

# 2022 Virtual CSPN Prepaid Tuition Plan Mini Conference

February 23-24 | 1pm - 5 pm



## Welcome from the CSPN Chair

**Chair of the College Savings Plans Network** 



Rachel Biar,
Assistant State Treasurer for the Nebraska 529 College Savings Program

# Meet your Hosts

#### **Prepaid Committee Co-Chairs**



G. Alisa Ferguson, Associate General Counsel & ABLEnow Program Manager Virginia529



Luke Minor, Director
Washington College Savings Plans (WA529)

# What We're Doing Today

## Day 1 Agenda (February 23)

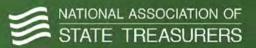
1:00 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.	Welcome and Overview Presenters: Alisa Ferguson, Virgina529 and Luke Minor, WA529		
1:35 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Break		
1:40 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	The Changing Landscape Pt. I: The Shifting National and State Trends Affecting Prepaids  Moderator: Robin Lott, Michigan Department of Treasury  Panelists: Tom Graf, Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority; Lael Oldmixon, Alaska 529;  Dave Richardson, TIAA		
2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break		
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Ask an Actuary  Moderator: Matt Smith, Washington State Actuary  Panelists: Paul Wood, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS); Alan Perry, Milliman, Inc.;  Dan Sherman, Sherman Actuarial Services		
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	BONUS Session: Networking Breakout Rooms		



# What We're Doing Tomorrow

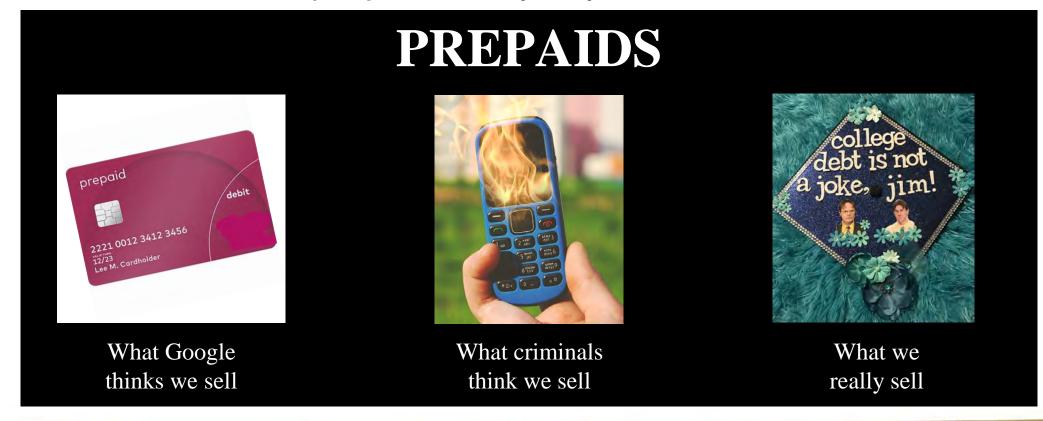
## Day 2 Agenda (February 24)

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Welcome – Alisa Ferguson, Virgina529 and Luke Minor, WA529 Recap of Day 1
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	The Changing Landscape Pt. II: Keeping Prepaids Relevant in an Evolving World Moderator: Soohyang Lee, AKF Consulting Panelists: Carolyn Bishop, Virginia 529; Erin Layton, Maryland 529; Heather Birnie, PA529
2:30 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Break
2:40 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Pumping up Prepaid Participation: Telling the Story and Building the Coalition Facilitator: Rodger O'Connor, WA529  Presenters: Zach Cochran, Door No. 3; Joanne Dashiell, Private College 529;  Martha Bullock, Florida Prepaid College Board
3:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Close Out and Recap
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	BONUS Session: Networking Breakout Rooms



# **But First Things First**

What are these "prepaids" anyway?



# Why Prepaids Were Created

### **Drive Attainment**

Encourage attendance at state institutions of higher education

## **Increase Affordability**

 Make higher education more affordable by allowing families to prepay and hedge against future tuition inflation



# So are They Kind of Like 529 Plans?

- In most cases, prepaid plans <u>are</u> 529 plans with the same tax benefits
- In fact, prepaids are what paved the way for 529 plans to exist, starting with states such as Michigan, Florida, Ohio, and Wyoming.
- Michigan led the way in fighting for tax-exempt status for prepaid plans, with a pivotal court case decided in 1994.



# **How do Prepaids Work?**

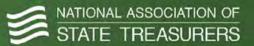
- In general, prepaid plans are defined benefit programs that allow purchasers to prepay a portion of a beneficiary's future college tuition (and sometimes other expenses).
- Assets are typically comingled in a trust fund that is invested to offset future liabilities.
- Typically supported by actuaries (you know, those clairvoyants who can predict the future)



# **Common Prepaid Myths**

- Prepaids are not 529 plans.
- My student can only attend an in-state public university.
- If my student does not attend college, I lose all my money.
- If my student gets a scholarship for tuition, my prepaid is useless.
- College savings (any 529) will make it so my student cannot access financial aid.

Question for You:
Any other myths you commonly hear?

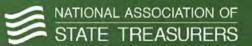


# **How Many Flavors of Prepaid Are There?**

- Currently 12 open prepaid plans
  - 11 state plans: AK, FL, MA, MD, MI, MS, NV, PA, TX, VA, WA
  - Private College 529 Plan
- Several legacy plans
  - Closed to new enrollees but with active participants: AL, IL, KY, MI, MS, OH, SC, TX, VA
- Plans vary state to state in many dimensions
  - Purchase model
  - Pricing structure
  - Payment terms
  - Payout value

## Resource:

Learn more on the Prepaid "one-pager"



## **Purchase Models**

#### Contract

Commit to purchasing a certain number of years at a fixed price

#### Certificate

Purchase tuition certificates redeemable at specific institutions

#### Unit

 Buy fractional years of tuition (tuition units) at the rate in effect at the time of the purchase

### Credit

Pre-purchase actual college credits at the current credit rate

## Hybrid

May include one of the types above, combined with an investment portfolio



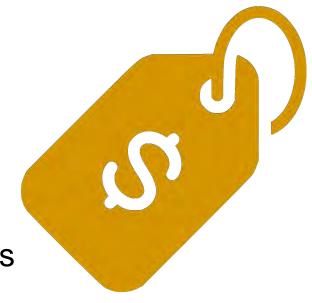
# **Pricing structures**

## Age-based pricing vs. single price

- Some states offer pricing aligned with a beneficiary's age or expected holding period
- Some states offer a single price for all age cohorts

## Institution type vs. single price

- Some states offer various tiers allowing families to buy, for example, a community college plan or a 4-year university plan
- Some states offer a single price for all intended uses



# **Payment Terms**

- Single lump sum purchase (available in most types)
- Pay-as-you go (more common in unit or credit plans)
- Fixed monthly installments over a selected term (more common in contract plans, but also offered in some unit plans)



# Payout/Redemption Models

- Institution-based payouts with alternative payout for out-of-state and/or non-public institution attendance
  - Alternative payout examples: weighted average tuition, alternative minimum payout (principal + interest), investment earnings if in a hybrid plan, etc.
- Single payout no matter where benefits used



 Refunds or alternative payout mechanisms often used when benefits withdrawn for non-qualified purposes

## So What Do You Think?

What did we miss?

