



# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bill Ainsworth/916.653.2995

## **Treasurer Lockyer Announces Elk Grove Parent Wins \$100,000 College Savings Contest** *Urges Passage of Legislation to Make College Saving Easier*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer today announced Elk Grove pharmacist Calvin Nakamoto has won a \$100,000 national contest he will deposit in a new ScholarShare college savings account for his third-grade son, Duncan Nakamoto.

“I congratulate Calvin for his creativity in winning the contest and his foresight in planning now for his son’s future,” said Lockyer. “I urge parents and grandparents everywhere to begin saving for college as early as possible. A college education helps a child succeed and prosper in an increasingly competitive economy.”

Lockyer thanked TIAA-CREF, which manages ScholarShare, California’s 529 college savings plan, for sponsoring the contest.

In addition, Lockyer called on the Legislature to help more parents save for their children’s college dreams by approving Assembly Bill 1956, which provides a 20 percent state tax credit of up to \$500 a year to middle and lower income Californians who contribute to ScholarShare and other 529 plans. The legislation is being carried by Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, D-Concord.

“AB 1956 is carefully targeted to help those who need it most,” said Lockyer, who chairs the ScholarShare Investment Board, which administers ScholarShare. “It would increase the number of California families saving for college, increase the amount of money set aside for California children’s college education, reduce student debt and boost the economy.”

Lockyer said the legislation, over the next 20 years, will produce an additional \$950 million in college savings and save students \$1.2 billion in loan payments, according to an analysis by Blue Sky Consulting Group.

Nine-year-old Duncan first learned the prize will go to him this morning during a surprise announcement at an assembly at his school, Joseph Sims Elementary in Elk Grove.

“Education is very important to our family and we have big dreams for Duncan,” said Calvin Nakamoto. “Whether he decides to become a doctor, lawyer, astronaut or paleontologist, we are sure this award– and his hard work – will set him on the path toward achieving his dreams.”

The contest invited parents and grandparents to submit an original photo of their child or grandchild “dreaming big” for the future, including a caption of up to 140 characters. The photo of Duncan was selected by an independent panel of judges from among nearly 3,000 entries.

“We are committed to helping make college possible for more young people like Duncan,” said Roger W. Ferguson Jr., president and chief executive officer of TIAA-CREF. “Research shows that children with a college savings account are seven times more likely to attend college than those without, so we want every parent and grandparent to know that small contributions over time can help make big dreams for college come true.”

529 plans, named for the section of the IRS code under which they are created, give accountholders an important tax advantage. Earnings are not taxed by the state and federal governments if money from the accounts is used for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses.

ScholarShare has \$5.7 billion in assets and 251,000 accounts. It was recently named one of the nine best 529 college savings accounts in the nation by Morningstar, a ratings agency.

ScholarShare accounts may be opened with as little as \$25. They can be opened online at [www.scholarshare.com](http://www.scholarshare.com).

For information about the SIB, visit [www.treasurer.ca.gov/scholarshare](http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/scholarshare). ScholarShare is on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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