



Message from the Nebraska State Treasurer

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Trustee of the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust for these past eight years. In that time, total assets in NEST 529 have grown from \$2.4 billion in 2011 to more than \$5 billion today. In that same time period, the total number of accounts has grown from fewer than 183,000 to over 262,000.

While I am very proud of that remarkable growth, I am even prouder of NEST 529 itself. Our state-sponsored 529 program is well respected in the industry and well thought of by its peers. NEST 529 Director Rachel Biar serves on the Executive Board of the College Savings Plans Network (CSPN) and has been moderator and presenter at CSPN events at National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) conferences.

Most recently, the NEST 529 Advisor Plan was ranked among the top five advisor-sold plans for one-, three-, and five-year performance by SavingforCollege.com, a popular, independent website for information about saving for college. In that same report, the NEST 529 Direct Plan was ranked third for one-year performance and fifth for three-year performance.

Besides the leadership role and the rankings are the activities that NEST 529 promotes. Recently, 15 summer readers each received a \$529 NEST account through a partnership with the Nebraska Library Commission. Earlier, six Nebraska children each received a \$1,000 NEST account for their photos of farm or ranch life in the annual NEST on the Farm Photo Drawing. And four families, including one from Vermont, received \$5,000 each for a NEST account for a beneficiary 10 or younger in our Big Dreams Giveaway.

And we still have many more scholarships to present for back-to-school photos, fall photos, and letters from grandparents. All of these endeavors broaden our reach, heighten awareness of the NEST 529 brand, and fulfill our mission to do what we can to help families prepare financially for the educational futures of their children and grandchildren.

We meet our NEST account owners wherever we go and our message to them is always the same. Thank you for entrusting your hard-earned resources with us. We will do our best to maintain your trust.