What questions do you have?



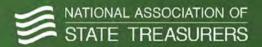
## Let's Get to It

## First Up:

# The Changing Landscape Pt. I: The Shifting National and State Trends Affecting Prepaids

- Moderator:
  - Robin Lott, Michigan Department of Treasury
- Panelists:
  - Tom Graf, MEFA
  - Lael Oldmixon, Alaska 529
  - Dave Richardson, TIAA





## Prepaid Tuition Program History



1986

#### The Spark

- Duquesne University
- Eugene Lang, NY Philanthropist
- Michigan Legislature passes PA 316 of 1986 establishing MET



1988

Michigan & Florida open enrollment

Missouri & Oklahoma pass legislation

Florida, Indiana, Maine Tennessee & Wyoming pass legislation



#### IRC Section 529 – QTPs

- Prepaid, Direct-Sold & Broker-Sold
- Higher Education Authorization Reform Act Financial Aid Treatment



1995





## **Higher Education Economic Snapshot**

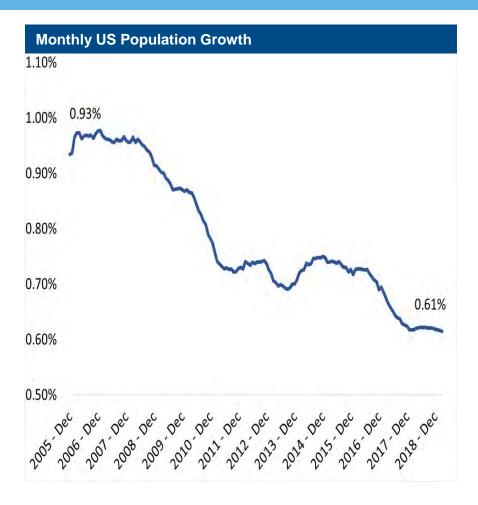
**BUILT TO PERFORM** 

CREATED TO SERVE.

