



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Roger Johnson
Agriculture Commissioner

News Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Jamie Christensen
Bank of North Dakota
(701) 328-5657

Governor Hoeven Lauds 529 College Savings Day: A Time to Plan for the Higher Education of North Dakota's Children

Bismarck, ND – May 29, 2008: Gov. John Hoeven proclaimed today North Dakota's "529 College Savings Day" -- a day that signifies the importance of higher education to North Dakota families and their futures. The date (5/29) corresponds to the tax-advantaged 529 college savings plans, with North Dakota residents benefiting from the state-sponsored College SAVE Plan. The Plan is one of the most popular ways for parents, grandparents, and other family members and friends to save for children's college educations.

"Education has always been the key to success in our country, and perhaps never more importantly than today," Gov. Hoeven said. "We can all do something concrete to plan ahead for our children's college years, and in North Dakota we have good tools to help them."

College SAVE is administered by Bank of North Dakota (BND), the only state-owned Bank in the nation. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem commented that there is another way for North Dakota residents to increase their college savings. "Starting this month, the federal government has begun to issue economic stimulus rebate checks to qualifying households. Contributing to a College SAVE account is one way that families can put this money to good use."

"College SAVE is growing in North Dakota as our state's families learn about the plan's benefits," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. "The number of North Dakotans with a College SAVE account has grown more than 100% in the past year."

North Dakota offers an annual state tax deduction for contributions by North Dakota taxpayers who are College SAVE account owners of up to \$5,000 (\$10,000 for married couples filing jointly).*

"College SAVE offers many incentives for investors," said Eric Hardmeyer, BND president. "In conjunction with a matching grant program for North Dakota residents earning less than \$20,000 (\$40,000 for married couples filing jointly), a range of investment options, and tax-free earnings on qualified withdrawals,** College SAVE is a smart option to save for a child's future education."

Another way to bolster college savings is to enroll in the free Upromise rewards service, which lets members earn savings for college through eligible purchases with many of America's leading grocery stores, restaurants, and retailers. North Dakota families can link their Upromise rewards account to their College SAVE account, and savings of \$25 or more will automatically transfer into their college savings account on a quarterly basis. Family and friends can also help add to children's college savings with everyday purchases. To date, more than 6,000 North Dakota families are earning adding to their savings through Upromise by shopping online or at partner locations throughout the state.

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Karlene K. Fine, Executive Director and Secretary
State Capitol, 14th Floor - 600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 405 - Bismarck, ND 58505-0840
E-Mail: kfine@nd.gov
Phone: (701) 328-3722 FAX: (701) 328-2820
"Your Gateway to North Dakota": www.nd.gov

* Rollovers from another state's 529 plan are not considered eligible for the state income tax deduction.

** Earnings on non-qualified distributions are subject to federal income tax and may be subject to a 10% federal penalty tax, as well as state and local income taxes. The availability of tax or other benefits may be contingent on meeting other requirements.

For more information about North Dakota's College SAVE Plan, call 1-866-SAVE-529 (1-866-728-3529) or visit www.collegesave4u.com to obtain a Plan Disclosure Statement. Investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information are included in the Plan Disclosure Statement; read and consider it carefully before investing. Upromise Investments, Inc., Distributor and Underwriter.

If you are not a North Dakota taxpayer, consider before investing whether your or the designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified tuition program.

The College SAVE Plan is a 529 plan established by the State of North Dakota. Bank of North Dakota acts as trustee of the College SAVE Trust and is responsible for administering the Plan. Upromise Investments, Inc. and Upromise Investment Advisors, LLC serve as the Plan Manager and Recordkeeping and Servicing Agent, respectively, with overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including effecting transactions and marketing and distribution of the Plan. The Vanguard Group, Inc., provides underlying investments for the Plan. The Plan's Portfolios, although they invest in mutual funds, are not mutual funds. Units of the Portfolios are municipal fund securities and the value of units will vary with market conditions.

Investment returns are not guaranteed, and you could lose money by investing in the College SAVE Plan.