



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER BILL LOCKYER

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Treasurer Lockyer Announces ScholarShare Named One of Five “Top Choices” by Money Magazine *California’s 529 College Savings Plan Gains Recognition in National Survey*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer today announced that California’s ScholarShare College Savings Plan has been listed as one of five “top choices” in a national survey of college savings plans by Money Magazine.

“Saving for college is becoming increasingly burdensome for parents and families but I’m glad that Californians have one of the best savings options available to them right here in their own back yard,” said Lockyer. “529 plans are clearly the most effective way to save and ScholarShare is leading the way by providing low-cost, tax-free investment options.”

The survey, published in the August 1, 2007 edition, looked at 85 college savings plans available nationwide and deemed ScholarShare one of five favorites “whose strong management and low fees make them top choices not only for their own state’s citizens, but for anyone whose in-state plan doesn’t merit a star.”

In addition to praising California’s plan, the survey emphasized the superiority of 529 plans as a college savings tool. Citing the permanence of tax-free withdrawals, improved investment options and rising costs for both public and private college education, Money Magazine bluntly noted that “you’d be a fool to save for college any other way but in a 529 plan.”

The ScholarShare program enables Californians to save for college by putting money in tax-advantaged investments. After-tax contributions allow earnings to grow tax-deferred, and disbursements, when used for tuition and other qualified expenses, are federal and state tax-free.

ScholarShare accounts may be opened online with as little as \$50, or \$15 when combined with regular investments of at least \$15 per month. ScholarShare has no annual fee, no income limit and offers a high maximum contribution limit of \$300,000. The program currently holds more than \$2.6 billion in assets in more than 190,000 accounts.

The ScholarShare Investment Board, chaired by Lockyer as State Treasurer, manages the state’s 529 college investment plan.

Go to www.scholarshare.com for more information. The survey can be viewed in its entirety at www.money.cnn.com.

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