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# Growing the Dream

## A College Savings Quarterly Newsletter



Winter 2008



Connecticut's Official 529 College Savings Plan

Account Log In

Automatic  
Contribution Plan

Calculator

Tell a Friend

Give the gift of education this holiday season — make a year-end contribution today.

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### Manage Your Account

[Log in](#) to check current performance, make a contribution, update personal information or start/change your Automatic Contribution Plan (ACP).

### Services & Forms

[Download Forms](#)

[Make a Withdrawal](#)

[Update Personal Information](#)

[Rollover Form](#)

[Disclosure Booklet](#)

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## Message from the Program Director

Dear CHET Account Owner,

The holidays are upon us and your Connecticut State Treasury wants to take this moment to wish you and yours a joyous holiday season. And just around the corner is the last day of the year and your last chance to [make a year-end contribution to your CHET Account](#). Despite a year of struggle for the American economy, [TIAA-CREF remains solid financially](#) and a 529 Account is still a good way to save for college.

This season of giving is a perfect time to give the gift of education. Consider visiting the CHET site to [contribute to your child or loved one's college education fund](#) with a gift certificate for the holidays. Considering education is integral to healthy economic growth of the nation, your contribution is not just a gift to your loved one, it's a gift for:

- You as the Account Owner (through state income tax deduction)
- The community
- Future generations

I'd like to remind you that having a CHET Account means saving for college has never been easier. If you haven't already, consider signing up for our [Automatic Contribution Plan \(ACP\)](#) and know that your monthly contributions are taken care of. You can even use our online calculator to monitor the activity of your Account over time.

Once again, please accept our heartfelt wishes for a safe and joyous holiday for you and your family.

Sincerely,  
Pamela L. McNulty

## Spotlight Features

### Market volatility and four reasons to maintain a CHET Account.

#### 1) Is TIAA-CREF sound financially?

In short, yes. TIAA is one of just three insurance companies to receive AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's and the highest ratings from the three other major rating agencies. (These ratings do not apply to Investment Options managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc.)\* Throughout the subprime credit crisis, TIAA-CREF has largely avoided the problems that have plagued the financial services industry by minimizing exposure.

#### 2) Has CHET been negatively impacted by the troubled securities?

The exposure to the troubled securities in the underlying equity funds in the CHET options have been limited. The majority of the CHET underlying equity funds are passively managed and exposures to individual securities are intentionally minimized.

#### 3) Should I rebalance?

Having a sound investment strategy that is reviewed periodically and includes rebalancing is always a good idea. CHET offers eight different options that allow you to find an approach that is best for you based on your own time horizon and tolerance for investment risk.

#### 4) Why should I continue to invest?

Saving for college is one of the most pressing financial challenges a family will face. A college education is an important ingredient for anyone's success. The CHET program offers you a smart way to invest and save for college while minimizing your investment risk.

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### Looking for a gift idea?

Parents aren't the only ones who can contribute to a child's college savings plan. Grandparents, other family members and even friends can contribute in the form of a [Gift Certificate](#). The next time a friend or family member asks for a gift suggestion, remind them they could have a real impact by [opening an Account for your loved one's college education](#). This wonderful gesture is not just ideal for the holidays — it makes the perfect gift for birthdays, achievements and any special occasion. [Learn more](#).

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## Olympians make Connecticut proud.

At least nine individuals with ties to Connecticut qualified to compete in this summer's Beijing Olympic Games making the home state proud. But one, Michelle Guerette, born in Bristol, excelled in the single scull rowing event right onto the silver medal spot on the podium. Michelle finished the final less than half a second behind gold medalist Romyana Neykova of Bulgaria.

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## In the Community

CHET is active in your community! We participate in a wide variety of gatherings and events all around the state all year long. [Visit our events calendar](#) and see where we'll be throughout the year. Attend an event and take the opportunity to learn more. Or, contact us to have a CHET representative speak at a local venue about planning and saving for college. Contact Kathleen Tunson at [ktunson@tiaa-cref.org](mailto:ktunson@tiaa-cref.org) or 704-988-4680.

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## Additional Useful Links

- [College Board](#)
- [College Planning Network](#)
- [Mapping Your Future](#)
- [CHET Investment Results](#)
- [TIAA-CREF](#)
- [CT Treasurer's Office](#)
- [CT Department of Education](#)
- [CT Department of Higher Education](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education – Think College](#)

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Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in CHET. Please visit [www.aboutchet.com](http://www.aboutchet.com) for a Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully.

Before investing in a CHET 529 college savings plan, you should consider whether the state you or your Beneficiary reside in or have taxable income in has a 529 plan that offers favorable state income tax or other benefits that are only available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

***The tax information contained herein is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties. It was written to support the promotion of CHET. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.***

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