



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Bob Musinski

630.661.1050

bmusinski@cbdmarketing.com

MAKE COLLEGE SAVINGS A PRIORITY DURING AMERICA SAVES WEEK®

College Illinois!® offers smart college savings solutions and a \$200 discount on qualifying new plans

CHICAGO—As part of America Saves Week® (Feb. 27 – March 4), the College Illinois!® 529 Prepaid Tuition Program encourages parents with young children to plan today for the college costs that they and their children will face many years from now. A recent survey by America Saves Week showed that households with a savings plan made significantly more savings progress than those without a plan.

“Developing and implementing a strategy for how to pay for your child’s college costs when your child is young can really pay off down the road,” said Eric Zarnikow, executive director of the [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#), the agency that administers the College Illinois! Program. “As tuition costs continue to rise, one great option to consider is a tax-advantaged solution like a College Illinois! prepaid plan.”

Unlike a college savings plan, where a parent’s ability to pay for college costs is based on the amount saved and the investment performance, College Illinois! offers a unique, tax-advantaged opportunity to buy something tangible *now* — semesters of college. The program allows you to *lock in the cost of college* when a child is still young so no matter how high tuition rates climb when your student is ready to attend college, you’ll know tuition is covered for the schools in your plan. Plus, the value of College Illinois! benefits can be used at most private and out-of-state colleges as well.

Currently, College Illinois! is offering a \$200 price reduction on purchases of 4 semesters or more for a limited time.

It’s never too early to start planning for the future and America Saves Week® is a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to evaluate their college savings progress.

College Illinois! offers advantages such as:

- The option to purchase anywhere from 1-9 prepaid semesters. Plan benefits can be applied to tuition and fees at almost any college or university in the United States.
- Flexible pricing and payment options to meet different family budgets.
- Significant tax benefits, because it is a qualified 529 plan.

Since its inception, the program has helped more than 30,000 students pay for college and has paid out more than \$800 million in plan benefits. College Illinois! general enrollment is open through May 31, 2017. Newborn enrollment, for children born between September 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017, runs through August 31, 2017.

For more information, visit www.collegeillinois.org. For information about America Saves Week, visit www.americasavesweek.org.

About America Saves Week®

America Saves Week is coordinated by America Saves and the America Savings Education Council. The Week is an annual opportunity for organizations to promote good savings behavior and a chance for individuals to assess their own saving status. Learn more at AmericaSavesWeek.org.

About College Illinois!

Since its inception in 1998, College Illinois! has been focused on providing an affordable option to help make college a reality for Illinois families. Administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the state's 529 prepaid tuition program offers a unique set of benefits, including protection from tuition inflation, flexibility, and significant tax benefits. Program assets, which are held in the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund in the custody of Northern Trust, are professionally managed by an experienced team led by a Chief Investment Officer and established third party asset managers. More information on plan options and benefits, as well as a complete description of terms and conditions of, and risks associated with the purchase of a contract, is available at <http://www.collegeillinois.org>.

The College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program cannot provide purchasers with legal or tax advice. Individual tax situations vary greatly. Purchasers should consult their tax advisor concerning federal and state tax implications of purchasing a contract.

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