

Give the Gift of a College Education This Holiday Season

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The holiday season is a time of excitement, anticipation and maybe even a little anxiety for many Tennessee parents and grandparents as they strive to find the perfect holiday gift for the children in their lives. While it may not be at the top of a child's list to Santa, one of the best gifts any adult can give a child is the gift of a college education – a gift that will last a lifetime.

The State of Tennessee wants to help – and we can do this by telling parents about a tax-advantaged way to save for the future costs of college tuition and other qualified expenses, such as room and board and books and fees for colleges in Tennessee and nationwide, through the ***Path2College 529 Plan***, promoted by the State of Tennessee.

This new plan for Tennessee, which is offered by the State of Georgia and managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., offers seven investment options, low annual asset-based fees, and no sign-up, maintenance or third-party sales fees. There is just a low total annual asset based management fee ranging from 0.51% to 0.75%. Any earnings in the ***Path2College 529 Plan*** are federal income tax-exempt and withdrawals for qualified college expenses are federal income tax free too.

At www.path2college529.com, with a gift as small as \$25, anyone can start a college savings account or contribute to an account, as well as print a personalized gift certificate to present to the recipient. Simply go to the website, and click on *Print a Gift of an Education Certificate*. Print and fill in the Certificate then give your contribution and the Certificate to your loved one. Or, call (877) 424-4377, and our trained staff will help you.

Once an account is established, additional contributions can be made to the account through check or electronic funds transfer. You may contribute as little as \$25 per investment option, and you can establish convenient monthly, semimonthly or quarterly contributions all year-round from your checking or savings account.

Since money is tight for a lot of Tennessee families this time of year, much consideration goes into every purchase and gift. This program allows Tennesseans to put more of their hard-earned money directly to work in support of their kids' college funds as an investment in their future.

Research by the College Board says that an individual with a four-year college degree will earn approximately \$1 million more than a high-school graduate over the course of a lifetime. That means saving for college today could be one of the best holiday shopping decisions you can make to help a young person you love.

So if you are looking for a sound investment for your hard earned money or that special gift this holiday season, consider opening or contributing to a college savings plan. Please visit www.path2college529.com or call (877) 424-4377 to get more information about helping a child in your life get on the path to college.

Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Path2College 529 Plan. Please visit www.path2college529.com for a Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully.

Before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider whether the state you or your Beneficiary reside in or have taxable income in has a 529 plan that offers favorable state income tax or other benefits that are only available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

We are required to notify you that the tax information contained herein is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties. It was written to support the promotion of the Path2College 529 Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

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

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