David P. Richardson, Ph.D. Head, TIAA Institute February 23,2022

### **Demographic Pressures**

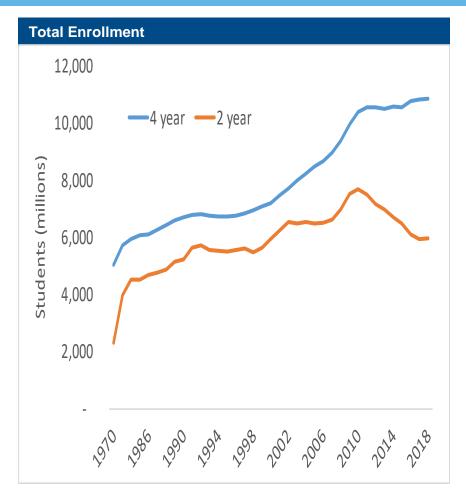


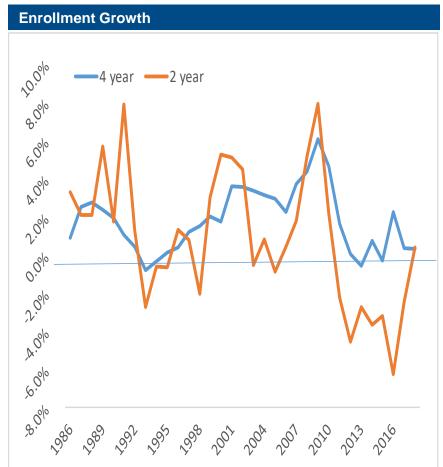




#### **Student Enrollment – Public Institutions**

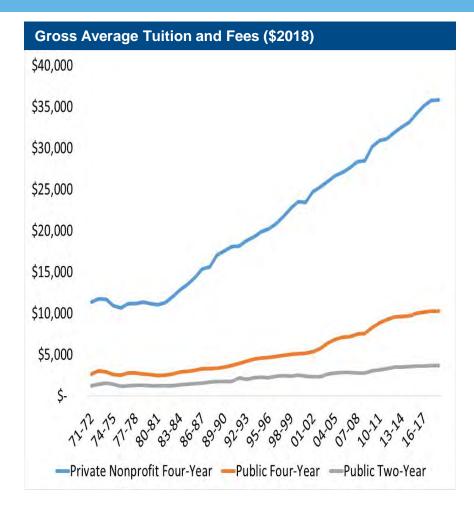






#### **Cost of Attendance**

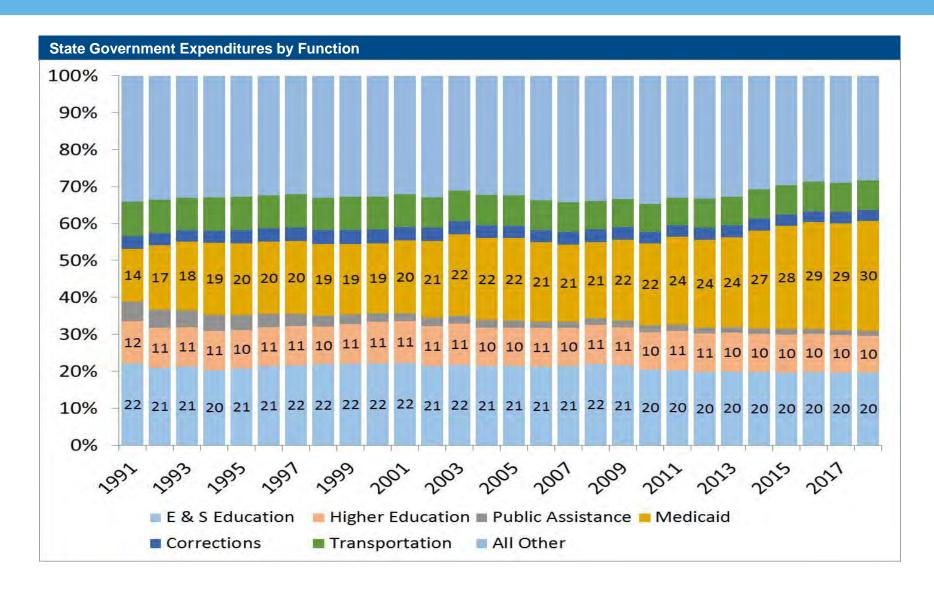






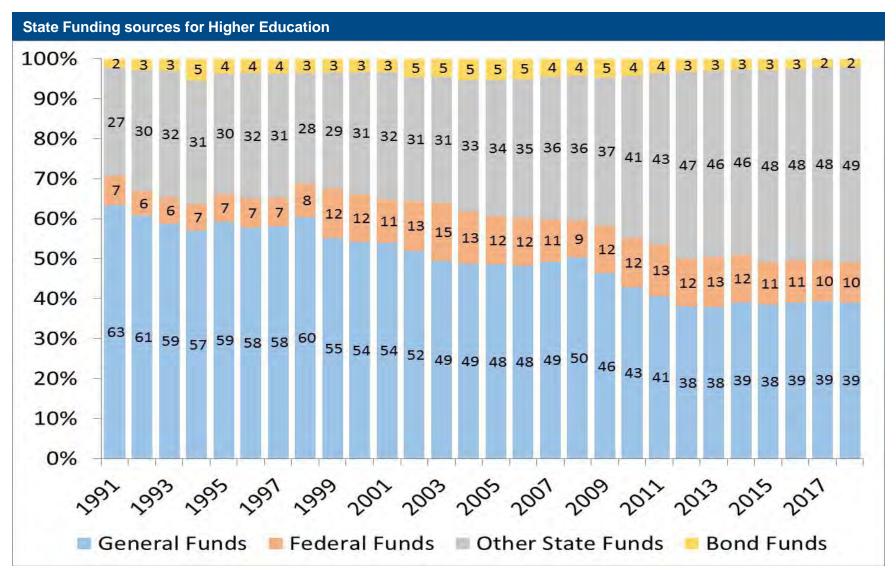
#### **Government spending on Higher Ed**





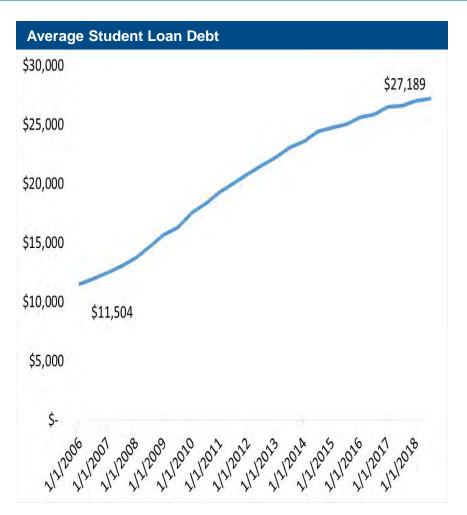
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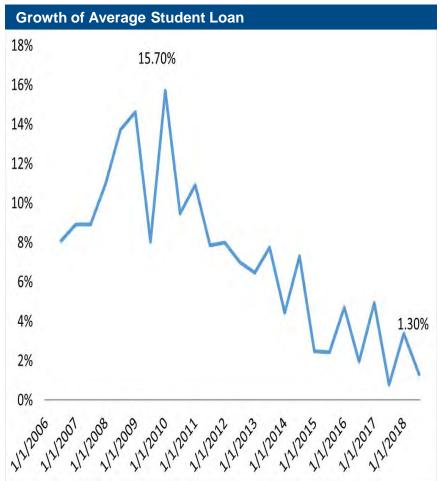




#### **Student Loan Debt**

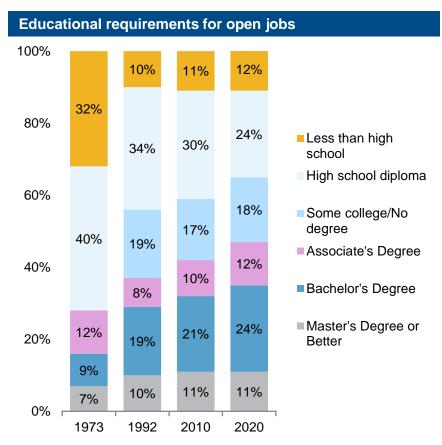






## **US Labor market requires skilled workers**

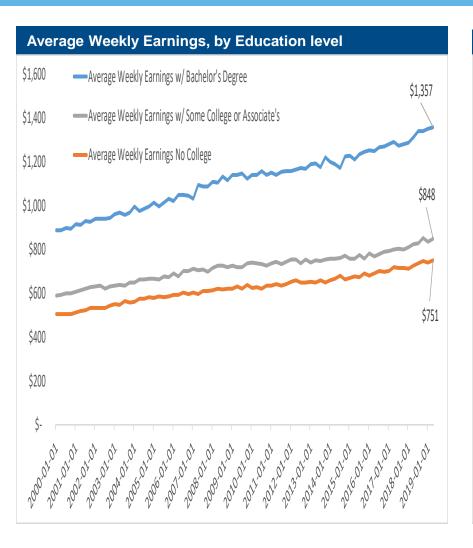


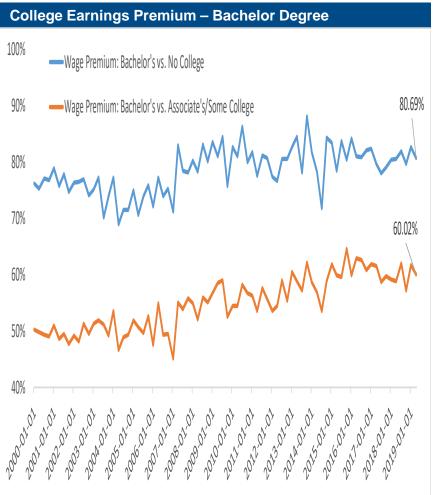


STEM majors more likely to be recruited and hired				
Academic Discipline	Percentage of Total Respondents Hiring Discipline			
Engineering	75.90%			
Business	72.30%			
Computer Sciences	64.30%			
Accounting	57.10%			
Economics	28.60%			
Misc. Majors	21.40%			
Physical Sciences	20.50%			
Communications	17.90%			
Social Sciences	14.30%			
Humanities	11.60%			
Agriculture	4.50%			
Education	1.80%			
Health Sciences	1.80%			

### **College Earnings Premium**







### **Final thoughts**



- Public support for financing on education seems to be waning.
- Increased pressure on households to pay.
- Economic Problem: How to finance a 2 to 4 year (hopefully!) capital investment?
  - Savings
  - Cash-on-hand
  - Debt
  - A mixture is likely best for most households.

## Questions?

- Contact for Moderator:
  - Robin Lott, Michigan Department of Treasury <u>lottr@michigan.gov</u>
- Contact for Panelists:
  - Tom Graf, MEFA tgraf@MEFA.ORG
  - Lael Oldmixon, Alaska 529 <u>Imoldmixon@alaska.edu</u>
  - Dave Richardson, TIAA <u>dprichardson@tiaa.org</u>

# Next Up

## **Ask an Actuary**

- Moderator:
  - Matt Smith, Washington State Actuary

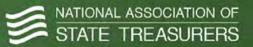


- Alan Perry, Milliman, Inc.
- Dan Sherman, Sherman Actuarial Services
- Paul Wood, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS)



## Questions?

- Contact for Moderator:
  - Matt Smith, Washington State Actuary <u>Matt.Smith@leg.wa.gov</u>
- Contact for Panelists:
  - Alan Perry, Milliman, Inc. <u>alan.perry@milliman.com</u>
  - Dan Sherman, Sherman Actuarial Services <u>Dan@shermanactuary.com</u>
  - Paul Wood, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS) -Paul.Wood@grsconsulting.com



# My Brain is Full for the Day

It's been a great day of learning, but now it's time to give our brains a break.

