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Growing the Dream

A College Savings Quarterly Newsletter



Winter 2008



Mississippi Affordable College Savings Program

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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

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State Treasurer's Message

Dear MACS Account Owner,

The holidays are upon us and your Mississippi State Treasurer's Office wants to take this moment to wish you and yours a joyous holiday season. Although you have until April 15 to [make a 2008 contribution](#), consider contributing by December 31 to maximize your investment potential.

This season of giving is a perfect time to give the gift of education. Consider visiting the MACS site to [contribute to your child or loved one's college education fund](#) with a gift of education certificate for the holidays.

I'd also like to remind you that saving for college couldn't be simpler with our [Automatic Contribution Plan \(ACP\)](#). Use our online calculator to monitor the activity of your Account.

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

Sincerely,
Tate Reeves
Mississippi State Treasurer



*Tate Reeves,
Mississippi
State Treasurer*

Spotlight Features

MACS launches new Web site.

Take a moment to explore the new MACS Web site. It features a new [interactive calculator](#), a link to [the National Center for Education Statistics](#), which provides current tuition and expense data for nearly 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States, a special section for [family and friends](#), and additional [parent resources](#). You may also wish to view our [new webcast](#) and learn even more about MACS. As an Account Owner, your positive word about MACS contributes to its success. We hope you continue to tell your family and friends about Mississippi's official 529 college savings program.

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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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Olympian Brittney Reese makes Mississippi proud.

At the 2008 Beijing Olympics Brittney Reese became the first female track athlete in Ole Miss school history to compete in the Olympic games. She won the qualifying round with a distance of 22' 6.5" to advance to the finals where she ended up with a fifth-place finish – the top American finisher in the long jump.

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Staying the course in this volatile market.

Recent market volatility and events in the financial services sector may have you asking how these events will affect your MACS Account. Long-term investors know from experience that the special dynamics of the financial services industry can produce difficult periods from time to time. As a result, they avoid becoming overly enthusiastic during euphoric periods, weather the storms during corrections and anticipate the potential for calmer waters ahead. TIAA-CREF offers [important advantages](#) for our Account Owners during these volatile times.

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Gift-giving exclusion.

The IRS currently allows a gift-tax annual exclusion of \$12,000 (\$13,000 effective 2009). This is good news to Account Owners looking to sock away substantial sums in their Accounts. Contributions to a 529 college savings plan above the exclusion amount must be reported as taxable gifts, using up some of your \$1 million gift-tax lifetime exemption. The special five-year election will permit accelerated gifting of as much as \$60,000.

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Additional Useful Links

- [MPACT Pre-Paid Program](#)
- [TIAA-CREF](#)
- [College Board](#)
- [MS Treasurer's Office](#)
- [College Planning Network](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [Mapping Your Future](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education – Think College](#)
- [MACS Investment Results](#)

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Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Mississippi Affordable College Savings (MACS) Program. Please visit www.collegesavingsms.com for a Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully.

Before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider whether the state you or your designated 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 the MACS Program. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

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