

Savingforcollege.com Announces Quarterly List of Best-Performing 529 Plans

Newest installment of its 529 Plan Performance Rankings show Kansas and South Carolina at the top

NEW YORK, Aug 24, 2009 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- According to a new study released by Savingforcollege.com, the Schwab 529 College Savings Plan, sponsored by the state of Kansas, and South Carolina's Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan came in first or second among all direct-sold 529 savings plans in three-year and five-year investment performance for the period ending June 30, 2009. The full 529 Plan Performance Rankings showing one-year, three-year, and five-year rankings for all direct-sold 529 plans can be viewed at <http://www.savingforcollege.com/articles/view.php?id=330>.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20040122/FLTHLOGO>)

The Schwab 529 College Savings Plan is distributed by discount broker Charles Schwab & Co. and by independent advisers associated with Schwab. The plan is managed by American Century Investment Management Inc., but it uses mutual funds from a wide variety of fund firms in its age-based and asset-allocation options. Kansas has another direct-sold 529 plan called Learning Quest that scored in the top 5 for three-year performance.

South Carolina's Future Scholar is available only to South Carolina residents on a direct-sold basis. (An advisor-sold plan is sold nationally.) The plan is managed by Columbia Management Distributors, Inc. and features Columbia Funds mutual funds.

Other top five direct-sold finishers in either one-, three, or five-year performance categories included two of Nevada's plans (USAA and Upromise), West Virginia's SMART529 Select plan that uses DFA funds, and plans from Iowa, Missouri, New York, Ohio, and Utah.

"The second quarter of 2009 was a period of strong recovery for many 529 plans," commented Savingforcollege.com founder Joseph Hurley. "Just as with IRAs, accounts invested at least partially in stocks regained some of the value lost over the many months since 2007."

In producing its rankings, Savingforcollege.com compared the reported investment performance of a subset of portfolios from each 529 savings plan. Portfolios were selected based on their mix of stocks, bonds, and money-market funds, allowing for an apples-to-apples comparison in seven different asset-allocation categories.

Savingforcollege.com also produces rankings for advisor-sold 529 plans, available through a subscription. Rankings are updated each quarter.

One-year Composite Performance Rankings (52 plans ranked)

Ranking	Plan	Underlying investments
1	Kansas: Schwab 529 College Savings Plan**	Multiple fund families
2	Nevada: USAA College Savings Plan*	USAA mutual funds
3	South Carolina: Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan (Direct-sold)*	Columbia mutual funds
4	West Virginia: SMART529 Select	DFA funds
5	New York: New York's 529 College Savings Program - Direct Plan	Vanguard funds
6	Missouri: MOST - Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan (Direct-sold)	Multiple fund families
7	Nevada: The Vanguard 529 Savings Plan	Vanguard funds
8	Nevada: The Upromise College Fund	Vanguard funds
9	Utah: Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) Trust	Treasurer's fund and Vanguard funds
10	Maryland: College Savings Plans of Maryland - College Investment Plan	T. Rowe Price funds

Three-year Composite Performance Rankings (43 plans ranked)

Ranking	Plan	Underlying investments
1	South Carolina: Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan (Direct-sold)*	Columbia mutual funds
2	Kansas: Schwab 529 College Savings Plan**	Multiple fund families
3	Ohio: Ohio CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan	Multiple fund families
4	Missouri: MOST - Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan (Direct-sold)	Multiple fund families
5	Kansas: Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program (Direct-sold)	American Century and Vanguard funds
6	Nevada: The Upromise College Fund	Vanguard funds
7	Nevada: The Vanguard 529 Savings Plan	Vanguard funds
8	Iowa: College Savings Iowa	Vanguard funds
9	Arkansas: GIFT College Investing Plan	Vanguard funds
10	Utah: Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) Trust	Treasurer's fund and Vanguard funds

Five-year Composite Performance Rankings (30 plans ranked)

Ranking	Plan	Underlying investments
1	Kansas: Schwab 529 College Savings Plan**	Multiple fund families
2	South Carolina: Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan (Direct-sold)*	Columbia mutual funds
3	Utah: Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) Trust	Treasurer's fund and Vanguard funds
4	Iowa: College Savings Iowa	Vanguard funds
5	Nevada: The Upromise College Fund	Vanguard funds
6	Nebraska: College Savings Plan of Nebraska (Direct-sold)	Multiple fund families
7	Nevada: The Vanguard 529 Savings Plan	Vanguard funds
8	New Jersey: NJBEST 529 College Savings Plan*	Franklin Templeton funds
9	Wisconsin: EdVest (Direct-sold)	Wells Fargo and Vanguard funds
10	Alaska: T. Rowe Price College Savings Plan	T. Rowe Price funds

* Resident-only or member-only investment options

** Available only through the discount broker

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