



## 529 Accounts Surpass 16 million for the First Time Ever

(Washington, DC - March 2, 2023) - For the first time since the creation of Section 529 in the Internal Revenue Code over 20 years ago, there are more than 16 million 529 accounts open nationwide. The continued growth of account holders proves the value Americans have in saving for education expenses.

As of December 31, 2022, there are more than 16 million open 529 accounts nationally and over \$411 billion has been saved. Not only are more people opening 529 accounts, but they are committed to automatic contributions into the accounts. Consistently, 38% of 529 accounts are currently receiving automatic contributions. The recently released data can be viewed [here](#).

“This milestone is a remarkable accomplishment for college savings programs and reflects account owners’ confidence in 529 savings plans,” said **College Savings Plans Network Chair and Nebraska Assistant State Treasurer Rachel Biar**. “These statistics assure us that families trust 529 savings plans as a responsible and effective savings vehicle for educational expenses, and they are demonstrating that trust by opening new college savings accounts and continuing to contribute to their existing accounts.”

Nebraska Assistant State Treasurer Rachel Biar has been reelected to serve as Chair of the College Savings Plans Network (CSPN), a leading objective source of information about 529 college savings plans and prepaid tuition plans. Also reelected was VA529 Chief Executive Officer Mary Morris as Vice-Chair and Alaska 529 Executive Director Lael Oldmixon serving as Treasurer. Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs will round out the executive leadership team as Past Chair for a second year.

CSPN added additional board members to join those currently serving with terms expiring in December 2023. Those added were Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee, Nevada Treasurer Zach Conine, Executive Director of CollegeInvest Angela Baier, and 529 Director of KHEAA David Lawhorn. The complete list of board members can be found [here](#).

The mission of the College Savings Plans Network is to empower its members to improve and expand the utilization of 529 plans by providing an inclusive environment to network, train, and offer leadership opportunities. CSPN strives to be the leading resource to advocate for and

enhance 529 plans to become the primary saving mechanism for education, training, and still development. To learn more about how the board plans to achieve those goals, please review their 2021-2024 Strategic Plan found [here](#).

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment plan designed to help families to save for a beneficiary's future higher education expenses. While commonly referred to as 529 plans, they are formally known as "Qualified Tuition Programs," as defined in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, and are administered by state agencies and organizations.

Savings in a 529 plan grow free from federal income tax, and withdrawals remain tax-free when used for qualified expenses. Additionally, many states mirror the federal 529 plan tax advantages by offering state tax-deferred growth and tax-free withdrawals for qualified expenses.

For more information about the College Savings Plans Network, visit [collegesavings.org](https://collegesavings.org).

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#### **About College Savings Plans Network (CSPN)**

Founded in 1991, the College Savings Plans Network (CSPN) is a leading objective source of information about Section 529 college savings plans and prepaid tuition plans—popular, convenient, and tax-advantaged ways to save for college. An affiliate of the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST), CSPN brings together state officials who administer 529 savings and prepaid plans from across the country, as well as their private-sector partners, to offer convenient tools and objective, unbiased information to help families make informed decisions about saving for higher education. For more information, visit the CSPN website at [CollegeSavings.org](https://CollegeSavings.org) and follow CSPN on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

#### **About National Association of State Treasurers**

The National Association of State Treasurers provides advocacy and support that enables member states to pursue and administer sound financial policies and programs benefiting the citizens of the nation. Membership is composed of all state treasurers or state finance officials with comparable responsibilities from the United States, its commonwealths, territories, and the District of Columbia as well as their staff. The private sector is represented through the Corporate Affiliate Program that was established to build professional relationships and foster cooperation between the public and private sectors. The association serves its members through educational conferences and webinars, a variety of working groups, policy advocacy, and publications that provide information about developments in public finance. For more information, visit [www.nast.org](https://www.nast.org).