



News from Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg - December 2014



Treasurers Convene

Nebraska Treasurer Don Stenberg, fifth from left in the back row, joins his colleagues at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) in September. Treasurer Stenberg was elected Midwest regional vice president of NAST at the meeting. He also is senior vice president of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, an affiliated group. *Photo courtesy NAST.*



NEST
Nebraska Educational Savings Trust

Enter to win an iPad Air 2 by completing the NEST Financial Scholars for Families interactive module between November 10 and December 10.

iPad Air 2 Sweepstakes

Get started at treasurer.org

Fantastic Future Me Exhibit Travels to Nebraska City Library

State Treasurer Don Stenberg helped kick off the official opening of the Fantastic Future Me exhibit Sept. 16 at the Morton-James Library in Nebraska City. The exhibit will be at the library until Dec. 31.

"I can't think of a better place for children to imagine their futures than in a public library filled with books to stretch the mind and the imagination," Treasurer Stenberg said. Fantastic Future Me gives children a chance to try on a few hats to see what careers might suit them and to imagine the possibilities.



Treasurer Stenberg with Preston Wickhorst, winner of an autographed Husker football. *Photo courtesy First National Bank.*

The traveling exhibit is sponsored by the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust (NEST) and First National Bank of Omaha, program manager of NEST. Read more at www.treasurer.org/news/2014/0916/

Zero Budget Increase for 2015-17

State Treasurer Don Stenberg has proposed a zero increase in his office's 2015-17 operating budget. At the same time he is proposing to boost efforts to return unclaimed property to owners. Stenberg's request calls for a total operating budget of \$4.7 million annually. The request includes a general fund appropriation of \$1.3 million each year, a decrease of more than \$43,500 a year from the general fund appropriation in 2014-15. Growing use of electronic payments, careful management of office resources, and minimal staff turnover make it possible to offer the new lean budget. Listen to the Treasurer's budget remarks at www.treasurer.org/news/2014/0917/



Introducing NEST Financial Scholars to Elmwood-Murdock Students

Students at Elmwood-Murdock High School are learning more about personal financial responsibility, thanks to NEST and two local community banks, the American Exchange Bank of Elmwood and the Corn Growers State Bank of Murdock. In a kick-off at the school Sept. 15, Treasurer Stenberg thanked school officials and local bankers for offering financial literacy education to help students become "smart consumers, wise investors, and community leaders." Elmwood-Murdock has joined a growing list of Nebraska high schools to include NEST Financial Scholars in the curricula. The online program was developed by EverFi, Inc., of Washington, D.C., and is being made available to every high school in the state by NEST and community bank partners. Read more at <http://www.treasurer.org/news/2014/0915/>



In 2014: More for You
Increased Nebraska state tax deduction for college savings contributions—up to \$10,000.
Learn more at NEST529.com
*Public 4-year, in-state tuition. National Center for Education Statistics; Collegeboard.org

Increased Tax Deduction for Nebraska NEST Account Owners in 2014

The end of the year is an ideal time to think about how to maximize your savings through your NEST account. Nebraska taxpayers now are able to deduct up to \$10,000 on their state income taxes for contributions to NEST accounts, both for individuals and for married couples filing jointly. To qualify, contributions must be completed online or postmarked by Dec. 31. NEST is Nebraska's state-sponsored 529 college savings program, a division of the Treasurer's Office.

A New Look

Tell us how you like the new look of our newsletter by contacting our communications director at jana.langemach@nebraska.gov or 402-471-8884. We would also like to hear your questions about our office or our programs or information about what you would like to see in our quarterly newsletter. The Nebraska State Treasurer's Office takes pride in its five divisions - the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust, Treasury Management, the Long-Term Care Program, and the Unclaimed Property Division. The Treasurer's Office also maintains Nebraskaspending.gov, the state's financial transparency website. *Header photo courtesy Office of the Capitol Commission.*



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