



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Morningstar Rates Scholars Choice® College Savings Plan Among Top Picks For Third Year**

Denver, CO –.Colorado’s Scholars Choice College Savings Plan, administered by CollegeInvest, is rated one of the best advisor-sold 529 plans in the nation, according to a new report by investment research firm Morningstar, Inc. that lists the “best and worst” 529 college savings plans.

“Morningstar has recognized Colorado’s Scholars Choice plan as one of the best advisor-sold plans nationwide for three years in a row, demonstrating that Coloradans have an excellent resource to save for higher education right in their own backyard,” said Jennifer Robinson, chief marketing officer of CollegeInvest.

In naming Scholars Choice among the best plans, Morningstar stated that the Colorado plan "underwent a makeover" after the former asset manager, Citigroup Global Markets, Inc., was acquired by Legg Mason in December 2005, "but that has only served to improve the plan." Morningstar also wrote, "Now, investors have access to noted Legg Mason manager Bill Miller, as well as offerings from small-cap specialist Royce Funds and fixed income stalwart Western Asset Management--both subsidiaries of Legg Mason."

Legislation passed by Congress in 2006 made the federal tax advantages for 529 plans permanent. In its report, Morningstar said tax permanency was one of the reasons 529 plans have become more attractive to investors. “Now, with that uncertainty removed, college savers can invest confidently in 529 plans knowing that their earnings will remain tax-free into the future,” Morningstar wrote.

Scholars Choice is offered by CollegeInvest, a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. CollegeInvest offers Colorado residents the only 529 college savings plans that provide all of the federal tax advantages and a Colorado income tax deduction for contributions.

Scholars Choice is available through over 100 advisor firms in Colorado. For more information on Scholars Choice contact your financial advisor. For a list of participating advisors go to [collegeinvest.org](http://collegeinvest.org) and click on “Savings Plans”. Since 1979, CollegeInvest has helped more than half a million families break down the financial barriers to college by providing expert information, simple planning tools, scholarships, 529 college savings

plans, and low-cost student and parent loans. For more information, visit [www.collegeinvest.org](http://www.collegeinvest.org) or call 1-888-900-COLLEGE.

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*Please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, limitations, restrictions and qualifications regarding the Plans' benefits and potential tax advantages before investing. The Plan Disclosure Statements (PDS) contain more complete information about these and other features associated with each Plan. The applicable PDS should be read carefully before investing. They can be found at [www.collegeinvest.org](http://www.collegeinvest.org). Administered and issued by CollegeInvest.*

*Investments in the CollegeInvest 529 College Savings Program are not guaranteed by the state of Colorado or any other governmental entity, The Vanguard Group, Upromise Investments, Inc. or its affiliates, MetLife Insurance Company, or Legg Mason or its affiliates and may lose value, including principal amount invested.*

*If you or your designated beneficiary is a resident of a state other than Colorado, you should check with your or your designated beneficiary's home state before investing to see if it offers a 529 program. That program may offer state tax or other benefits to residents of that state that may not be available to investors in programs of other states.*

The analysis of plans was prepared and based on the opinions and judgments of Morningstar, an independent investment research company.

Morningstar analysts evaluated: 83 529 College Savings Plans-(34 advisor-sold, 46 direct-sold, 3 advisor and direct-sold) in 2007; 89 plans (26 advisor-sold plans, 63 direct-sold) in 2006; and 81 plans (33 advisor-sold, 45 direct-sold, 3 advisor and direct sold plans) in 2005. Morningstar evaluated each plan and its underlying investments based on the following factors as of 12/31 of 2006, 2005, and 2004: costs, quality of underlying investments, and flexibility of investment options. Additionally, in 2005, asset allocation and portfolio construction were factored and in 2006, clarity of PDS, diversification and asset allocation were factored. For each plan and its underlying investments that were evaluated, Morningstar assigned a relative grade (e.g., good, average, poor) for each factor. By analyzing and combining the factor grades, the Morningstar analysts determined what they thought were the "best" and "worst" 529 plans. Out of the plans evaluated by Morningstar, Colorado's Scholars Choice Plan was identified as being among the top five plans (the "best" list) in 2007, and among the top three in advisor-sold plans in 2006 and 2005. (Source: Morningstar, [www.morningstar.com](http://www.morningstar.com), March 2007, February 2006 and 2005.)

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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