Stick around from 4-5pm to network with your colleagues. Multiple breakout rooms will be available.



# Welcome Back to Day 2!

Let's recap what we heard yesterday



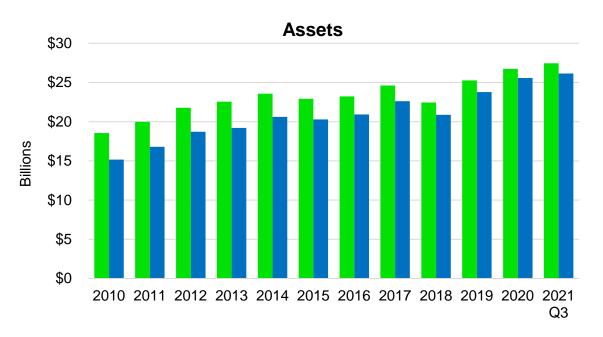
# **Today's First Course**

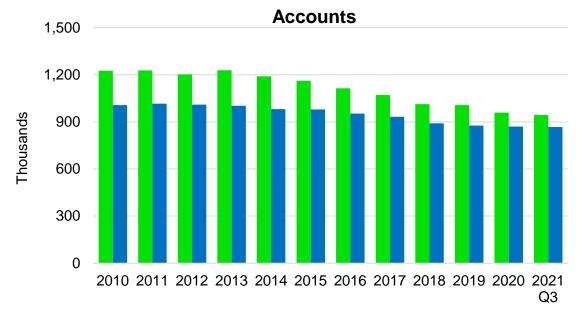
# The Changing Landscape Pt. II: Keeping Prepaids Relevant in an Evolving World

- Moderator:
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- Panelists:
  - Heather Birnie, PA529
  - Carolyn Bishop, Virginia529
  - Erin Layton, Maryland 529



## **Prepaid Plan Historic Growth**





Average Annual Increase (2011 – 2021 Q3)	Open and Closed Plans	Open Plans
Assets	\$828 M	\$1,021 M
Accounts	-26 K	-13 K

Source: College Savings Plans Network as of September 30, 2021

# **Status of Prepaid Plans**

Open to New Investors	Closed to New Investors	Redeemed
Alaska (UAP) <sup>1</sup> Florida Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Mississippi Nevada Pennsylvania Texas (Tuition Promise) Virginia (Invest529 TTP) <sup>2</sup> Washington Private College 529	Alabama Illinois Kentucky Ohio South Carolina Texas (Guaranteed) Virginia (Prepaid529) <sup>2</sup>	Colorado (2013) New Mexico (2004) Tennessee (2015) West Virginia (2021)
12 Plans	7 Plans	4 Plans

Sources: Program websites and AKF Consulting Group as of February 22, 2022

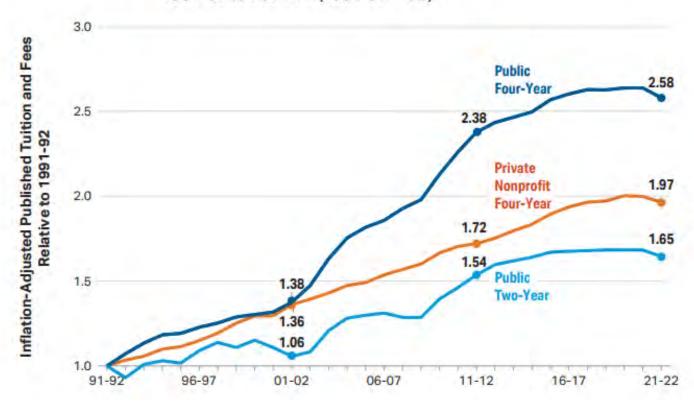


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Represents the University of Alaska Portfolio ("UAP"), which offers a Tuition Value Guarantee, allowing investors to purchase University of Alaska tuition credits for future use

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Effective February 2021, Invest529 offers the Tuition Track Portfolio ("TTP"), which is the successor defined benefit option to Prepaid529 (collectively, "Virginia's Defined Benefit 529 Program").

# **Tuition Inflation**

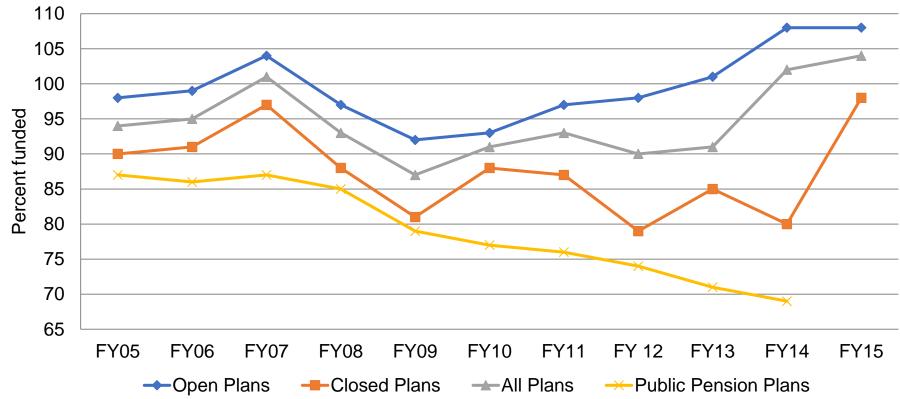
FIGURE CP-3 Inflation-Adjusted Published Tuition and Fees Relative to 1991-92, 1991-92 to 2021-22 (1991-92 = 1.0)



Source: Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2021 report published by the CollegeBoard

# **Volatility in Funded Status**





Source: College Savings Plans Network

# Questions?

- Contact for Moderator:
  - Soohyang Lee, AKF Consulting <u>soohyang@akfconsulting.com</u>
- Contact for Panelists:
  - Heather Birnie, PA529 <a href="mailto:hbirnie@patreasury.gov">hbirnie@patreasury.gov</a>
  - Carolyn Bishop, Virginia529 <a href="mailto:cbishop@virginia529.com">cbishop@virginia529.com</a>
  - Erin Layton, Maryland 529 <u>elayton@maryland529.org</u>

# **Bringing it Home**

### **Our Final Session:**

# Pumping up Prepaid Participation: Telling the Story and Building the Coalition

- Facilitator:
  - Rodger O'Connor, WA529
- Presenters:
  - Zach Cochran, Door No. 3
  - Joanne Dashiell, Private College 529
  - Martha Bullock, Florida Prepaid College Board



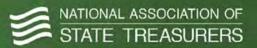


# Prepaid 529 Mini-Conference

# Pumping up Prepaid Participation: Telling the Story and Building the Coalition

Facilitator:

