In a few short weeks, thousands of soon-to-be high school graduates will receive decision letters that will open the door to the next chapter of their education. As these students and their families assess their options, the affordability of college will most surely be top-of-mind. Families that have college savings will have more financial choices and less need to take on cumbersome student loan debt.

I'm thrilled to announce that according to CSPN's new 529 Year-End Report, a record amount of families will be able to use savings from their 529 plans to help offset the costs of higher education. Our latest report found that total investment by American families in 529 plans has reached a record level of $190.7 billion.

As long as Americans continue to prioritize higher education by saving early and often, the next generation will be a more educated one.

Warm regards,
Michael L. Fitzgerald
Chair, College Savings Plans Network
Iowa State Treasurer
Upcoming Events

NAST Legislative Conference
3/18-3/20
Washington, D.C.
Committee meetings: 3/18
Sessions: 3/19-3/20
Hill Visits: 3/20

NAST Treasury Management Training Symposium
5/14-5/17
Pittsburgh, PA
Committee meetings: 5/14
Sessions: 5/15-5/17

More details about these events are available on the NAST website.

Based on data collected by CSPN from all 529 plans across the country, including 105 savings and prepaid tuition programs, the 529 Year-End Report found that college savings investments, number of accounts and average size reached record levels in 2012. Highlights from the report include:

- Total investment by American families in 529 plans has reached a record level of $190.7 billion. This is a 15.7% increase from 2011, when assets in 529 plans were nearly $165 billion.

- The total number of 529 accounts increased 3.7% over the past 12 months, going from 10.7 million in December 2011 to 11.1 million as of December 2012.

- The average 529 account size continues to grow, reaching an all-time high of $17,174 as of December 31, 2012, an 11.9% increase over the previous twelve months.

- Contributions to new and existing 529 accounts nationwide exceeded $21.2 billion in 2012. Nearly half (49%) of all 529 accounts received contributions in 2012, demonstrating a continued commitment by families to invest in saving for college.

The full report is available online.
About College Savings Plans Network (CSPN)
The College Savings Plans Network (CSPN) is a national non-profit association and the 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 administrators of 529 savings and prepaid plans from all 50 states, as well as their private sector partners, to offer convenient tools and objective information to help families make informed decisions about saving for college.