## MARCH 24, 2021

## AGENDA ITEM 6 INFORMATION ITEM

## SCHOLARSHARE INVESTMENT BOARD

Review of Marketing Performance for ScholarShare 529

## Background

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI), the program manager for ScholarShare 529 (Plan), has provided its "Q4 2020 Marketing Results" for the Plan. It includes an overview of the account and asset results for 2020 and how they measure against the marketing performance criteria adopted by the ScholarShare Investment Board.

The overview also outlines the budget and results for marketing activities completed in 2020 which include:

- Q4 2020 Achievements
- 2020 Matching Grant Program
- 2020 Campaigns Recap
- Public Relations
- Social Media
- Employer Outreach
- Outreach Events
- 2020 Marketing Budget


## Presenter

Doug Harrison, Senior Director, TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc.

# ScholarShare529 

## Q4 2020 Marketing Results

March 24, 2021

## 2020 Marketing Plan

| 1. Brand Management | 2. Gain New Accounts/AUM | 3. Engage Underserved Families | 4. Mature AO Relationships | 5. Employers | 6. Financial Professionals |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ensure ScholarShare 529 brand is well-known and understood among key target audiences. | Drive new account growth and increased AUM through initiatives that reflect the target market characteristics. | Educate families about ScholarShare 529 and the importance of saving for college. | Drive Account Owner subsequent contributions through engagement initiatives. | Harness employer endorsements to build business. | Engage RIAs and other financial professionals to endorse ScholarShare 529 as the program of choice. |
| All Audiences S M C | Middle/Affluent M <br> C | Struggling/Middle S M | All Audiences <br> S <br> M <br> C | All Audiences <br> S <br> M <br> C | Financial Professionals |
| A. Refresh brand campaign to support greater audience breadth, leveraging claims (like Morningstar Gold rating), California state sponsorship, and consumer research insights. | A. Leverage data-driven marketing techniques to efficiently attract and convert prospect leads. | A. Develop platform for Treasurer to speak to the challenges of less affluent families. | A. Leverage content marketing techniques to further engage Account Owners and drive subsequent purchases and retention. | A. Support TIAA Field Consultants and SIB Staff in gaining employer partnerships through public relations and HR Professional outreach initiatives. | A. Define engagement model and strengthen communications tailored for this audience. |
| B. Through paid media, public relations, and social media, strengthen ScholarShare 529's brand identity to ensure tactical marketing initiatives deliver desired results. | B. Strengthen our content to better engage prospects with varied mindsets and at different stages of the purchase journey to drive sales. | B. Support Matching Grant Program (Year 3) to instill the idea that a college education is attainable. | B. Continue to demonstrate how gifting can help families to reach college savings goals collectively. | B. Promote employee utilization via various engagement techniques. |  |
| C. Continue to monitor ScholarShare 529's brand health. | C. Address prospect concerns related to COVID19. | C. Deliver Children's Savings Account (CSA) programs-directly and through partners to engage underserved families. | C. Effectively communicate recordkeeping platform change and Enrollment Year Investment Portfolios launch in January 2020. | C. Assure employers promote ScholarShare 529 as a benefit for all income tiers of employees. |  |
|  |  |  | D. Address account owner concerns related to COVID19. |  |  |

Anxious Middle
Core Savers

## ScholarShare 529 Business Results

- Very strong results versus prior periods.
- ScholarShare 529 is now $5^{\text {th }}$ largest Direct-Sold Plan by assets.

| Accounts and Contributions | December 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 | \% Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total New Accounts Opened | 28,864 | 34,300 | 18.8\% |
| Total New Contributions Collected | \$856.3 million | \$980.8 million | 14.5\% |
| Growth Rate | ScholarShare 529 | Industry | \% Difference |
| Annual Asset Growth Rate | 14.98\% | 16.47\% * | -1.49\% |
| Rollovers | Performance Criteria |  | \% Change |
| \% of Plan Accounts Closed Due to Rollovers | < 2.0\% | 0.47\% ** | 0.00\% ** |
| Accounts and Assets | December 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 | \% Change |
| Total Open Accounts | 332,423 | 352,398 | 6.0\% |
| Total Assets | \$9.88 billion | \$11.36 billion | 15.0\% |
| Market Share* | 4.899\% | 4.846\% | -1.08\% |

[^0] Rate for ScholarShare 529 was $9.22 \%$, versus $10.41 \%$ for Direct Sold Plans.

