Timothy D. Fournier is the President and CEO of Conifer Realty, LLC, a leading affordable housing developer based in Rochester. In recognizing affordable housing’s positive impact in shaping upstate New York, Tim has been a powerful voice for NYSAFAH’s advocacy of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), a program widely accepted as the most successful federal government housing strategy. He has focused his efforts on educating lawmakers on the tremendous success of the program, focusing specifically on the economic benefits and value the tax credit has brought to the region’s struggling urban, suburban, and rural communities.

“Working in the affordable housing industry lets me give back to upstate New York, a place where I live and raise my family. Affordable housing developments revitalize local economies, produce jobs (both construction and permanent) while providing communities a foundation to jump-start local commerce and employment,” said Tim. “The LIHTC program requires the private sector to take the lead in providing safe, decent, affordable housing solutions across New York State which gives struggling families quality living choices at a cost that supports an entire community.”

Tim first worked with Conifer Realty when they were a real estate client of his in 1982. In 1986 he joined full-time, just prior to the enactment of LIHTC. In 2006, he took the top post at Conifer Realty and has directed the company to explore new structures for completing LIHTC deals and expanding portfolio acquisitions into adjoining geographic regions. Conifer Realty prides itself on continually improving how they operate at all levels; from maintenance to management, layouts to lighting systems, each new project is viewed as an opportunity to improve upon the finished product. To date, Conifer has developed over 15,000 units in over 200 properties across five states. Tim believes that affordable housing brings with it an opportunity for community renewal, something which can be seen in thriving upstate urban neighborhoods like the South Wedge in Rochester or rural senior housing developments in Ithaca, Tompkins County.