



COLLEGE SAVINGS  
PLANS NETWORK

A Network of the National Association of State Treasurers

## The College Savings Plans Network Elects New Leadership

### Kansas State Treasurer Steven Johnson Elected as Chair for 2026

(January 15, 2026, Washington, DC) – Kansas State Treasurer **Steven Johnson** has been elected 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 elected was Alaska 529 Executive Director **Lael Oldmixon** as Vice-Chair and Illinois State Treasurer's Director of College Savings & Deputy Chief **John Mitchell** as Treasurer. Commonwealth Savers Chief Executive Officer **Mary Morris** will round out the executive leadership team as Past Chair.

Making up the rest of the CSPN board for 2026 includes Nevada State Treasurer **Zach Conine**, Maine State Treasurer **Joseph Perry**, Iowa State Treasurer **Roby Smith**, Executive Director of ID 529 Education Savings **Dawn Hall**, Division Director of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts **Linda Fernandez**, Director of NY 529 College Savings **Jeremy Rogers**, Director of Marketing for the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority **Ben Gibbons**, and Director of Wisconsin 529 College Savings Program **Jessica Wetzel**. **Sue Hopkins** from Ascensus and **Mary Anne Busse** with Great Disclosure LLC will serve as Co-Chairs of CSPN's Corporate Affiliate Committee.

The mission of the College Savings Plans Network is to empower members to enhance and advance 529 education savings plans and to promote education access, affordability, and associated benefits. CSPN strives to be the leading resource to advocate for and enhance 529 plans to become the primary saving mechanism for education, training, and skill development. To learn more about how the board plans to achieve our objectives, please review their 2025-2028 Strategic Plan found [here](#).

As of June 30th, 2025, there were more than 17.3 million open 529 accounts nationally and over \$567.8 billion has been saved. The average amount saved in a 529 savings plan account was \$38,825. To read more national data on 529 accounts, click [here](#).

“As CSPN chair, I have the privilege of collaborating with a network of 529 savings professionals who work daily to make career and educational advancement more affordable for all Americans,” said **Treasurer Johnson**.

Steven Johnson has served as Kansas State Treasurer since 2023. Johnson has an MBA in Finance from the University of Chicago and over 30 years of experience in financial services, including developing the first windows-based asset allocation program. As Chair of CSPN, he serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Treasurers.

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

###

#### **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 and follow CSPN on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

#### **About 529 College Savings Accounts**

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment plan designed to help families save for a beneficiary’s (typically one’s child or grandchild) future higher education expenses and in some states; K-12 and certain technical and career college programs. 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.

Savings in a 529 plan grow free from federal income tax, and withdrawals remain tax-free when used for qualified education expenses. Additionally, many states mirror the federal 529 plan tax advantages by offering state tax-deferred growth and tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. 529 plans are offered in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Check with your home state to see if it offers tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds or protection from creditors for investing in its own 529 plan.

#### **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. 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](http://www.nast.org).