hon. Gaston Caperton**-Former two-term governor of West Virginia, and the president of the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association founded in 1900 that consists of 5,000 of the nation's leading schools, colleges and universities. Since his appointment in 1999, Caperton has transformed the College Board into a mission-driven, values-oriented organization that takes bold steps to connect greater numbers of students to college success and opportunity while raising educational standards.

**Jessica Lynch**- Former prisoner of war during "Operation Iraqi Freedom". She was rescued by United States forces on April 1, 2003, which was the first successful rescue of an American POW since World War II and the first ever of a woman.

Particular sessions at the conference will focus on the basics of building a diverse investment portfolio, innovative matching grant and scholarship programs designed for use with college savings plans, and the issues that a state should consider when offering state tax incentives. The leaders of the organizations responsible for protecting the financial markets will also discuss current trends and impending problems facing American investors.

### **About the Conference**

The National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) Annual Conference in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia is held in conjunction with the College Savings Plan Network (CSPN). State treasurers as well as their staff members, college savings program administrators and several hundred representatives from the private sector financial community are expected to attend the conference. No where else will you find a more influential group of people gathered together in one place to discuss the policy issues and innovations that are arising in today's globally competitive market. State treasurers are the chief financial officers of the states, charged with assuring the absolute safety of taxpayer dollars. They are responsible for the management and oversight of more than one trillion dollars in state funds, including general, public pension, and state college savings funds. State treasurers are also responsible for the management of states' short- and long-term investment portfolios. State treasurers partake in a broad range of fiscal responsibilities and roles. They strive daily to guarantee the prudent use of public resources that fund vital government programs.

NAST is composed of state treasurers, or state finance officials with comparable responsibilities, from the United States, its commonwealths, territories, and the District of Columbia. The private sector is represented through the Corporate Affiliate program that was established to build professional relationships and foster cooperation between the public and private sectors. Through the NAST Foundation treasurers work to improve the financial security of their state's citizens by developing and implementing personal financial education programs for their states.

The College Savings Plans Network, an affiliate of NAST is a coalition of state treasurers and plan administrators for the nation's qualified tuition plans. CSPN serves as a non-profit trade association representing 529 plans across the country. The mission of these plans is to increase access to higher education by offering families a simple, safe, affordable and dedicated way to save for college tuition. These programs come in two forms: The savings plan includes mutual fund type investment options. The prepaid tuition plan encourages families to purchase future college tuition at an actuarially determined cost based on today's prices. The programs have brought attention to the need to save for college and work to reach families who would, if not for the states' efforts, not be saving for future college costs.