## New Accounts \& Contributions




## Marketing Plan—Q4 2020 Achievements

## Results

## The 2020 Marketing Plan was successfully implemented with record results in terms of new accounts and contributions.

| 1. Brand Management | 2. Gain New Accounts/AUM | 3. Engage Underserved Families | 4. Mature AO Relationships | 5. Employers | 6. Financial Professionals |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ensure ScholarShare 529 brand is well-known and understood among key target audiences. | Drive new account growth and increased AUM through initiatives that reflect the target market characteristics. | Educate families about ScholarShare 529 and the importance of saving for college. | Drive Account Owner subsequent contributions through engagement initiatives. | Harness employer endorsements to build business. | Engage RIAs and other financial professionals to endorse ScholarShare 529 as the program of choice. |
| - PR Success: In 2020, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned 283 times in the media reaching 783 million readers/viewers. <br> - Among the top 10 direct-sold 529 plans by AUM, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned most frequently in the media. <br> - Plans completed for annual brand health study to be fielded in Q1 2021. | - December's Holiday Promotion drove 3,035 new accounts, up 30\% over 2019. <br> - December's new account growth was unprecedented with a monthly total of 5,942, up 42\% over December 2019. | - Logo designs and materials developed for CaIKIDS. <br> - The 2020 Matching Grant Program concluded with: <br> - 1,065 applications <br> - 770 new accounts <br> - $\$ 804,401$ in contributions <br> - $\$ 108,023$ in projected grants. <br> - New content for underserved students/families, including a 40-minute panel discussion video, posted on College Countdown. | - Account Owners were targeted as part of December's Holiday Promotion. <br> - College Countdown 16,000 visitors in first 4 months. | - Supported TIAA Field Consultants and SIB Staff in gaining employer partnerships. <br> - Workplace Savings Video produced and webpages updated to feature partner logos. <br> - Work began to support SIB Staff's 2021 focus on growing municipal employer participation in Workplace Savings Program. | Revised RIA presentation materials. |

## 2021 Marketing Plan—Q1 Initiatives

Initiatives in development now:

- Matching Grant Program launch - Feb. 1
- Tax Time Campaign - Feb/March
- Brand Health Study - In the field in Q1
- Spanish PR initiative kicked-off for 2021

- Expanding content resources for families:
- College Countdown - Continue content build-out and promotion
- New Parent Content Program in development called "First Steps"
- New videos: 1) 529 Basics; 2) Web Account Opening Tutorial; 3) Children Savings Accounts
- Workplace Savings Program - Municipal market support


## 2020 Matching Grant Program

## Program Summary

Timing: February 1 - December 31, 2020
Offer: $\$ 200$ dollar-for-dollar match for qualifying accounts opened in 2020. $\$ 25$ bonus for ACP set-up.
Target Audience: Low to moderate-income California families.

## Demographic insights among approved grantees for

 2018, 2019, and 2020 include:
## Grantees...

- Have a smaller household size than typical Account Owners
- Are more often Hispanic and less often Western European than typical Account Owners
- Are younger than typical Account Owners
- Are less likely to be married compared to typical Account Owners
- Are much less likely to have a college degree than typical Account Owners
- Have lower average household incomes
- Live less affluent lives versus typical Account Owners, with lower home values, lower investment resources, and lower net worth
-TIAA


## Driving New Account Growth

Leverage data-driven marketing techniques to efficiently attract and convert leads.

