



**SCOTT MEACHAM
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER**

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**Oklahoma College Savings Plan, Oklahoma Libraries
Offer Chance to Win \$5,000 for College Savings during
2009 Summer Reading Program**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Getting your child to crack the books this summer could lead to \$5,000 toward his or her college savings. At a news conference in the Blue Room of the State Capitol today, State Treasurer Scott Meacham announced a partnership between the Oklahoma College Savings Plan (OCSP) and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) during the 2009 Summer Reading Program. The Oklahoma College Savings Plan is sponsoring the Be Creative @ Saving for College Sweepstakes.

The sweepstakes, which launches on June 1 and will run through July 31, will award \$5,000 for an Oklahoma College Savings Plan account to one lucky Summer Reading Program participant. The winner will also receive two tickets to the season opening game of the Oklahoma City Thunder professional basketball team. Plus, the library of the winning reader will be given \$1,500 to go toward its reading programs.

“The Summer Reading Program helps children adopt positive reading habits, skills and attitudes that will lead to their success in school and life,” said Treasurer Meacham, chairman of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan Board of Trustees. “This sweepstakes will get more children and parents to come to the library, increase excitement about reading, and help parents better understand the importance of saving for higher education.”

Librarians across the state will distribute the Be Creative @ Saving for College sweepstakes entry forms to parents or guardians of all children signing up for the 2009 Summer Reading Program. Sweepstakes entry forms may be completed and returned to the library or returned by mail. Participants can also submit a sweepstakes entry online at www.ok4saving.org.

“We are so appreciative of Treasurer Meacham and the Oklahoma College Savings Plan for their desire to reinforce a love of reading among Oklahoma children.” said Susan McVey, Oklahoma Department of Libraries Director. “During these tough economic times, the \$5,000 towards an OCSP account to the winning reader is incredibly enticing to anyone saving for their child or grandchild’s college education. And the \$1,500 toward the winner’s library will go a long way toward improving that library’s future reading programs.”

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The Be Creative@ Saving for College sweepstakes runs June 1 to July 31 (entries must be postmarked by July 31, 2009 and received by August 10, 2009). Visit your local public library or www.ok4saving.org for sweepstakes official rules and prize details.

Contributions to the Oklahoma College Savings Plan are eligible for an Oklahoma income tax deduction of up to \$20,000 for Oklahoma families. All contributions and any earnings to an OCSP account are federal and Oklahoma income tax-deferred, and distributions are also federal and Oklahoma income tax-free when qualified withdrawals are made to fund an array of student expenses at most institutions of higher learning. Funds may be used at virtually any private or public university, college or career technology center nationwide, and the savings can be applied to tuition as well as other qualified expenses including fees, books, supplies and certain room and board costs.

For more information about the Oklahoma College Savings Plan or to open an account, visit the website at www.ok4saving.org or call 1-877-654-7284.

The Oklahoma College Savings Plan is a state-sponsored, tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. Introduced in April 2000, the Oklahoma College Savings Plan currently has more than \$272 million in total assets and more than 41,000 accounts, as of May 1, 2009.

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