Rodger O'Connor Associate Director for Marketing & Communications WA529





# **Today's presenters:**

Zach Cochran

VP / Media Director

Door No. 3

Joanne Dashiell
Chief Marketing Officer
Private College 529 Plan

Martha Bullock

MARCOM Director

Florida Prepaid College Board







Zach Cochran

VP / Media Director

Door No. 3



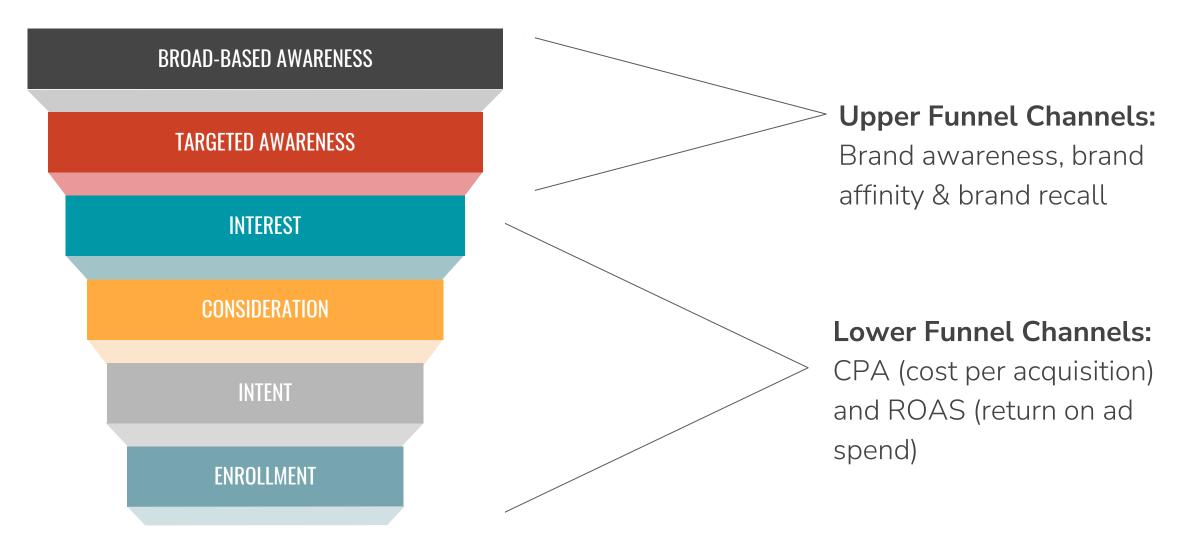




Door No. 3 CSPN Prepaid Minicon 2/24/22

DOOR Nº 3

# Full Funnel Approach: Choosing channels with KPIs in mind



# Why a Full Funnel Campaign?

### **Lead Generation Channels:**

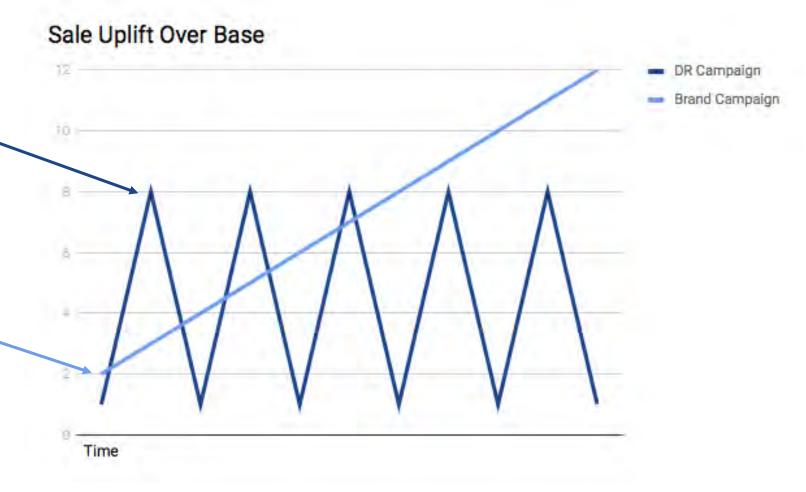
### **Rational Messaging**

Short term uplift in sales, but brand perception remains unchanged

### **Brand Awareness Channels:**

### **Emotional Priming**

Brands grow stronger, leading to long-term volume increases



# Lead Generation Best Practices

# Data Makes the Difference







mobile and web destinations

800x

per month

130k

new behaviors per second





















# Data Makes the Difference

### **Scalable 1st Party Data**

Work off a constant, live stream of data allowing you to recognize patterns in behavior with greater nuance



### **Predictive Modeling**

Use machine learning to create granular, specific predictive models which give higher priority to the most valuable customers



### **Custom, Real-Time Scoring**

Every second of every day we are scoring people across the Internet, in order to identify those most likely to convert

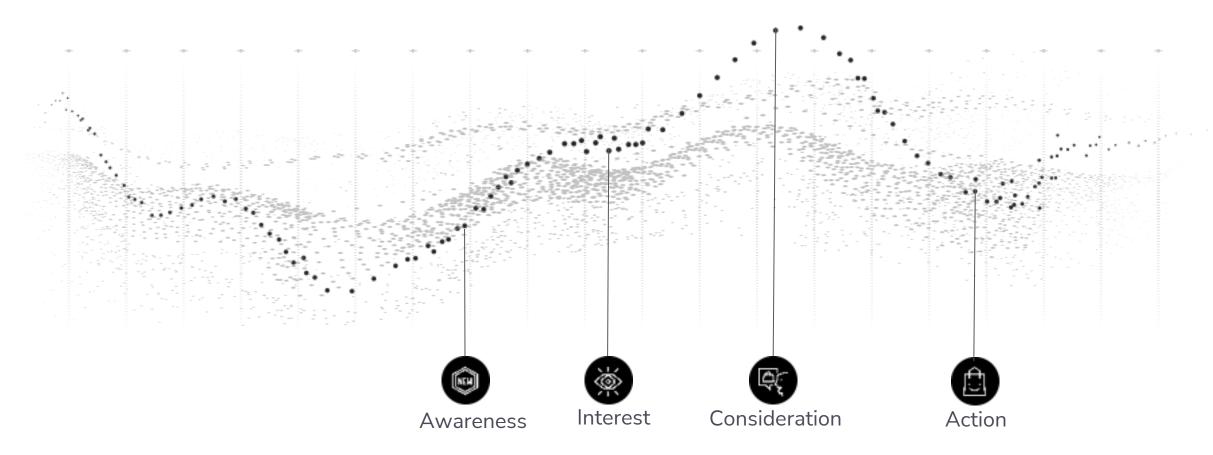


### **Integrated AI Optimizations**

An AI platform allows us to rapidly test, experiment and optimize in real-time in order to best achieve the desired outcomes



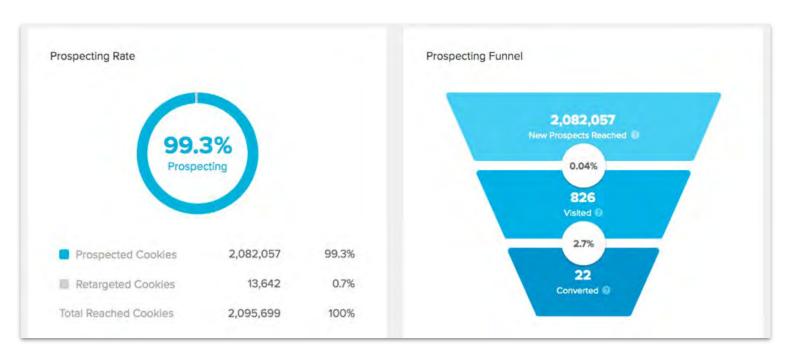
# Find Patterns in the Data



These patterns enable us to better predict and influence the desired audience, at any point in their customer journey and with creative to match their need.