| Audience | Objective | Tactics and Channels | Cadence |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Prospects | - Awareness <br> - Interest <br> - Open new accounts | - Search engine marketing <br> - Web advertising <br> - Email (EM) <br> - Direct mail (DM) <br> - In-person | - Seasonal and evergreen |
| Inquirers | - Open new accounts | - Search engine marketing <br> - Web advertising <br> - Email <br> - Direct mail | - Evergreen |
| New AO's | - Fund and engage with account | - Email | - Evergreen |
| Account Owners | - Continued engagement and support <br> - Fund accounts <br> - Open additional accounts | - Primarily email <br> - Limited direct mail <br> - Limited web advertising | - Seasonal and evergreen |

## 2020 Campaigns Recap by Audience Segment

Advertising spending produced higher than usual response levels leading to above average business results for the year.

| Audience | Campaigns Measured | Audience Reach Highlights | Engagement and Conversion Highlights |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Prospect | - February Tax Time DM/EM, May 529 Day DM/EM, College Savings DM/EM, Holiday DM/EM <br> - Episodic Programmatic Display <br> - Search | - Over 3.2MM Prospects Reached via DM <br> - Over 4.4MM Prospects Reached via EM <br> - Over 375MM Digital Impressions Served | - Holiday promotion generated 3,035 new accounts, up 30\% over 2019. |
| Inquirers (Rolling 12 months) | - Monthly DM and EM Inquirer Content Drip Stream for new leads | - Over 2.7K unique individuals reached | - $31 \%$ e-mail unique open rate <br> - $9.3 \%$ conversion rate with 255 new accounts generated |
| New AO's <br> (Rolling 12 months) | - New Account Onboarding program | - Over 26K unique new AOs reached | - 49\% email open rate <br> - 0.9\% account upsell rate with 288 new accounts and $40 \%$ recurring contributions sign-up |
| Account Owners | - February Tax Time EM, May 529 Day EM, College Savings DM/EM <br> - Content Drip <br> - Episodic/Evergreen Targeted Online Display | - Over 161K mail pieces delivered <br> - Over 1.8MM e-mails delivered <br> - Over 47MM Digital Impressions Served | - Holiday EM campaign generated 1,206 new accounts and \$75MM+ in contributions through 12/31/20 |

TIAA

## Creative Samples

## Evergreen Campaigns

Prospect \& Account Owner Banners


Emails: New Account Owner Onboarding, Inquirer Content Drip, Account Owner Content Drip


## Episodic Core Campaigns



## Public Relations: 2020 Recap

Media relations initiatives through our PR agency drive coverage in print, online and in broadcast. These mentions help prospects become familiar with our brand and attributes.

- In 2020, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned 283 times in the media reaching 783 million readers/viewers
- Among the top 10 direct-sold 529 plans by AUM, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned most frequently in the media.
- $31 \%$ of the Share of Voice (SOV).
- The next closest plan is CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio) with $16 \%$ SOV.

- ScholarShare 529
- CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio)

UNIQUE 529 (New Hampshire) 8\%
Maryland 529 13\%

- Utah's My529 10\%

MESP (Michigan) 12\%

- BrightStart 529 (Illinois) 7\%

NY 529 |Direct 1\%

Vanguard 529 (Nevada) 1\%
MEFA U.FUND (Massachusetts) 1\%

## Public Relations: Q4 Summary

- In Q4 2020, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned 67 times in the media reaching more than 114 million readers/viewers.
- Among the top 10 direct-sold 529 plans by AUM, ScholarShare 529 was mentioned most frequently in the media.
- $18 \%$ of the Share of Voice (SOV).
- The next closest plans are CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio) and MESP (Michigan) with 17\% SOV.
- The most impactful article in Q4 was Treasurer Fiona Ma's opinion piece, "Why college savings is more important than ever this holiday season," which was published in San Francisco Examiner and reached approximately 134,000 readers.
- ScholarShare 529 18\%

CollegeAdvantage 529 (Ohio) 17\%

- UNIQUE 529 (New Hampshire) 13\%

Maryland 529 14\%

- Utah's My529 11\%

MESP (Michigan) 17\%

BrightStart 529 (Illinois) 6\%

NY 529 | Direct < 1\%

Vanguard 529 (Nevada) 1\%
MEFA U.FUND (Massachusetts)

## Social Media: 2020 Recap

Social media served as an effective communications platform in 2020, communicating timely resources and announcements, reinforcing ScholarShare 529's "Made in California" brand, and addressing customer inquiries.

| Key Performance Indictors Total Results | - 66,202 Total Followers (1,034 New Fans across all Social Media channels) <br> - 4,229,544 Impressions <br> - 36,888 Social engagements <br> - Took in 746 messages, 640 which warranted responses. <br> - Average cross-channel engagement rate: .5\% |
| :---: | :---: |
| Paid Promotion | Facebook: <br> - 529 Day Campaign: <br> - 13,183 website visits <br> - 2,446 engagements <br> - 2,839,457 impressions <br> Linkedln: <br> - Holiday Offer Campaign <br> - 307 website visits <br> - 60,261 impressions <br> - Linkedln Brand + Feature Videos Campaign $-125,522$ video views with $10.38 \%$ view completion - 247 website visits |

## Social Media: Q4 Summary

In Q4, we resumed running paid ads on select social media platforms to engage core audiences in the Holiday Offer in December, and to promote new video content.

| Goals \& Objectives | - Aligned PR and social media efforts and strategies. <br> - Provide social care to current and prospective customers. <br> - Engaged core audiences through sharing of helpful resources and information. <br> - Audited and begin planning for potential integration of Spanish and official Facebook pages. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Key Strategies | - Tailoring messages and hashtags across social platforms. <br> - Support STO/SIB activities by distributing and liking tagged messaging, as needed. <br> - Complete transition to "Made in California" brand. <br> - Navigate \#StopHateForProfit Facebook advertising boycott. <br> - Test LinkedIn sponsored posts and videos |
| Total KPI Results | - 64,719 Impressions (15.4\% increase in organic impressions from Q3) <br> - 3,219 Social engagements (69.69\% increase in organic engagements from Q3) <br> - Engagement rate increased to $2.1 \%$ (increase of $9.3 \%$ from Q3) |
| Paid Promotion (LinkedIn) | - Holiday Offer Campaign: $\$ 1,221.20$ spent <br> - 307 website visits at $\$ 3.98$ cost per visit <br> - 60,261 impressions <br> - Linkedln Brand + Feature Videos Campaign: $\$ 8,000$ spent $-125,522$ video views with $10.38 \%$ view completion rate at $\$ .06$ per video view - 247 website visits |

## Social Media—2020 Samples

## Holiday Offer

ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 • Dec 9, 2020
Start celebrating by opening a tax-free ScholarShare 529 college savings account from Dec. 9-13 and you will receive a $\$ 50$ @Target GiftCard. \#529Plans \#529CollegeSavings \#529Planning
scholarshare529.com/holidayoffer/

| Limited-Time Offer |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Open a new account. | $\bigcirc{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{Canc}$ Card |
| cet a 850 |  |
| Target ciftcard. |  |
| Open a new account with $\$ 50$ and set up recurring contributions of $\$ 25$ or more for six consecutive months and receive a $\$ 50$ Target GiftCard* |  |
| Offer valid between December 9 and December 13, 2020 $\qquad$ <br>  | ScholarShare529 |

## 529 Day

## ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 • May 20, 2020

California families - don't miss your chance to kickstart your college savings! Open a new ScholarShare 529 account between May 26-31 and earn an additional \$50. \#529Day \#CollegeSavings
cnbc.com/2020/04/10/how...


ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 • May 25, 2020
529 Day is almost here! Open a new ScholarShare 529 account between May 26-31 and earn an additional \$50. \#529Day \#CollegeSavings
scholarshare529.com/buzz/529day-of...


ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 - Dec 7, 2020
Open a ScholarShare 529 college savings account from Dec. 9-13 and receive a $\$ 50$ @Target GiftCard. Learn more.

| ScholarShare529 |
| :--- |
| 5 days only - December 9-13 |
| Calfornia's official |
| college savings plan |


193 views college saving ${ }^{2} 07 \mid$ lo:ion

## Social Media—2020 Samples

## Savings Trends and Matching Grant Program

## College Savings Month

ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 • Aug 12
Despite the current challenges, California parents are still saving for college: $76 \%$ said in a recent ScholarShare 529 survey that nothing would make them prouder than to help their kids afford college.
\#CollegeSavings \#SavingForCollege \#CA529
scholarshare529.com


ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 • Aug 25
For a limited time, California's qualifying families can get up to $\$ 225$ to help kickstart their college dreams with ScholarShare 529's tax-free college saving plan. \#SavingForCollege \#CA529 \#529Plans
scholarshare529.com/buzz/matching-..


## ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529. Sep 11

September is \#CollegeSavingsMonth! Open a ScholarShare 529 college savings account today and feel good all year about putting California's tax-free plan to work for you. Learn more. \#529Plans \#CaliforniaCollegeSavings scholarshare529.com

## It’s <br> College Savings Month

ScholarShare529

## ScholarShare 529 @ScholarShare529 • Sep 17

Watch @CalTreasurer @fionama talk with @Tonysuniverse and @Araksya on @FOXLA show @GDLA about \#CollegeSavingsMonth and how you can help your child prepare for college with a @ScholarShare529 account here: foxla.com/video/851465 \#529plans


California College Savings Plan
California State Treasurer Fiona Ma joins Good Day LA to discuss Scholarshare 529, the state ...
© foxla.com
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## Employer Outreach Activities

Employer Outreach continued in Q4 despite COVID-19 distractions.

## New WPS Partners: 5

- The City of Chico
- City of Moreno Valley
- Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Counsel
- University Studies Abroad Consortium
- Deep Blue Builders

WPS: Employee Education: 27
Webinars: 21
Virtual Benefits Fair: 6


WPS HR Introductory Meetings: 10 HR Conferences/Webinars: 2
Consumer consultation meetings: 324
Consumer webinars: 6

## Outreach Events Summary

ScholarShare 529 participated in the following events in Q4 to promote the Plan to California families.

| Timing | Number of <br> Virtual Events | Estimated <br> Number of <br> Virtual <br> Attendees |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | San Jose State University Benefit Fair, CaIHR Healthier U <br> Fourth |  |
| Workgroup, State Employee Webinars (CHP, CaISTRS, |  |  |  |
| Quarter |  |  |  |
| 2020 | 39 | 1,000 | CalPERS, DMV, CA Earthquake Authority), First 5 LA Employee <br> Webinar, Be an HR Hero Employer Webinar, Nevada County <br> Employee Webinar, KQED, USAC Lunch and Learn Webinar, <br> USC - Understand 529 Plans Webinar, Long Beach City <br> Employees Federal Credit Union Member Webinar, City of |
|  |  |  | Chico Employee Webinar, Trinity SF Open Enrollment |

## Appendix

## 2020 Marketing Budget

- 2020 Marketing Budget: $\$ 10$ million

| ACTUALS AS OF 12/31/2020 | Spending |  | \% |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :---: |
| Direct Marketing (Search, Display, DM, EM) | $\$$ | $6,405,438$ | $64 \%$ |
| Promotions / Community Outreach | $\$$ | 548,735 | $5 \%$ |
| Television | $\$$ | 995,000 | $10 \%$ |
| Fulfillment, Printing \& Postage | $\$$ | 538,297 | $5 \%$ |
| Agency Staff | $\$$ | $1,095,444$ | $11 \%$ |
| Public Relations | $\$$ | 400,185 | $4 \%$ |
| Research | $\$$ | 16,400 | $0 \%$ |
| Promotional Items | $\$$ | 500 | $0 \%$ |
| TOTAL | $\$$ | $10,000,000$ | $100 \%$ |

