



KEN MILLER
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER

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State Treasurer suggests perfect holiday gift for newborns is opening or contributing to Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan
Reminds parents of 2011 babies to enter Newborn Sweepstakes for chance to win \$5,529 toward college

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Sleep might be the best holiday gift for the parents of a newborn, but since you can't wrap it, State Treasurer Ken Miller encourages friends and families to open or contribute to an [Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan](#) (OCSP) for a gift that will last the child's lifetime. As Oklahoma's only direct sold, tax-advantaged 529 plan, the OCSP offers families college savings options that can help save for a child's future college expenses.

As chairman of the OCSP Board of Trustees, Miller pointed out that choosing the OCSP is a long-term investment option in which parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and even friends can participate.

"The idea of saving for college can be daunting for parents," said Miller. "One unique opportunity offered through the OCSP is that anyone can contribute to an established account on behalf of that child. This flexibility allows parents to encourage family members and friends to skip the toys and instead contribute to the account as part of celebrating milestones in the child's life, like birthdays, holidays or kindergarten graduation."

Through strategic partnerships with different statewide entities, Miller reminded Oklahoma parents the OCSP has opportunities to help jumpstart a college savings account in 2012. The Newborn Sweepstakes is one such opportunity, offering \$5,529 toward an OCSP account to one lucky Oklahoma newborn, born in 2011, at a participating Oklahoma Hospital Association member hospital.

"It may sound cliché, but children truly are the future of our state," said Miller. "It is vital to the economic and cultural success of our state that our children are well-educated and prepared for the globally-competitive business world, no matter the career path they choose. This sweepstakes not only contributes significantly to one newborn's college savings, but also it helps remind all new parents and grandparents the best time to start saving for their child's college education is when he or she is born."

The 2010 Newborn Sweepstakes winner, Addison Wozniak, recently celebrated her first birthday said Jeana Nation, Addison's grandmother. Ms. Nation entered Addison into the sweepstakes shortly after she was born. "Combining the winnings from the 2010 Newborn Sweepstakes and an OCSP account established by her parents at birth, Addison already has at least 2 semesters

worth of college savings in her OCSP account,” said Ms. Nation (based on current year estimates).

“I definitely would encourage all parents and grandparents who are eligible to enter into this sweepstakes,” Nation said. “Entering is very simple and takes only about five minutes to complete. For us, that five minutes meant more than \$5,000 extra in Addison’s college savings account.”

All parents of babies born in 2011 have until April 14, 2012 to enter the 2011 Newborn Sweepstakes. For official rules and to enter, visit www.ok4saving.org. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited.

In addition to the Newborn Sweepstakes, the State Treasurer released an event calendar for 2012 which includes other promotional offers and sweepstakes in which parents and grandparents can enter for a chance to win money toward their child or grandchild’s college education. See attached for details.



Treasurer Ken Miller, speaking to the Oklahoma Hospital Association, holds up a bookmark that is placed in the 'mommy bags' distributed at hospitals across the state that are participating in the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan Newborn Sweepstakes. One child born in 2011 at a participating hospital will win \$5,529 towards an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan Account.

About the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan:

Oklahoma taxpayers may deduct from their Oklahoma adjusted gross income up to \$10,000 in contributions to the Oklahoma College Savings Plan for individual taxpayers and up to \$20,000 for taxpayers filing a joint return with a five-year carry forward.* Amounts deducted may be subject to recapture if a non-qualified withdrawal or rollover is taken (depending on the timing of such transactions), resulting in adverse Oklahoma income tax consequences. Read the Disclosure Booklet carefully.

All contributions and any earnings to an OCSP account are federal and Oklahoma income tax-deferred, and distributions are also federal and Oklahoma income tax-free when qualified withdrawals are made to fund an array of student expenses at most institutions of higher learning. Funds may be used at virtually any private or public university, college or career technology

center nationwide, and the savings can be applied to tuition as well as other qualified expenses including fees, books, supplies and certain room and board costs.

For more information about the Oklahoma College Savings Plan or to open an account, visit the website at www.ok4saving.org or call 1-877-654-7284.

The Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan is a state-sponsored, tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. Introduced in April 2000, the Oklahoma College Savings Plan currently has more than \$424 million in total assets and more than 45,000 accounts, as of November 15, 2011.

* To the extent a taxpayer does not take a deduction for contributions made for that tax year, they may make a deduction over the following five years, provided the amount deducted each year does not exceed the deduction limit.

Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan. Please call toll-free 1-877-654-7284 for a Disclosure Booklet containing this information. Read it carefully.

The tax information contained in this material is not intended to be used, and cannot be used by any taxpayer, for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer. It was written to support the promotion of the products and services offered by the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor. Non-qualified withdrawals are subject to income taxes and the federal additional 10% tax.

Account value in the Investment Options is not guaranteed and will fluctuate based upon a number of factors, including general market conditions.

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Program Manager.

For more information contact:

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Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan 2012 Event Calendar

The Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan (OCSP) hosts several events throughout the year that are designed to increase the awareness of the importance of saving for college across the state. Listed below are four major campaigns slated for the 2012 calendar year. All four are statewide campaigns.

Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie Contest

Date: January 27 through March 27

The OCSP teams with the Girl Scouts of Western and Eastern Oklahoma councils for the fourth annual Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie contest. This online vote gives the top-selling,

individual Girl Scout and top-voted Girl Scout Troop an extra incentive to hone their marketing skills during the state's annual cookie sales drive. The year's top-selling Girl Scout is awarded \$1,529 toward an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan account. In addition, the troop that garners the most votes from the OCSF website during the contest is awarded \$529 to help fund their programs.

Summer Reading Program Sweepstakes

Date: May 15 through July 31

Presented by the OCSF and Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Summer Reading Sweepstakes offers parents and grandparents of summer reading program participants a way to jump start their child's college savings fund. Participants can enter their child in the sweepstakes via mail-in form from a local library or online at the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan website – www.ok4saving.org. In early August, two Summer Reading Program participants, one each from the children and teen programs, are selected randomly to receive \$2,529 toward an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan (OCSF) account. Additionally, each library from which the winners registered for the sweepstakes also receives \$1,000 for their programs.

Kids on College Survey Sweepstakes

Date: August 1 through September 30

In celebration of Oklahoma College Savings Month in September, the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan partners with GAP stores throughout the state in the Kids on College Survey Sweepstakes. This interactive, non-scientific survey challenges students in kindergarten through fifth grades and their parents to test their knowledge about college and its future costs. To enter, parents and grandparents along with their child can visit www.ok4saving.org and complete the four-question survey. Once the survey is complete, the parent can download a coupon to GAP stores in Oklahoma and the child is entered into a random drawing. In early October, six children – one from each grade kindergarten through fifth – are selected to receive \$529 toward an OCSF college savings account each. Additionally, each winner's school receives \$529 for their arts/music program.

Newborn Sweepstakes

Date: January 1 through December 31

The Newborn Sweepstakes is an annual partnership between the OCSF and the Oklahoma Hospital Association. This unique sweepstakes gives parents and grandparents of babies born at participating hospitals the chance to win \$5,529 toward an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan. Volunteer auxiliary members at participating hospitals provide parents with information about the sweepstakes in "new mommy" bags before leaving the hospital. To enter, parents and grandparents of a 2012 newborn can log on to www.ok4saving.org and complete the online entry form. The winning newborn is selected at random and announced in mid-April in 2013. The winning newborn's birth hospital also receives \$1,529 cash for its volunteer auxiliary program.

Visit www.ok4saving.com, during the specified dates above, for official rules and details about each of the 2012 OCSF promotions. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited.