529 College Savings Plans AND Nevada Scholarships

SSGA Upromise 529

Putnam 529 for America™















NNCSS Agenda – March 9, 2019

- Explain 529 Plans and how they help students/families
- Summarize Matching Grant programs offered by the State of Nevada
- Explain the differences between Prepaying Tuition in a IRS qualified tuition plan, vs. saving in a 529 savings
- Highlight Higher Education Scholarships administered by office, with links to NSHE need based aid & scholarships
- Share Financial Literacy Websites with free curriculum for Teachers



- Requires Financial Literacy to be taught in grades 3-12 in Nevada starting in 2019-2020
- Treasurer's Office:
 - Worked with Dept. of Education on standards to ensure Higher Education programs benefiting families are included
 - Held Summits for school districts last year to share resources obtained from Financial Literacy initiatives in community
- Highlighted 529 plans and scholarships
- Introduced School Savings pilot program
- Introduced a Financial Literacy Resource Website



What is a 529 College Savings Plan?

- State sponsored college savings plan designed to help families meet the rising cost of higher education
- Created by Congress in 1996 and are named after section 529 of the IRS Code. AKA "Qualified Tuition Programs"
- Federal Tax Advantages (Earnings not subject to federal tax)
- Tax free withdrawals for qualified educational expenses used at eligible educational institutions
- Eligible Educational Institution: Colleges, Universities, Vocational Schools or other Post Secondary Educational Institutions eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the U.S. Department of Education
- Flexible contributions & No income limitations
- No annual fees for Nevada 529 accounts
- In Nevada, you can contribute up to \$370,000 per beneficiary

Why Save for College?

- By 2020, 65% of all jobs in the American economy will require education beyond high school*
 - *Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce
- Earning a college degree is still one of the wisest investments a student can make
 - Lifetime Earnings potential (up to \$1M)
 - College graduates, on average earned 56% more than high school Graduates in 2015 (Economic Policy Institute)
 - Higher Employment/Lower Unemployment Rates
 - Increased access to health care & retirement plans
- Of Nevada high school seniors who graduate, only 52.7% go on to college (vs. 62.6% nationally).**

Why Save for College?

- Student Loan Debt Statistics:
 - Last year 65 Percent of college students graduated with significant debt
 - 45 million Americans hold nearly 1.56 Trillion Dollars Debt.
 - 1 in 4 Americans are paying off debt (Approx. \$37K)
 - Among the Class of 2018, 69% of college students took out student loans, and they graduated with an average debt of \$29,800, including both <u>private</u> and <u>federal</u> debt
- Student loans now comprise the second largest form of consumer debt behind home mortgages.

College and Career Choices Affect Earning Power & Savings Impact Kids

- Strong Research in Children Savings Accounts:
 - When kids know they have a college savings account, they are up to 7 times more likely to attend an institution of higher education.
 - The reason why Nevada College Kick Start was launched in 2013
 - TIME ON THEIR SIDE: More time/more money for college.... Compound Interest.....Build Savings Habits Early....Qualify for Matching Grant Money for College
- Of Nevada high school seniors who graduate, only 52.7% go on to college (vs. 62.6% nationally).**
- College graduates earn 60% more than high school graduates, difference in earning potential that could exceed \$1 million over the course of a child's lifetime.***

^{*}https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/wkyeng.pdf

^{**}http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/index.php?measure=32

^{***}https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.ES_.Web_.pdf



Where can 529 Savings Plan accounts be used?

- Any accredited college, university, community college, or vocational school throughout the United States
- Public and private institutions
- 2-year and 4-year programs
- Undergraduate or graduate school
- Payments are made directly to the school on a tax-free basis



Benefits of ALL SIX Nevada 529 Plans Choices

(SSGA/USAA/VANGUARD/WEALTHFRONT/PUTNAM/PREPAID)

Federal Tax Advantages Affordable No Annual Fees Flexible, Convenient and Simple No Income Limitations



Highlights of Nevada Academic Content Standards – Financial Literacy Grades 3-5 – TWO PROGRAMS

Grade 3: Movement Around Our World

• Savings and spending (FL) SS.3.27. Describe the difference between saving and spending.

Grade 4: Nevada: Past and Present

• Savings and spending (FL) SS.4.32. Explain the benefits of saving and methods of saving including but not limited to financial institutions, saving at home etc. Examples: Nevada College Kick Start

Grade 5: U.S.: <u>Creating a New Nation</u>

• **Financial decision-making (FL) SS.5.35.** Describe the importance of setting financial goals.

Nevada College Kick Start Program: Supports "Saving and Spending" Lessons

- The College Kick Start Program has been a great tool in helping to start the conversation about the need for families to save for college. Launched in 2013.
- The program establishes a college savings account for all Nevada public school kindergarteners each school year.
- Every child receives an initial deposit of \$50, and no taxpayer dollars are utilized
- To date, over 208,000 Kick Start accounts established
- A movement to create a college going culture in this State.
- The largest Children's Savings Account program in the Country





Nevada College Kick Start Program

- Teachers: Tell students they have money for college!
- Parents can now access their child's Kick Start account and link it to their existing Nevada 529 account online.
- Families can see their accounts together and watch them grow as they contribute 'little by little'!
- Legislation passed in 2017 requires parents to claim their child's Nevada College Kick Start Acct.
- Teachers can help communicate this as part of the Savings Lessons With T-Shirts, etc.

Nevada College Kick Start Program

- Teachers WE NEED YOU To Be Ambassadors for this wonderful program.
- To use it as an example when discussing savings options
- Parents need to know this program is 'real'
 - Ambassador Duties:
 - Tell kids they have the account when discussing saving
 - Share the program materials with parents at teacher conferences
 - Encourage parents to claim the account with take home flyer
 - Invite the Treasurer's Office Staff to attend college/career day events to talk about college and saving for college to kids
 - Share the nevadatreasurer.gov website where kids can look up their own College Kick Start ID and take it home to their parents.



SchoolSavings.com Pilot Program

- Save at School with a SAVING and/or SSGA UPROMISE 529 Account
- "Bank at School" program
 - Simple to use:
 - Volunteers from PTA/Treasurer's Office/PTO
 - Parents add students & accounts
 - Volunteers collect/enter coins/cash
 - 1 bank deposit for all students
 - Internet based all banks/NV529







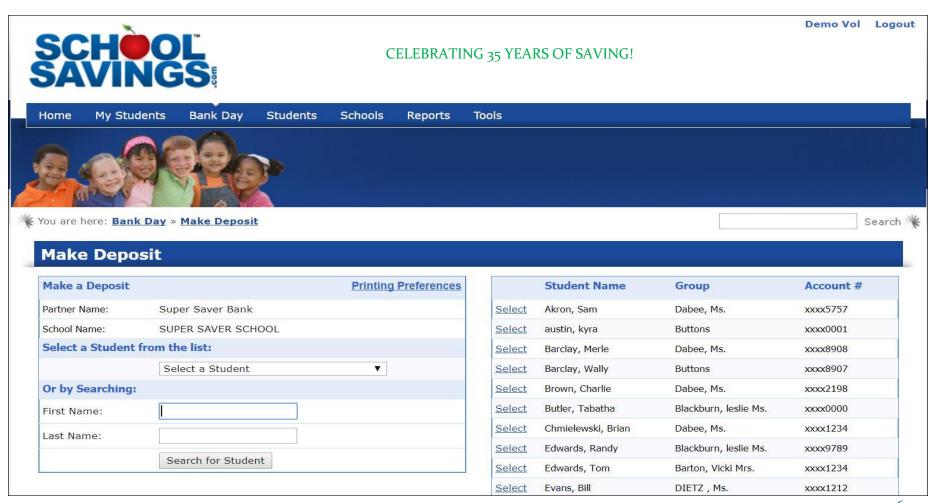
HOW DOES IT WORK?



- ✓ WEEKLY DEPOSITS AT SCHOOL
- ✓ <u>Before</u> school or at <u>lunch break</u>
- ✓ Deposits appear on account statements.



PARENTS ENROLL STUDENTS AT WWW.SCHOOLSAVINGS.COM





ELIGIBLE ACCOUNTS

NEVADA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

INVESTING IN NEVADA TOGETHER

- A savings account from ANY Nevada
 Financial Institution
 - Free. Pays interest.

- Minimum deposit is\$.01.
- Make deposits AT SCHOOL.

ssga Tpromise 529

POWERED BY SPDR® ETFs

- A SSGA UPromise529 investment account
 - US citizen or legal resident 18 years or older with valid US address
- Minimum deposit at school is \$1.00.
- Make deposits AT SCHOOL.



ssga upromise 529

POWERED BY SPDR® ETFs

BENEFITS

- Use at most US colleges or trade schools
- ✓ Only **\$15** to open account
- Many investment options.
 Saving option insured by FDIC.
- ✓ No tax on withdrawals used for education!

STEPS TO OPEN ACCOUNT

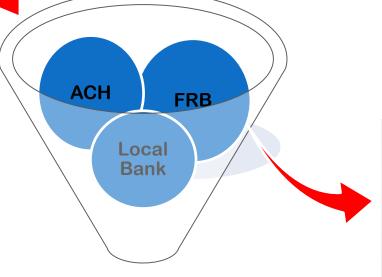
- Go to <u>www.nevadas529.com</u> with Social Security Number.
- 2. Click ENROLL NOW.
 - Select investment option.
- 3. Contribute **\$15** via check or withdrawal from bank account.
- 4. Enroll student or self at www.schoolsavings.com to make deposits AT SCHOOL.



FUNDS ARE DEPOSITED AT LOCAL BANK



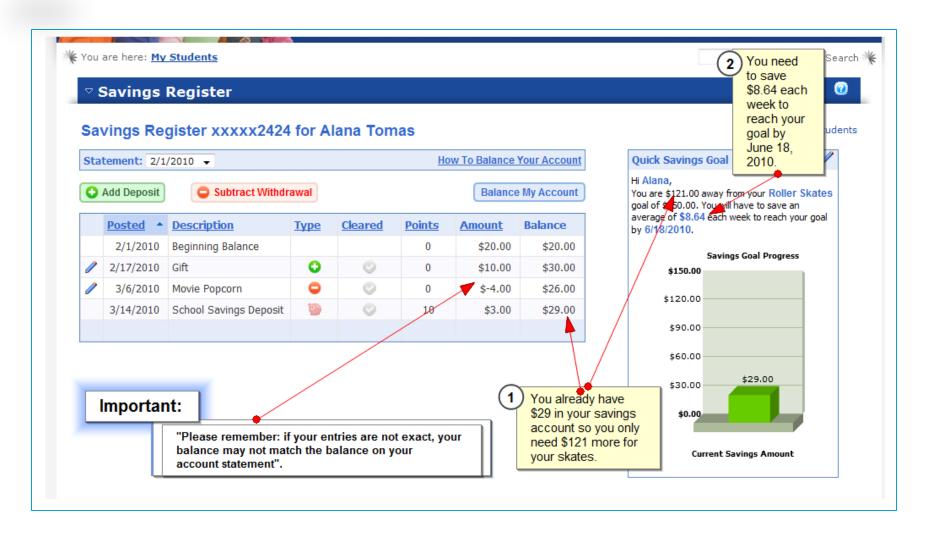
PROCESSED ELECTRONICALLY







ONLINE SAVINGS REGISTER



School Savings Pilot Schools

Alyce Taylor Elementary School Sparks, NV James I. Gibson Elementary School Henderson, NV





Registered Total Savers

- 1 -Kinder
- 5 -First Grade
- 3 -Second Grade
- 6 -Third Grade
- 8 -Fourth Grade
- 3 -Fifth Grade
- 9 -Sixth Grade

Alyce Taylor Elementary



27 have SSGA Upromise 5298 have Bank Savings

Alyce Taylor Deposit Dates



Date	Total Deposits	Total Depositors
09/28/18	\$185.00	19
10/25/18	\$428.00	19
11/15/18	\$245.25	20
11/30/18	\$25.00	4
12/06/18	\$162.00	19
12/20/18	\$108.61	16
01/17/19	\$229.60	18
01/31/19	\$120.00	15

Total saved by Alyce Taylor Savers including February dates = \$1,921.51

25 Total Savers



Gibson Elementary



24 have SSGA Upromise 5291 has Bank Savings

Gibson Deposit Dates



Date	Total Deposits	Total Depositors
11/15/18	\$55.00	5
11/29/18	\$25.13	4
12/06/18	\$52.25	10
12/14/18	\$12.00	2
12/20/18	\$44.00	7
01/17/19	\$44.25	8
01/31/19	\$188.90	14

Total saved by Gibson Savers = \$421.53

Average of **7** savers per deposit day depositing **\$60.22**

School Savings Rollout – 2019-2020 Sign Sheet if Interested in Program

- School Responsibility:
 - Set up banking area
 - Communicate to parents (share flyers/robo-calls/solicit PTA/parent volunteers)
 - Host college savings account opening nights
 - Identify and teach Financial Literacy lessons incorporating savings program
- Treasurer Staff Responsibility:
 - Liaison between School, School Savings, Volunteers, Parents
 - Work with School Savings to customize parent communications/reporting
 - Support school night college savings account opening sessions
 - Provide savings incentives (piggy banks, stickers, t-shirts, etc.)
 - Set goals and summarize results



Highlights of Proposed Nevada Academic Content Standards – Financial Literacy - Grades 6-8

Grade 6-8:

- Financial decision-making (FL) SS.6-8.FL.3. Describe the services offered by various financial institutions, and government agencies including but not limited to: Matching Grant Money for College, Prepaid College Tuition, 529 College Savings Plan, etc.
- **Savings and spending (FL) SS.4.32.** Explain the benefits of saving and methods of saving including but not limited to financial institutions, saving at home etc.
- **Credit and Debt** (FL) **SS.5.35. SS.6-8.FL.7.** Discuss the cost of borrowing money for different types of goods and services including but not limited to: consumables, vehicles, higher education, and housing.



Two Types of 529 Plans in Nevada

- Prepaid Tuition Program
 - Structured like a Defined Benefit Plan.
 - Purchase In State Tuition Credit Hours at TODAY'S COST– for FUTURE USE – <u>VALUE</u> can be used out of state.
 - Example: University contract, pays future UNR in state (per credit hour) tuition rate.
 - Harvard attendance, pays future UNR in state tuition rate (per credit hour) to Harvard, scholarships/family pays difference
- 529 Savings Plan
 - Like ROTH IRA
 - Defined Contribution Plan.
 - After Tax Contribution...Back End Tax Benefit





Silver State Matching Grant

Dollar-for-dollar match for up to \$300 per year

Must be the account owner of an SSGA Upromise 529 account

Household AGI of less than \$75,000

Must be a Nevada resident

Beneficiary must be 13 years or younger when applying and under 14 when match is funded.

Applications accepted from April 1 to July 31

529 Savings Plans Offered by the State Treasurer's Office

- Open an account with as little at \$15. May be eligible for the Silver State Matching Grant
 - Nevadas529.com SSGA Upromise 529
- Advisor sold plan. May qualify for the Nevada Putnam Scholarship Program.
 - putnam.com/529
 Putnam 529 for America™
- Open with \$50 monthly contribution or \$250 initial investment. May qualify for the Distinguished Valor Matching Grant Program.
 - usaa.com/529

- USAA°
- One of four plans ranked "gold" by Morningstar. Nevada residents can open with a minimum of \$1,000.
 - vanguard.com/529
- A new college savings plan personalized for you. There are no advisory fees in the first \$25,000 invested for Nevada residents. The minimum investment is \$500 per account.

Vanguard

wealthfront.com/529





USAA Distinguished Valor Matching Grant Dollar-for-dollar match for up to \$300 per year

Must be the account owner of a USAA 529 College Savings

Household AGI of less than \$95,000

Must be a Nevada resident

Beneficiary must be 13 years or younger when applying

Applications accepted from Jan 1 to Dec 15

Affect on Federal Financial Aid

- A 529 account is treated as a parental asset and is assessed only 5.64% of the expected family contribution
- If the account is in the student's name, it is assessed at 20%
- Withdrawals DO NOT add to a family's income
- Example: Family Saves \$10,000 in 529 College Savings Account. EFC Increases by \$564 due to savings



Dispelling 529 College Savings Plan Myths

FICTION: It's too late to start a 529 college savings plan for a high school student.

FACT: 529 plans have no age limits, so it's never too late to open an account. Investment options range from conservative to aggressive, so you can select or create a portfolio that's appropriate for older students. Even if the account's held for just a handful of years, the 529 plan's tax-deferred growth and tax- free distributions for qualified higher education expenses can mean more money to pay for undergraduate or graduate school.

In fact, even adults planning to return to school can benefit from saving in a 529 plan.

Dispelling 529 College Savings Plan Myths

FICTION: If the child gets a scholarship, the 529 account money is lost.

FACT: The person who owns the 529 account controls it. That means if the first beneficiary receives a scholarship, the account owner can change the beneficiary to another eligible "member of the family" (as defined under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended) with no penalty. The 529 account can also be left in the first beneficiary's name or grandchildren's names, creating an education legacy, as assets are passed down between generations.* It's also possible to take a non–qualified withdrawal of the account assets, however, account earnings would be subject to federal income tax and may be subject to a 10 percent federal penalty tax, as well as state and local income taxes.

^{*}Rules regarding gifts and generation-skipping transfer tax may apply in the case of a change of beneficiary. You should consult with a tax advisor when considering a change in beneficiary.

Dispelling 529 College Savings Plan Myths

FICTION: Only a parent can open a 529 account.

FACT: Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends can open a 529 account for a beneficiary. Of course, some families prefer to open the account themselves and invite friends and family to make contributions.

Adults also can open a 529 account and name themselves as the beneficiary to fund their own education.



Tomorrow's Tuition, Today's Prices

PREPAIDTUITION

- Parents who purchased a 4 year university plan in 2000, for their infant, paid roughly \$8,900. When their child enrolled in college in 2018, their 120 credit hour contract was worth \$26,880. That's is a savings of approximately \$18,000!!
- ➢ Plans available for newborns through 9th grade. Payments available as low as \$39 a month.
- Cost Example: 4 Year University Tuition for a 3rd grader \$25,224 this year. (Lump Sum)
- > Payments can be spread monthly over 5 years or longer
- Contract benefits can be used to pay for tuition at public or private institutions of higher education, including colleges, universities and trade schools *nationwide* (where FAFSA accepted).

Dispelling Nevada Prepaid Tuition Plan Myths

- Fiction: The tuition benefits can only be used in the State of Nevada
- Fact: In FY18, The Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program paid out \$7.3 Million to in-state Nevada System of Higher Education Schools (NSHE) and \$3.9 Million to out of state schools.
- Fact: Last year STO paid tuition to Yale, Stanford, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, and Harvard Universities to name just a few.
- Fact: The value of a Prepaid Tuition Contract can be used out of state, anywhere FAFSA is accepted.*
- Fact: Many students have even used this program to study abroad