## OVERALL CORE AUDIENCE: CA FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

SEGMENTS

COLLEGE LIKELIHOOD

> PARENT EDUCATION

| SEGMENTS | A. STRUGGLING FAMILIES | B. ANXIOUS MIDDLE | C. CORE SAVERS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| COLLEGE LIKELIHOOD | LOWER | HIGHER | HIGH |
| PARENT EDUCATION | LIMITED/NO HIGHER EDUCATION | TYPICALLY 1+ COLLEGE GRAD | COLLEGE GRAD PLUS |
| FAMILY INCOME ${ }^{1}$ | UNDER \$75K | \$75K-\$150K | OVER \$150K+ |
|  | Some HS HS Grad <br> $\$ 39 \mathrm{~K}$ Mean $\$ 60 \mathrm{~K}$ Mean | Low Income College Grad <br> $\$ 82 \mathrm{~K}$ Max. (HUD for LA) $\$ 122 \mathrm{~K}$ Mean | Max Fin Aid Qualifier \$220K FAFSA ${ }^{7}$ |
| FAMILY SAVINGS ${ }^{2}$ | $\$ 0$ | \$51K | \$157K |
| CALIFORNIA |  |  |  |
| POPULATION ${ }^{1}$ | 45\% | 30\% | 25\% |
| SAVINGS ${ }^{1,2}$ | 5\% | 26\% | 69\% |
| SCHOLARSHARE 529 |  |  |  |
| ACCOUNTS ${ }^{6}$ | 17\% | 37\% | 46\% |
| DOLLARS ${ }^{6}$ | 10\% | 28\% | 62\% |
| GOAL | INCREASE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT <br> 47\% Less likely to enroll vs. high income ${ }^{9}$ 3\% Unbanked ${ }^{3}$ | IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY <br> $72 \%$ Saving all they can for college ${ }^{4}$ <br> 63\% Cost of college "a national crisis"4 | SECURE ASSETS FOR CA PLAN <br> 45\% Plan to contribute $\$ 5,000+$ /year ${ }^{4}$ <br> 75\% Confident about college goal ${ }^{4}$ <br> 55\% Use Financial Advisor ${ }^{4}$ |
| StRATEGY | ANY COLLEGE SAVINGS <br> 300\% More likely to enroll if there are any savings ${ }^{5}$ | SMARTER COLLEGE SAVINGS <br> +70\% Make at least one costly college savings mistake ${ }^{4}$ | CHOICE OF SCHOLARSHARE 529 <br> 79\% Use a competing plan 29\% Use ScholarShare 5294,8 |

(for under $\$ 60 \mathrm{~K}$ Income)


| SEGMENTS | A. STRUGGLING FAMILIES | B. ANXIOUS MIDDLE | C. CORE SAVERS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| COLLEGE LIKELIHOOD | LOWER | HIGHER | HIGH |
| PARENT EDUCATION | LIMITED/NO HIGHER EDUCATION | TYPICALLY 1+ COLLEGE GRAD | COLLEGE GRAD PLUS |
| FAMILY INCOME ${ }^{1}$ | UNDER \$75K | \$75K-\$150K | OVER \$150K+ |
|  | Some HS HS Grad <br> $\$ 39 \mathrm{~K}$ Mean $\$ 60 \mathrm{~K}$ Mean | Low Income College Grad <br> $\$ 82 \mathrm{~K}$ Max. (HUD for LA) $\$ 122 \mathrm{~K}$ Mean | Max Fin Aid Qualifier \$220K FAFSA ${ }^{7}$ |
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| StRATEGY | ANY COLLEGE SAVINGS <br> 300\% More likely to enroll if there are any savings ${ }^{5}$ | SMARTER COLLEGE SAVINGS <br> +70\% Make at least one costly college savings mistake ${ }^{4}$ | CHOICE OF SCHOLARSHARE 529 <br> 79\% Use a competing plan 29\% Use ScholarShare 5294,8 |

## A. STRUGGLING FAMILIES

[^1]
[^0]:    * Source: ISS Market Intelligence—Direct Sold 529 Plans—Q4 2020. Q4 Quarterly Growth

[^1]:    
    

