



NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR
CREDIT COUNSELING

*Knowing the difference can
make all the difference.*

NFCC PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:
Gail Cunningham
(940) 691-6322 - direct
(240) 672-2700 – cell
gcunningham@nfcc.org

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR CREDIT COUNSELING HONORS 2009 OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL COUNSELOR

Credit Counselor Has Helped Thousands Regain Financial Stability

Silver Spring, MD - A passion for helping people. That's the only way that Linda R. Smith, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling's (NFCC) 2009 Outstanding Individual Counselor, can be described.

Each year the NFCC recognizes one of its own through the Professional Achievement and Counseling Excellence (PACE) Awards. "Considering that the NFCC Member Agencies have more than 3,000 certified counselors, selecting the best of the best is no easy task," said NFCC Board Chair Michele Johnson.

Candidates are nominated by their NFCC Member Agency after meeting strict criteria requirements, with the award typically given to a credit counselor who demonstrates significant leadership among his/her peers. Emphasis is placed on helping consumers get back on track financially. Winners are selected by an independent panel of judges from academia, the media and other financially related fields, and the award was presented at the NFCC's 44th Annual Leaders Conference held in Washington, DC earlier this week.

Smith is a counselor with Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Central New York based in Syracuse. "Linda typifies the dedicated, knowledgeable and hard-working NFCC Member Agency counselor," said Mary Ann Stark, agency CEO. "She has made a difference in the lives of a countless number of people in our community, either counseling individuals one-on-one or by sharing her financial education expertise through workshops. Her passions lie in helping victims of domestic violence regain their financial footing, and in assisting low-income individuals secure subsidies allowing them to purchase a car for work. She has a heart for moving people from financial distress into financial stability, and it shows. She is a terrific example to others."

- 30 -

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC), founded in 1951, is the nation's largest and longest serving national nonprofit credit counseling organization. The NFCC's mission is to promote the national agenda for financially responsible behavior and build capacity for its members to deliver the highest quality financial education and counseling services. NFCC Members annually help more than three million consumers through close to 850 community-based offices nationwide. For free and affordable confidential advice through a reputable NFCC Member, call (800) 388-2227, (en Español (800) 682-9832) or visit www.nfcc.org.