

Steve George Chief of Staff

Mark Mathers Chief Deputy Treasurer

RE: Nevada College Kick Start Savings Program

Dear Parent of a Kindergarten Student:

As administrator and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the College Savings Plans of Nevada, I am very excited about the launch of our *Nevada College Kick Start Program*, the purpose of which is to support the dream of a college education for your kindergarten child by establishing a \$50 savings account in his/her name. We chose to launch the *Nevada College Kick Start Program* with kindergarteners because it provides you and your family with a <u>13-vear</u> window in which to save for future higher education costs.

Studies found that a child is $\underline{7x}$ more likely to attend college if he/she knows a college savings account has been established in their name. The studies found that a savings account sends a strong message to a child: "You are a college saver. You are college-bound." It's important to note that the study found that even small accounts, often not enough to buy books for a semester, improves a child's determination and preparedness for college and higher education.

To help Nevada families prepare for future higher education expenses, we worked with our program manager to lower the minimum account opening for an *SSgA Upromise 529 Plan* college savings account to a mere \$15. We encourage you and other family members to consider opening a separate *SSgA Upromise 529 Plan* college savings account that will grow your child's savings over the next thirteen years. Whatever amount you save in your child's *SSgA Upromise 529 Plan* account will help with meeting your child's college costs. Remember, research has shown that any amount of college savings helps plant a seed in the mind of your child; that college is an attainable goal. Find out how to open your own separate college savings account that you control and manage at https://www.ssga.upromise529.com/content/home.html?uiicid=directchannel.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 1-888-477-2667, or visit our *Nevada College Kick Start* website at <u>http://CollegeKickStart.nv.gov</u>, which includes a "Frequently Asked Questions" section.

With Warm Regards,

Kate Muchall

Kate Marshall State Treasurer

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