

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**Deadline approaching to apply for up to \$2,500 in free matching college money
from Colorado's Collegenest**

Families have until May 31 to be preapproved for matching grants in 2009

Denver, CO – Saving for college in this economy can be tough. Collegenest, Colorado's not-for-profit higher education financing resource, is making Colorado families' dollars stretch further through its Matching Grant Program. But the deadline to apply is quickly approaching.

Qualifying middle- to lower-income Colorado families can receive up to \$2,500 in matching funds for higher education. Families must apply for the Matching Grant Program by May 31 to be pre-approved to receive a matching grant on contributions they make to Collegenest 529 college savings plans in 2009.

Applications can be downloaded from www.collegenest.org/matchinggrant.

The program matches contributions to Collegenest's college savings plans dollar for dollar, providing up to \$500 in matching funds annually. Families may qualify for up to five years – meaning that one family could turn an investment of \$2,500 into \$5,000.

“The Matching Grant Program is one of the many programs Collegenest offers to make higher education more affordable for Colorado families,” said Larry Larson, senior marketing manager at Collegenest. “With the Matching Grant Program, we help families stretch their hard-earned dollars to meet their education goals.”

Since the program was launched in 2004, Collegenest has given away nearly \$170,000 in matching grants to Colorado families. For three decades, Collegenest has served as Colorado's not-for-profit higher education financing resource, helping families across the state pay for college through scholarships, matching grants, student loan forgiveness, college savings plans, outreach programs and planning tools.

Here's how the Matching Grants Program works:

- Colorado families with a household income of less than \$67,491 a year should visit www.collegenest.org/matchinggrant for complete income guidelines and qualifications.
- Qualifying families must complete an application and submit to Collegenest for preapproval by May 31.
- Upon approval, make contributions to a new or existing Collegenest account for a child 12 or younger who can be claimed as a dependent for tax purposes.

- The matching grant will be awarded dollar for dollar, up to \$500 per child (subject to availability of funds), for contributions made in 2009.

For more information about CollegenInvest's Matching Grant Program please visit www.collegeinvest.org/matchinggrant or call 800.478.5651.

CollegenInvest offers the only college savings plans that combine federal tax advantages with a Colorado income tax deduction for all contributions. Money saved through these 529 plans can be used nationwide at any eligible public or private college, university or vocational school.

About CollegenInvest

For three decades, CollegenInvest has served as Colorado's not-for-profit higher education financing resource, helping families across the state pay for college by providing planning tools, college savings plans, scholarships, matching grants, community outreach programs, and student loan forgiveness. Families can access valuable information on planning and paying for higher education at www.collegeinvest.org

Important Considerations

To learn about CollegenInvest's 529 program, its objectives, risks, charges, limitations, restrictions and qualifications regarding the Plans' benefits and potential tax advantages, please read the Program Disclosure Statements (PDS) available at www.collegeinvest.org. Also, check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits for investing in its own plan. Administered and Issued by CollegenInvest.

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