



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER BILL LOCKYER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Treasurer Lockyer Kicks Off College Savings Month, Encourages Families to Plan and Save Early for Children's Higher Education *Will Throw First Pitch at Sacramento River Cats Game; Events Planned Across State*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer today kicked off College Savings Month and encouraged parents and families to begin planning and saving early for their children's higher education expenses.

"September is College Savings Month in California," said Lockyer. "It's well known that a college degree paves the way to opportunity, a successful career and higher earnings. The next generation of Californians will need a college degree even more to obtain good jobs and find prosperity in the global economy. So I plan to take full advantage of College Savings Month to raise awareness among parents and families about the importance of planning and saving for college."

Lockyer will commemorate College Savings Month Thursday night by throwing out the first pitch at Game 2 of the Pacific Coast League first round playoff series between the Sacramento River Cats and Salt Lake City Bees. The game will be held at Raley Field in West Sacramento, and is scheduled to start at 7:05 p.m. Representatives of ScholarShare, California's official 529 college savings plan, will distribute informational material about the program at booths stationed at the ballpark.

ScholarShare will sponsor additional College Savings Month events throughout the state. The events will include: "ScholarShare Free Second Sunday" at The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose on Sept. 14; "ScholarShare Day" at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County on Sept. 20; and "ScholarShare Day" at the Explorit Science Center in Davis on Sept. 27, among others. For more information and a complete list of events, visit www.treasurer.ca.gov/scholarshare/month.asp.

Named for the section of IRS code under which they were created, 529 plans are highly regarded for their tax-advantaged status. Earnings on investments 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, automatic contributions of at least \$15 per month. For a limited time, investors who open new accounts with automatic contributions will receive a free \$50 gift card. ScholarShare has no annual account maintenance fee, no income limit and offers a high maximum contribution limit of \$320,000. The program currently holds more than \$3 billion in assets in more than 220,000 accounts. To open an account or for information on ScholarShare, visit www.treasurer.ca.gov/scholarshare/month.asp.

As Treasurer, Lockyer serves as chairman of ScholarShare's governing board.

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