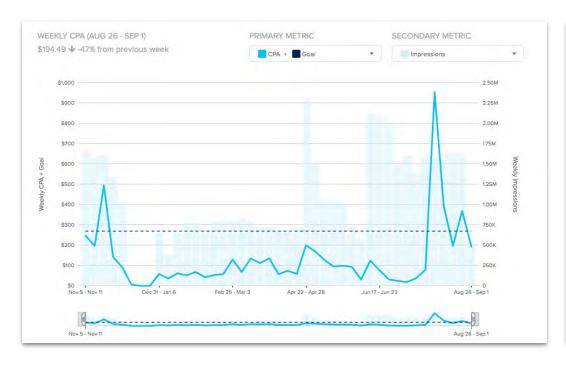


# **Collect Prospecting Insights**



- Prospecting insights provide valuable information on how your campaign is performing against new prospects
- These insights also allow your campaign to optimize between prospecting and retargeting based on CPA (cost per acquisition) or ROAS (return on ad spend)
- With these insights the campaign can convert customers at a higher rate then the site average

# **Collect Prospecting Insights**







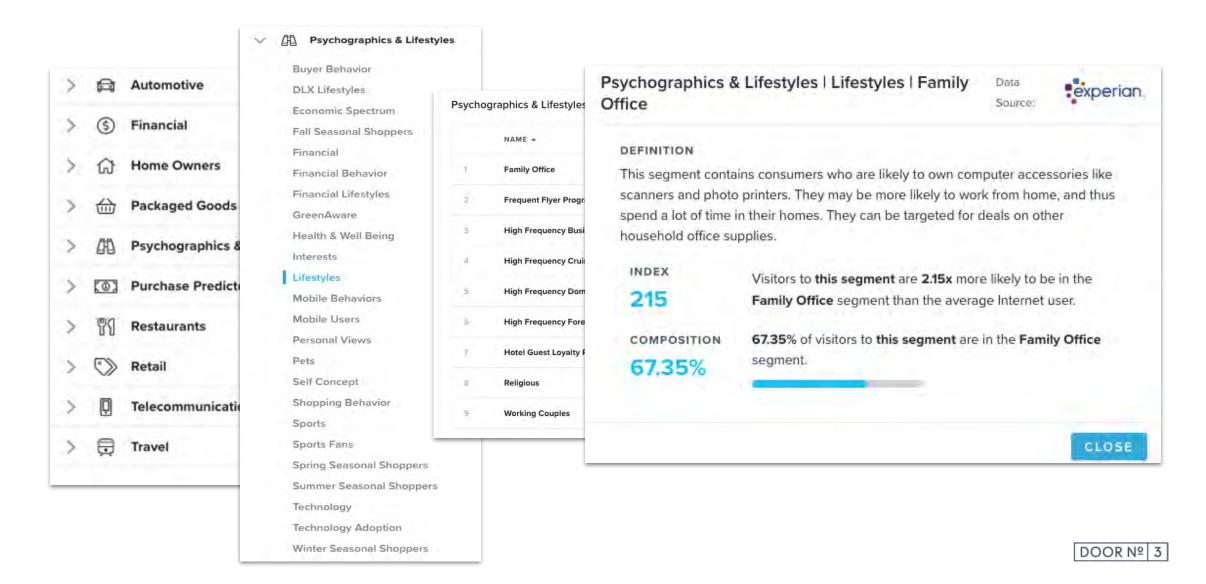
# **Collect and Analyze First Party Data**



### **Audience Segments**

- Demographics
- Browsing Interest
- Shopping Interests
- Brand Affinity
- Media Interest
- Business & Occupation
- Engagement Segments

# First Party Data Example



# THANK YOU.

DOOR № 3

+1 512 391 1773 910 West Ave. Suite 1 Austin, Texas . 78701





Joanne Dashiell

Chief Marketing Officer

Private College 529 Plan

#### PRIVATE COLLEGE 529 PLAN RESEARCH

### **WHAT**



Online quantitative study to better understand audience beliefs, preferences, attitudes, needs, mindsets & motivations around planning and saving for college

### **WHEN**



The survey was in the field November 13 – November 25, 2020

### WHO

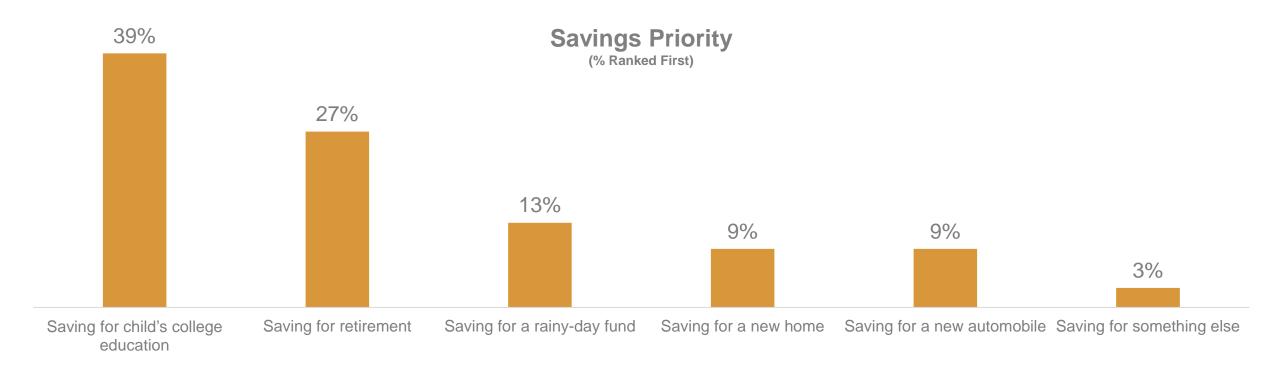


- 483 respondents; 246 men, 237 women
- Planning to save (29%) or already saving for college (71%)
- Ages 23-60 (86% between the ages of 30-52)
- Have kids under 15 or are planning to have kids, ~50% <10 years old</li>
- Household Income > \$50,000 (66% \$80K+)
- Post high-school Technical training, trade school, some college or higher



### **SAVINGS PRIORITIES**

Two in five respondents identify saving for their child's education as their top savings priority followed by saving for retirement. Half of those planning to save indicate they plan to start saving before their child turns 7.

