

Kate Marshall
State Treasurer



Steve George
Chief of Staff

Mark Mathers
Chief Deputy Treasurer

STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 21, 2013

CONTACT: Steve George, Chief of Staff (775) 684-5666
sggeorge@nevadatreasurer.gov

**Nevada College Kick Start Program
Launched at Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy
Program's goal is to improve Nevada's college graduation rate**

Carson City—State Treasurer Kate Marshall today was joined by officials from the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy and Meadows Bank CEO Arvind Menon at a news conference at the school to announce the launch of the *Nevada College Kick Start Program* at the Prep Academy. The pilot program, which will eventually be available to all Nevada public school kindergarten students, is being launched primarily at rural schools this fall. Thanks to a donation from Meadows Bank, the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy is being included.

“As administrator of Nevada’s 529 program and as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the College Savings Plans of Nevada, it gives me great pride to see this ambitious new program with the lofty goal of increasing college participation among Nevada high school graduates jump off the planning table and into action,” Marshall said. “We have received tremendous support for the program from school superintendents across the state and look forward to a strong partnership in helping to build a more college-going culture in our youth. We very much appreciate the support of Meadows Bank in making this program available to kindergarten students at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy.”

The *Nevada College Kick Start Program* will help support the dream of a college education by establishing \$50 college savings accounts for each 2013-2014 public school kindergarten student attending school within the pilot program area. “We chose to launch the *Nevada College Kick Start Program* with kindergarteners because it provides Nevada families with a 13-year window in which to save and plan for future higher education,” Marshall said.

“From the moment students start at Agassi Prep, we instill in them the importance of a college education,” said Steve Miller, CEO of the Andre Agassi Foundation. “The Nevada College Kick Start Program will bring our students one step closer to realizing that goal.”

--MORE--

CARSON CITY OFFICE

State Treasurer
101 N. Carson Street, Suite 4
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4786
(775) 684-5600 Telephone
(775) 684-5623 Fax

STATE TREASURER PROGRAMS

Millennium Scholarship Program
Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program
Unclaimed Property
Nevada College Savings Plans
Nevada College Kick Start Program

LAS VEGAS OFFICE

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 4600
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-1074
(702) 486-2025 Telephone
(702) 486-3246 Fax

Arvind Menon, president and CEO of Meadows Bank, stated, “We are pleased to be able to play a role in providing students a foundation for saving for college. Nothing is more important than a college education, and through this program, the Agassi Prep students will know that this is both expected of them, and financially attainable.”

Marshall pointed to the fact that studies have shown that children who know they have a college savings account in their name are 7 times more likely to attend an institution of higher learning. She added that a college savings account sends a strong message to a child: “*You are a college saver. You are college-bound.*” Marshall said, “It’s important to note that the study found that even small accounts, often not enough to buy books for a semester, improve a child’s determination and preparedness for college and higher education.”

Marshall said her office will encourage parents to consider using the initial \$50 deposit as a stepping stone to greater college savings by opening a separate college savings account to incrementally grow their child’s savings over the next thirteen years.

“We have worked with our College Savings Plans of Nevada program manager to lower the minimum account opening fee to \$15 for Nevada families, with \$15 per paycheck or \$50 per month deposits after the account is established,” Marshall said. “Remember, it’s not that you have to save for every college expense, but whatever you can save lowers your or your student’s college debt, while at the same time sending the message to your child that college is in his or her future.”

To learn more about the *Nevada College Kick Start Program*, go to <http://CollegeKickStart.nv.gov>. To find out about the many advantages Nevada families have in opening an SSgA Upromise 529 college savings plan account, go to Nevadas529.com.

###