^{*}For a complete list of schools, visit https://fafsa.ed.gov/

Dispelling Nevada Prepaid Tuition Plan Myths

- Myth: If my child gets a full ride scholarship or a partial scholarship, it will not be useful to me
- Fact: Purchaser has options:
 - 1) Receive a full refund of all money paid into the program
 - 2) Utilize the Prepaid Tuition Program to pay toward credit hours and let the scholarship money be paid toward room and board/books/fees/computers/etc.
 - 3) Change beneficiary to eligible family member
 - 4) Rollover value to a 529 Savings Plan to be used for graduate school



Highlights of Nevada Academic Content Standards – Grades 9-12

Grade 9-12:

- Savings and spending (FL) SS.9-12.FL.4. Develop and evaluate a personal financial plan, including a savings plan, utilizing a financial record keeping system for accounts.
- College and career preparedness (FL) SS.9-12.FL.11. Evaluate college and career choices and their effect on income, disposable income, unemployment and underemployment.
- College and career preparedness (FL) SS.5.35. SS.9-12.FL.13. Analyze the requirements and benefits of postsecondary financing options including but not limited to: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship, Silver State Opportunity Grant Program, prepaid tuition, and college savings programs.



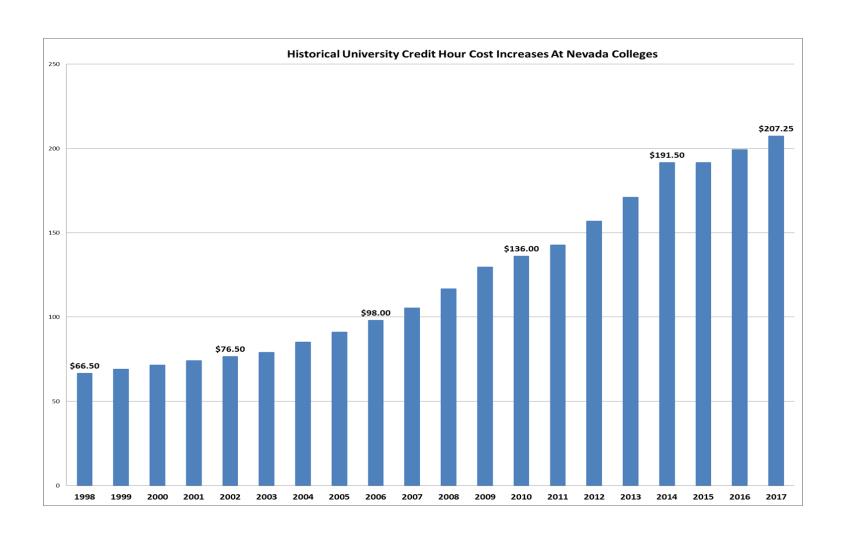
Financial Literacy Website (Free Resources) by Grade Level

Grades 9-12 & 6-8:

- www.ngpf.org This is a FANTASTIC website with interactive lessons. One teacher quote: I have been teaching financial literacy for 13 years, and I am always looking for new ideas and activities. There are so many resources, I feel overwhelmed. This is it: a ONE STOP SHOP"
- Next Gen Personal Finance also offers FREE FIN CAMPS FOR TEACHERS
- Federal Reserve: www.investinwhatsnext.org Jobs, Education & Pay Grades K-5 an more: Students spend money in a simulated microeconomy. Supports and overlays curriculum
- www.myclassroomeconomy.org This is a nonprofit group from Vanguard. There materials are all FREE and they will even send you the number you need FED EX for your classroom.
- <u>www.consumerfinance.gov</u> Youth Financial Education: Teaching Strategies



The Cost of a College Education Keeps Rising!



Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:

- Graduate with a diploma from a Nevada Public Or Private High School (exceptions home schooling)
- Be a Nevada resident for at least two of their high school years
- Graduate with a Minimum GPA of 3.25 OR receive qualifying ACT/SAT Score
- Complete the core curriculum consisting of:
 - 4 units of English, 4 units of Math, 3 units of Science, and 3 units of Social Studies and History



Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

- \$10,000 scholarship available to recipients for six years after they graduate from high school.
- Students can use the scholarship at any institution in the Nevada System of Higher Education.