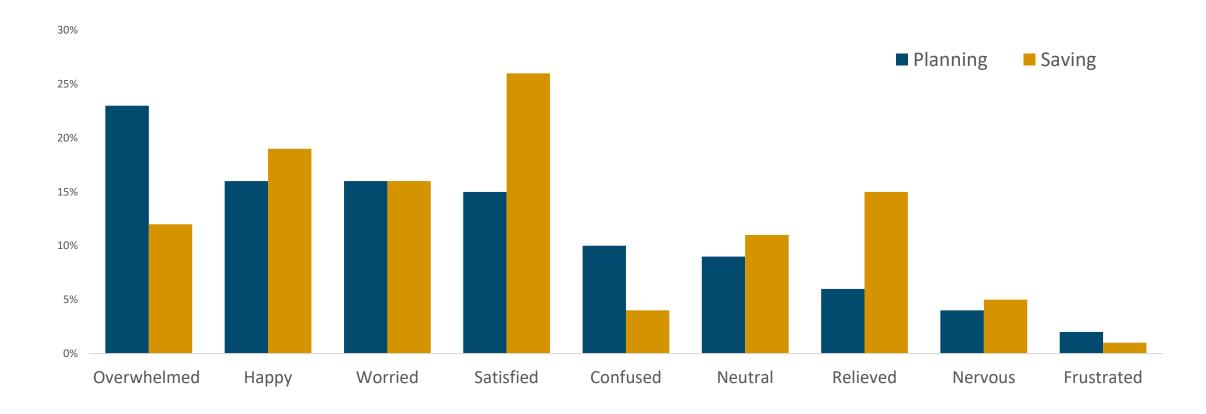




Base Size: 483

#### **EMOTIONS DIFFER BETWEEN SAVERS AND PLANNERS**

Savers are more likely to be calm and content in having started saving. Planners still feel overwhelmed, confirming the opportunity to provide guidance.



Base Size (Planning): 141

Q5D1: Which emotion best describes how you feel while planning for ways to save for your kids to go to college?

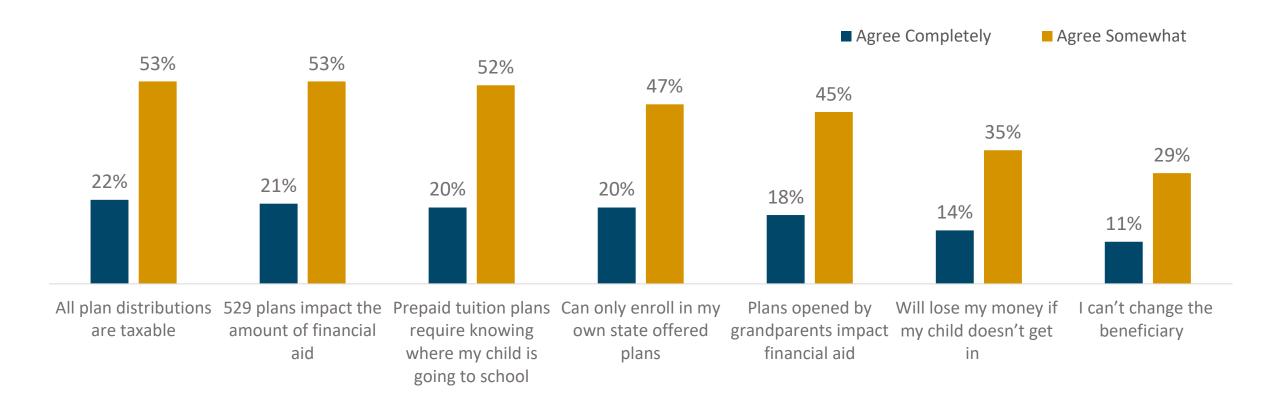
Base Size (Saving): 342

Q5D: Which emotion bests describes how you felt while going through the process of starting a college savings plan? 49



### MISPERCEPTIONS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE

Respondents don't have particularly strong perceptions of 529 plans, though they agree that plans are taxable and impact the amount of financial aid.

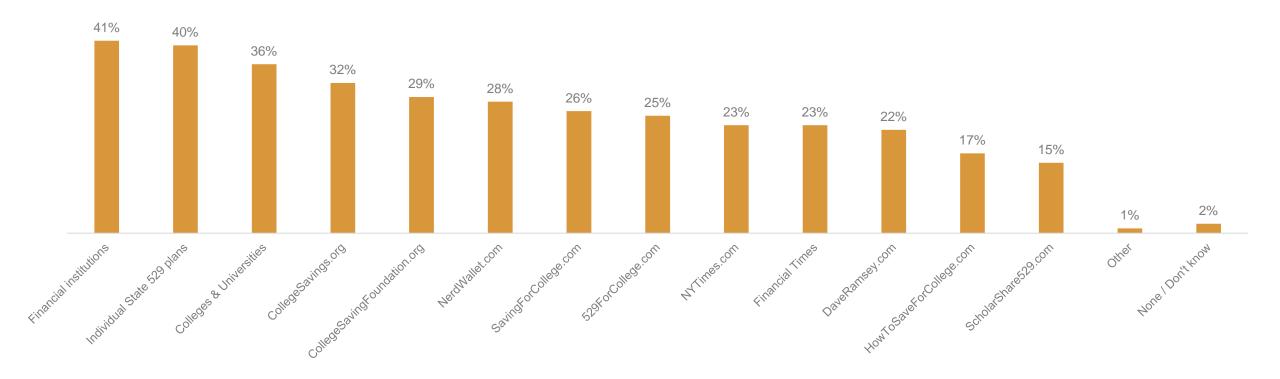




Base Size: 483

### MOST TRUSTED SITES

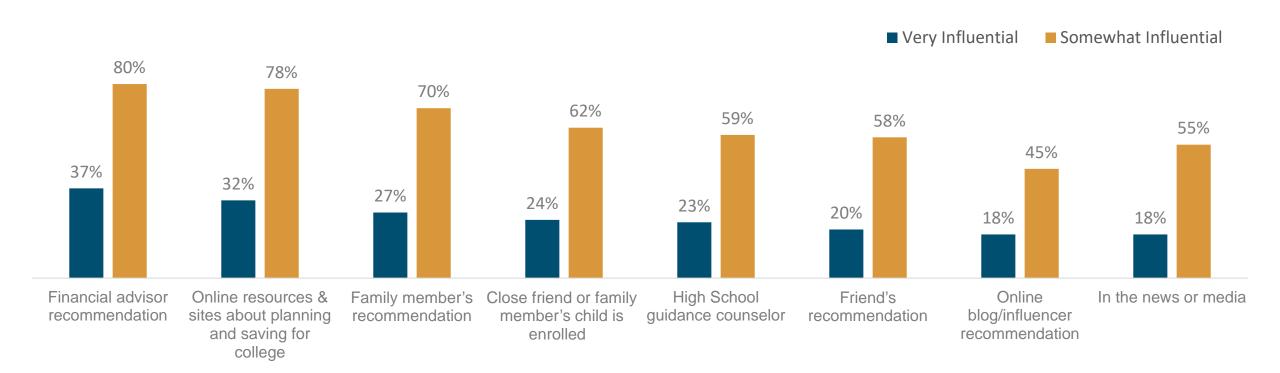
Financial institutions and state 529 plans are the most trusted sources for college planning and saving followed by colleges and universities themselves.





### PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Financial advisor recommendations and online resources are the most influential factors in deciding to enroll in a college savings plan.





52

#### BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO REACH AND EDUCATE CONSUMERS

Live sessions & articles featuring financial advisors and college administrators



Live session with Rooted Planning Group:

- 304 registrants
- 142 live attendees and on-demand views
- 104 new leads



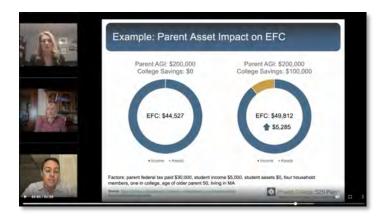


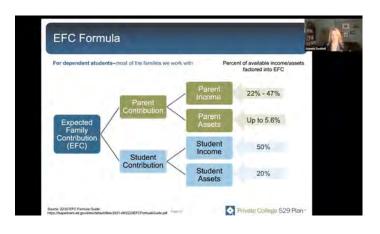


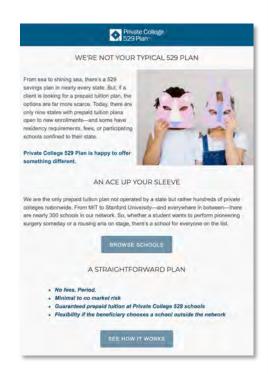




#### EDUCATING AND ENGAGING FINANCIAL ADVISORS













Contact your attorney or other advisor regarding your specific legal, investment or tax situation. Private College 529 Plan (the Plan) is established and maintained by Tuition Plan Consortium, LLC (TPC). Intuition College Savings Solutions, LLC (Intuition) is the Plan Administrator. Participation in the Plan does not guarantee admission to any college or university. Tuition Certificates are neither insured nor guaranteed by the FDIC, TPC, any government agency, Intuition or their respective subcontractors and affiliates. However, Tuition Certificates are guaranteed by colleges and universities solely for tuition and mandatory fee credits. Please read the Disclosure Statement and Enrollment Agreement carefully and consider your financial objectives and risks before purchasing a Tuition Certificate. TPC, Intuition, and their respective subcontractors and affiliates do not provide financial, legal or tax advice. See <a href="https://www.privatecollege529.com">www.privatecollege529.com</a> for more information. This material is provided for general and <a href="https://educational.purposes.only">educational.purposes.only</a>, and is not intended to provide legal, tax, or investment advice, or for use to avoid penalties that may be imposed under U.S federal tax laws.

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Martha Bullock

MARCOM Director

Florida Prepaid College Board



February 24, 2022

Community Outreach

Martha Bullock, MARCOM Director

# Florida Prepaid College Board

We've helped more than one million families save for college.

- Florida Prepaid College Plan
- Florida 529 Savings Plan
- Florida Prepaid College Foundation
- ABLE United





# **Building Community Advocates**

- Community and educational partnerships support and enhance paid, owned and earned media efforts
- Lend credibility by providing direct and indirect endorsement
- Focus efforts by age/stage





# **Department of Health**

- Data Use Agreement with the Department of Health
- Communicate with Florida families with children ages 0-6
- Diapers to Degrees Scholarship Program for newborns
  - o Direct mail to 200K+ families of babies born prior year
  - Registration landing page educated families on college savings
  - o 5.6% of registrants enrolled in a college plan during pilot





# **Early Learning Coalitions**

- Partner with Early Learning Coalitions
- Educate Florida families with children entering Voluntary Pre-K (VPK)
- Encourage college savings when daycare expenses are decreasing and available discretionary income is increasing





# Florida Department of Education

- Partner with Florida Department of Education to sponsor Teacher of the Year Program (TOY)
- Utilize Teacher of the Year as a spokesperson for testimonials, webinars and Facebook Live events
- Provide scholarship for TOY to award to a student from their school
- Engage district Teachers of the Year from around the state to encourage college savings

Florida Prepaid gave me the flexibility to pursue my Associate's Degree at Indian River State College and then my Bachelor's Degree at Florida State University. When I graduated from Florida State University in 2016, I had money left in my Florida Prepaid plan and used it to transition into the next phase of my life, teaching!

As an educator, I am grateful for this program and the flexibility it offers to parents across the State of Florida. Florida Prepaid changed my life and allowed me to be financially prepared before, during, and after college!







### Florida School Districts

- Provide Superintendent scholarships in exchange for promoting college savings options to the families in their district
- Expanded over last five years; currently partnering with 30+ school districts for the current Prepaid Plan Open Enrollment period
- Provide communications toolkit with assets for email, website and social media.
- District educational foundations can also be an entry point into school districts.





# **Experiential Education**

- Where are the parents?
  - Baby fairs & educational events
  - o Parks, museums, zoos, aquariums, theme parks, etc.
- Sponsor <u>scholarship programs</u>, educational events, free admission day or an exhibit
- Opportunity for both digital and on-site communications
  - Email/newsletters
  - Mobile app messaging
  - Signage
  - Social media
  - Video





# **Blogger Ambassadors / Influencers**

- Bloggers / Influencers share personal aspect of college savings journey
- Participate in wide variety of ways
  - o Blogs
  - Facebook / Live events
  - Instagram / Live events
  - In-person events
  - Webinars



www.mysweetsavings.com with Florida Prepaid College

Paid Partnership · February 8 at 7:27 PM · 3

Have you heard the news? We are soaring with excitement, and so happy that it is time for Open Enrollment with Florida Prepaid College Plans! (AD)

Many parents these days (myself included) are overwhelmed when they stop to think about saving for their child's future college education. Worry sets in when you think about tuition, fees, books, and everything in between. I HAVE GOOD NEWS! Saving for college with a Florida 529 Prepaid Plan from Florida Prepaid College Plans has ... See more





# **Takeaways**

- Focus attention: develop landing pages
- Make it easy: provide turnkey communication toolkits for partners
- Ensure a good fit: vet influencers and partners







# **Questions & Answers**

# Questions?

- Contact for Facilitator:
  - Rodger O'Connor, WA529 <u>rodgero@wsac.wa.gov</u>
- Contact for Presenters:
  - Zach Cochran, Door No. 3 zcochran@dn3austin.com
  - Joanne Dashiell, Private College 529 joanne@pc529.com
  - Martha Bullock, Florida Prepaid College Board -<u>Martha.Bullock@MyFloridaPrepaid.com</u>

# That's all Folks!

# Thank you for attending the 2022 Virtual CSPN Prepaid Mini-Conference!

Stick around from 4-5pm to network with your colleagues. Multiple breakout rooms will be available.



