



Press Release

Utah Educational
Savings Plan®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Morningstar Ranks the Utah Educational Savings Plan as a Top-Five Choice

(Salt Lake City) Today the Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) was ranked as one of the top five 529 college savings plans in the country.

Morningstar, an investment research firm, stated that “Utah’s 529 plan has long been a favorite of ours and remains a strong choice for its low costs, flexibility, and tried-and-true Vanguard index funds. The plan’s fees are a rock-bottom 0.22% to 0.35%, making it one of the cheapest plans in the country.”

“It’s gratifying that we are being recognized by Morningstar. It supports our strategies to increase college attendance and completion. Saving for college has a direct impact on students’ likelihood of both attending and completing college,” said Bill Sederburg, Commissioner of Utah Higher Education.

Morningstar annually ranks the best and worst college savings programs. The evaluation and ranking of 529 plans is based on asset allocation, fees, flexibility, and the overall quality of the underlying investments.

“We are excited about the ranking,” said Lynne Ward, Director of the Utah Educational Savings Plan. “UESP works hard for college savers. In just the past year we’ve improved the program by lowering our fees, adding new investment options (such as the FDIC-insured savings account), and improving online account management. Our goals are to make it appealing and easy for families to save for future higher education expenses.”

The Utah Educational Savings Plan also made the Annual Best List in the May 2009 issue of *Money* as one of the best 529 plans because of its low fees and FDIC-insured savings account investment.

UESP, Utah’s 529 college savings plan, is administered by the Utah State Board of Regents and Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority. The program manages approximately \$2 billion in assets and more than 139,000 accounts.

The earnings in UESP accounts are tax free (federal and Utah state) when used for qualified higher education expenses. Also, Utah taxpayers can claim a Utah state income tax credit of 5% on their contributions of up to \$1,740 per beneficiary (\$3,480 for married couples filing jointly). You can take advantage of these tax savings each year you contribute—for the life of the beneficiary’s account—if the beneficiary was under 19 when the account was opened.

For more information about the Utah Educational Savings Plan, visit www.uesp.org or call toll-free at 800.418.2551.

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Read the Program Description for more information and consider all risks, objectives and expenses before investing. Call 800.418.2551 for a copy of the Program Description or visit www.uesp.org.

Investments in UESP are not guaranteed by UESP, the Utah State Board of Regents, the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) or any other state or federal agency. However, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance is provided for the FDIC-insured savings account. Please read the Program Description to learn about UESP’s FDIC-insured savings account. Your investment could lose value.

Non-Utah taxpayers and residents should determine whether the state in which they or their beneficiary live or pay taxes offers a 529 plan that provides state tax or other benefits not otherwise available to them through UESP.