- The scholarship will pay for a portion of tuition:
 - \$80 per credit up to 15 credits at the university level
 - \$40 per credit up to 15 credits at the junior college level



Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

- Where the Scholarship can be used:
 - o UNLV
 - UNR
 - Nevada State College
 - Sierra Nevada College
 - Western Nevada College
 - Truckee Meadows Community College
 - Roseman University of Health Sciences
 - Great Basin College



 Teachers: Advocate for program and share with parents the need to get involved in the current legislative session to support SB44





FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FAFSA determines eligibility for Federal
Student Aid including Grants, Loans, &
Work Study

2 forms of Federal Student Aid:

Need Based / Merit Based

Helpful Links:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Grants:

Federal Pell (up to \$5,815 depending on EFC)

Loans:

Stafford Loans:

- (Subsidized/Unsubsidized) Federal Perkins Loan:
- Lent directly to students from institutions

Federal Work Study:

Part-time employment opportunities for students with the federal government paying half of the wages





WICHE - Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

- Tuition reduction student exchange program for Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional degree seekers
- 16 western regional member states participating

3 Programs:

- Western Undergraduate Exchange,
- Professional Student Exchange Program
 - Western Regional Graduate Program

Helpful Links

www.wiche.edu



Financial Aid For Nevada Students

- FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 - Some schools use for merit too but mostly needs based. ALL PARENTS SHOULD FILL IT OUT
- WICHE- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
- Nevada Promise Scholarship- Last Dollar Financial Aid to students attending the States 4 Community Colleges: GBC, CSN, TMCC, WNC

https://www.csn.edu/promise



Silver State Opportunity Grant

- State supported financial aid program created by the 2015 Legislature
- Students can be awarded up to \$5,500 annually to meet the cost of attendance
- Need based grants awarded to eligible low income students at a community college or state colleges within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)
- SSOG- Silver State Opportunity Grant State supported financial aid created in 2015 (SB227) Can be used at Community College or State College within NSHE

Students must complete FAFSA in order to determine need based eligibility

Helpful Links

www.nevada.edu/ir/page.php?p=ssog

Other Scholarship Sites

- Public Education Foundation <u>https://thepef.org/scholarships/</u>
- The College Board Scholarship https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
- College Resource Network
 https://www.collegeresourcenetwork.com/
- Fast Web https://www.fastweb.com/
- Student Scholarship Organization: <u>https://studentscholarships.org/awards.php#sthash.mWS</u> <u>Of5zj.dpbs</u>
- Scholarships Made Easy: https://myscholly.com/



Other Thoughts on College and Career Preparedness...

- Some studies report that 70% of all jobs will require a college degree by 2030
- According to an article by the Chicago Tribune nearly a 3rd of employers say the have increased their educational requirements over the past 5 years (Career Builder)
 - 37% of companies hire college graduates for positions that in the past were primarily held by people with high school degrees and 26% hire people with Master's for jobs that used to be held by candidates with Bachelor's degrees
- With higher education costs increasing, and demand for workers with higher education credentials, families need to save today! Help us help them!



Important Takeaways From the Nevada State Treasurer's Office

- The State Treasurer's Office will be developing lesson plans for grades 3-12 in the near future
- Six 529 Plan Choices and two Scholarships for Nevada kids/families
- A college degree continues to be a huge differentiating factor when it comes to:
 - Opportunity
 - Earning Potential
 - Higher Employment



Financial Literacy Website

- The Nevada State Treasurer's Office has partnered with Sectorlytics to provide financial literacy resources, curriculum, and content in a website for educators, parents, and students with a specific emphasis on college savings programs and resources. The goal of this website is to assist in meeting the requirements of SB-249.
- Additional Financial literacy and college savings content is being developed for the website
- URL is:

http://policyapplied.org/nevadas-financial-literacy-center/

Sections for Teachers, Students & Parents



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