

# A smart way to bring EDUCATION SAVINGS TO WORK



The Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program is designed to help people save for the expenses of an education. Learning Quest is administered by the Office of the Kansas State Treasurer and managed by American Century Investments. With Learning Quest, employees can voluntarily elect to contribute toward:

- Education goals for themselves.
- Education goals for their children or grandchildren.

The end result is a higher education, but the advantages of Learning Quest start well before that. Here are some of the key benefits that make it just plain smart for your employees to sign up for the Learning Quest program at work.

# The savings are automatic

Contributions can be deducted after-tax from paychecks each pay period as a service to your employees if you choose. Other options include contributions from employees personal bank account.

# Who doesn't love tax breaks and benefits?

Kansas account owners may be able to receive an annual adjusted gross income tax deduction of up to \$3,000 (\$6,000 if married, filing jointly).\* Plus, withdrawals used to pay for qualified education expenses are tax-free at the federal and Kansas state levels.\*\*

## Open to any and all

Any U.S. citizen or resident can open an account, contribute or be a beneficiary. That means employees can open an account for themselves, children, grandchildren or anyone else.

# Pick a college, any college

Withdrawals can be used at any U.S. accredited public, private or community college, vocational schools and many schools abroad.

They can also be used for K-12 tuition expenses.

<sup>\*</sup>The availability of tax or other benefits may be conditioned on meeting certain requirements, such as residency, purpose for or timing of distributions, or other factors.

<sup>\*\*</sup>The earnings portion of nonqualified withdrawals is subject to federal and state taxes, and a 10% federal penalty.

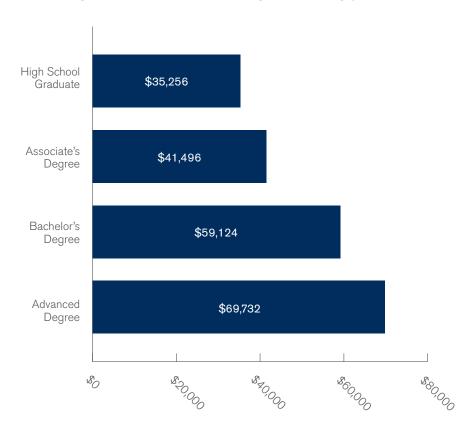


## Education is a smart investment

Your employees want to move forward knowing all aspects of their financial future are covered. If you're offering a 401(k), 403(b) or other type of retirement plan, you've taken a great first step. Adding a 529 plan can help you round out your employees' investing needs.

Learning Quest offers a smart solution to a common investment challenge. As you know, a higher education can lead to a higher value. The chart below shows weekly median earnings by education level attained and illustrates just how much it pays to invest in education savings.

#### Higher education means higher earning potential



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, January 2015

### **Employer Benefits**

Learning Quest allows you to add an extra benefit with none of the extra cost. And that's a win-win, for you and your employees. Here are just a few of the many ways you can benefit.

#### No added costs

Learning Quest provides all employee forms and communications. So, there are no additional costs to you.

#### No paper shuffling

Learning Quest uses an established payroll deduction process, so your company is not responsible for testing or monitoring, or for providing tax and administration forms.

#### Easy to implement

Setting up a 529 plan is easier than establishing a 401(k) or other retirement plans because of the limited paperwork and administration obligations.

#### No heavy lifting

Your Learning Quest Consultant can conduct everything from one-on-one educational sessions to group sessions to benefits fairs to help address any employee questions.

## Tuition reimbursement complement

Learning Quest acts as a complement to a tuition reimbursement program by allowing employees to fund their own continuing education expenses.



For more information, contact a Learning Quest Consultant at **877-345-0909** or visit <u>learningquest.com</u>



## You can't spell HERO without HR

Take the next step toward HR greatness. Bring Learning Quest to your employees.

#### **Objective**

To help make education savings simpler while providing tax benefits.

#### **Education**

Learning Quest was established in 2000 by the state of Kansas.

#### **Experience**

Skilled in offering low initial investment options.

#### **Activities**

Provides smart investment options. Employees can choose from two basic investment options: age-based portfolios (more hands-off) or static portfolios (more hands-on).

Offers flexible account designation. Account holders can change the beneficiary on the account at any time, even after the first withdrawal.

#### References

Administered by the Office of the Kansas State Treasurer. Managed by American Century Investments.

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877-345-0909 or visit learningquest.com

Before investing, carefully consider the plan's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This information and more about the plan can be found in the Learning Quest Handbook, available by contacting your financial advisor or American Century Investment Services, Inc., Distributor, at 1-800-579-2203, and should be read carefully before investing. If you are not a Kansas taxpayer, consider before investing whether your or the beneficiary's home state offers a 529 Plan that provides its taxpayers with state tax and other benefits not available through this plan.

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As with any investment, it is possible to lose money by investing in this plan. The value of your Learning Quest account may fluctuate, and it is possible for the value of your account to be less than the amount you invested.

Notice: Accounts established under Learning Quest and their earnings are neither insured nor guaranteed by the state of Kansas, the Kansas State Treasurer or American Century Investments.

This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended as tax advice.

#### Administered by the Office of the Kansas State Treasurer

Managed by American Century Investment Management, Inc.

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