

Matt Milford
2009 NYS GFOA Stanley M. Schoenfeld Memorial Scholarship Winner
Acceptance Speech

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and accountants.

I have been trying to figure out what to say and have had a hard time figuring who I should credit and who I should debit, any suggestions?

When I was asked to give a short speech, they didn't tell me how much to short my stock, I mean speech.

So, in the interest of time, I would like to keep things rolling along with a very short speech of five words:

Thank You for your money!

In all seriousness, I have to give thanks to some very deserving people. I would like first to thank the NYS GFOA and in particular the scholarship committee for putting their trust and faith in selecting me for this scholarship. I know there were some other very deserving candidates that I competed with, some also from Rockefeller College. I wish them and in particular, my friend Courtney, every avenue of success in their careers. This scholarship and conference is a great opportunity to further expand my knowledge and invigorate my passion for public finance. Thank you to Maura Ryan who has been terrific in making sure I had all the information I needed to attend and feel welcome at the conference. Thank you to Alan Gurien who has been my mentor and guide the last two days in the conference and who has introduced me to a wonderful group of people. I would like to thank my professors at Rockefeller College who nominated me for this award and in particular Bob Purtell, who inspires me and prods me to become a better student every time I am in his class. He is always telling me to stop thinking like an economist and think more like a manager. And finally I would like to thank my parents who were able to come this evening. They have given me everything and usually more, they have always gone above and beyond and have made sure that I strive to become the best person that I can be. Thanks Mom and Dad.

I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the conference over the past few days and have met a number of fascinating and outstanding people. It has been a great learning experience, one that I will be able to reflect upon in my career development in public finance. I look forward to becoming a continuing member of NYS GFOA and working in the public finance field in the upcoming years. While I'm happy that I am currently in school during these uncertain and challenging economic times, I am glad NYS GFOA is able to hold this conference so professionals in the public finance field can come together to find responsible solutions to problems that we all face.

And in a year, I will probably be looking for a job, so let me know if you are interested.

Thank you and goodnight!