



DIRECTIONS



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Alexi Giannoulas
Illinois State Treasurer
Trustee & Administrator

UNION BANK
& TRUST COMPANY

Program Manager

Not FDIC Insured
No Bank Guarantee
May Lose Value

2009 ILLINOIS TAX DEDUCTION

If you haven't already, be sure to take advantage of the generous Illinois State Income Tax Deduction for contributions made to your Illinois 529 account(s). Individual filers can deduct up to \$10,000 and joint filers can deduct up to \$20,000 for contributions made on or before December 31, 2009. Account owners can quickly and easily make contributions online. Don't put off your contributions – you only have until December 31 to make a contribution for this year!

ROLLOVERS CAN BE A GREAT FUNDING SOURCE

Consider rolling over funds from other 529 accounts you may have to your Bright Directions account. Rollovers are a great funding source without having to contribute any "new" dollars. The principal or basis portion of the rollover is also eligible for the Illinois State Income Tax Deduction. Act now to complete a rollover before the end of the year to take advantage of the state income tax deduction benefit.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

Encourage friends or family to take advantage of the Illinois State Income Tax Deduction by contributing to your Bright Directions account. Parents/Grandparents looking for a unique gift idea that will truly benefit the recipient can make a contribution and also take advantage of the Illinois State Income Tax deduction. Gift cards and deposit coupons are both available online or by contacting us. Remind contributors that the deadline for contributions to qualify for the 2009 state income tax deduction is December 31st!

2009 GIFTS

The deadline to make a gift to a Bright Directions account for Gift Tax purposes is December 31, 2009. We would recommend you make your contribution by December 24th in order to allow sufficient time for the check to clear your bank account before the end of the year. You can also make an electronic contribution online instead of mailing a check. The 2009 gift limit is \$13,000 for individuals or \$26,000 for married couples. If you accelerate your gift for the next 5 years, the limit goes up to \$65,000 for individuals or \$130,000 for married couples. Be sure to consult your tax professional with questions regarding large gifts to your account.

E-STATEMENTS – SIGN UP AND WIN \$529

Go Paperless! Sign up NOW for Bright Directions e-statements! Log into your account online to sign up. Account Owners who enroll in e-statements will be eligible for our weekly drawing for a \$529 contribution to a Bright Directions account. We will draw 1 winner every Friday during October and November. Go Green for your chance to win Green!

PARTICIPANT SURVEY - WINNERS

Thank you to everyone that completed our online survey and congrats to Anthony in Yorkville and Joseph in Schaumburg - winners of \$100 contributions to their Bright Directions accounts. We appreciate the feedback!

1.529% REWARDS WITH BRIGHT DIRECTIONS VISA®

Apply for the new Bright Directions 529 College Savings Visa® card to help save even more for future college expenses. Earn a 1.529% reward on everyday purchases. See the enclosed flyer for more details. Apply online at www.BrightDirections.com!

2009 COLLEGE EXPENSES – TIME IS SHORT!

Be sure to match your qualified expenses and your withdrawals from your Bright Directions account in the same calendar year. If you incurred any expenses in 2009 that you would like to withdraw funds for, be sure to complete the withdrawal before December 31st. If you have a bill due in 2010, we suggest you wait until after January 1st to request a withdrawal for that expense. ONLINE is easy!

LONG TERM INVESTING

2008 and 2009 have been an eventful time in the markets. Even the experts say it is very, very difficult, if not impossible to predict the market's highs and lows consistently. Based on that wisdom, we suggest investors select an asset allocation that matches their tolerance for risk, invest on an ongoing basis through a monthly investment plan, and stick with it through good and bad times. The investors that can get hurt are those that jump in and out of the markets.

Invest for the long haul, stay the course, and keep your eye on the long term goal of helping your child with their future college expenses.

*Best wishes for a Happy
& Safe Holiday Season!*