



SCOTT MEACHAM
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER

For Immediate Release: August 18, 2009

11 year-old Oklahoman wins \$5,000 Toward College Savings Plan

*Oklahoma College Savings Plan, Oklahoma Libraries award prize in
Summer Reading Program Sweepstakes*

OKLAHOMA CITY – State Treasurer Scott Meacham awarded Tyler Conger of Moore, OK \$5,000 toward an Oklahoma College Saving Plan account today and announced him the winner of the Be Creative @ Saving for College Sweepstakes. The sweepstakes was sponsored by the Oklahoma College Savings Plan (OCSP) and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) during the 2009 Summer Reading Program. Over 4,100 Summer Reading Program participants across the state entered the sweepstakes.

As part of the sweepstakes, which launched on June 1 and ran through July 31, Tyler will receive two tickets to Opening Night for the Oklahoma City Thunder and the library in which Tyler participated in the Summer Reading Program, Moore Public Library, will receive \$1,500 to help with its future reading programs. The sweepstakes is one more effort by the Oklahoma College Savings Plan to raise awareness among parents, grandparents and guardians about the importance of saving for college.

“We hope this sweepstakes drew more children to the library this summer where they continued to practice their reading skills,” said Treasurer Meacham, Chairman of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. “We also hope it helped parents better understand that the steps they take today can make tomorrow’s dream of achieving a higher education for their loved one a reality.”

“We’re very excited,” said Rita Conger, Tyler’s mother. “I want Tyler to be able to go to the best college possible and these funds to establish an Oklahoma College Savings Plan for him will really help.”

Librarians across the state distributed 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 were completed and returned to the library or returned by mail. Participants were also able to submit their sweepstakes entry online at www.ok4saving.org.

“This partnership with Treasurer Meacham and the Oklahoma College Savings Plan couldn’t have come at a better time,” said Susan McVey, Oklahoma Department of Libraries Director. “For any parents struggling through these tough economic times, the \$5,000 towards an OCSP account is incredibly helpful and the \$1,500 award to the Moore Public Library will go a long way toward improving that library’s future reading programs.”

(more)

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 used for qualified withdrawals. Funds may be used at virtually any private or public university, college or career technology center nationwide, and 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 has more than \$300 million in total assets and almost 43,000 accounts as of August 7, 2009.

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