

CAAB's newsletter is designed to ensure that our IDA/MDA Savers are fully informed about relevant money management topics, effective savings strategies, financial education opportunities in the DC area, and upcoming CAAB events. Every month, we will feature a different article focusing on strategies or products that can help you plan for and achieve your savings goals.

If You Have a Young Child: STOP. Read This Article Now!

By Laurent Ross

Just one week ago, I watched my daughter, Tadina, graduate from Duke University. As I bask in the glow of my first college graduate, I think of all the things my money paid for: a top-notch education at a prestigious college, a beautiful campus, well-equipped dormitory rooms, and a basketball team that I have always rooted against. And let me tell you, I paid an awful lot of money for this basking.

While I certainly got my money's worth (except for that basketball team part), I sure wish that the DC College Savings Plan had been around when Tadina was born. That way, I might have saved even more for her college education and I would have borrowed much less money from the Federal Government. As it was, the DC College Savings Plan started just two years before Tadina's high school graduation, so I was only able to save up enough in the Plan to pay for her first semester in school.

However, Tadina's younger sister, Machel, should have a lot more money saved up for college when she graduates from high school two years from now, because I have had enough time to do some serious savings through the DC College Savings Plan. The DC College Savings Plan allows me to save for Machel's education while lowering my tax bill. If you have a small child, you should start saving...now!

Here is how it works:

- I save money for Machel's college education in various investment options offered through the Plan.
- All my earnings are free from Federal and District taxes.
- The District gives me a tax deduction on the first \$3,000 that I save and the first \$3,000 that my wife saves -- every year!



The fact that the earnings are all tax free (as long as I use the funds for Machel's college education) and the fact that the District actually gives me a tax deduction every year make the saving so much easier.

And, it's not just me. Over 10,000 other people have a DC College Savings Plan and have entrusted over \$110 million dollars to the District. The DC College Savings Plan has already helped some of those parents send their children to college. The Plan has paid out nearly \$7 million to colleges and universities across the country.

You do not have to be wealthy to start a DC College Savings Plan. Accounts can be started with an

initial contribution of as little as \$25. The District of Columbia also offers additional assistance to D.C. residents such as the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG) and the D.C. Leveraging Education Assistance Program (DCLEAP). The D.C. College Access Program (DCCAP) is offered to all District public school students (both DCPS and charter school students). These programs, together with your savings through the DC College Savings Plan provide an outstanding combination of resources to maximize your child's college potential.

Maryland and Virginia residents are eligible for the DC College Savings Plan as well. However, non-District residents will probably be better off investing in their own state plan. You can find out more about the Maryland and Virginia college savings plans at www.savingforcollege.com.

For information about the DCTAG and DCLEAP programs, contact the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education ((202) 727-2824, www.osse.dc.gov). DCCAP can be contacted at their Web site: www.dccap.org.

For information on the DC College Savings Plan, contact us at www.dccollegesavings.com or (800) 987-4859. We would love to send you a start-up kit in the mail.

Laurent Ross serves on the board of CAAB and is also the

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following savers made asset purchases in the month of April:

Home

Anita Bailey
Juan Guevara
Lenora McFadden

Education

Chalonda Arrington
Andrea Howe
Shernice Quigley-Dozier
Lenins Salinas
Danielle Simmons
Cynthia Simon
Tewelde Tesfagabir
Qi Zhang

Small Business

Alemseged Debele
Yolanda Rose-Ellis

College Savings Manager for Calvert Distributors, Inc.

For more information on the DC College Savings Plan, please call **800.987.4859** (**800.368.2745** for non-District residents). An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of an investment carefully before investing. The District of Columbia College Savings Trust Program Disclosure Booklet contains this and other information. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. An investor should also consider, before investing, whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's 529 college savings plan.

The DC College Savings Plan is underwritten and distributed by Calvert Distributors Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, a subsidiary of Calvert Group, Ltd.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Money Management Classes at CAAB

at 1801 K St NW, Suite M100 (Farragut West & Farragut North metro stops)

New round of Money Management classes starts this month.

(Free) Complete your financial education requirements for the IDA or MDA program and meet other people saving towards their life goals just like you. Saturdays, May 31 through June 28, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- May 31 Creating wealth, setting financial goals, and tracking expenses
- June 7 Budgeting
- June 14 Understanding Credit
- June 21 Knowing Your Rights
- June 28 Financial Institutions and Products

Homeowner's Club

at HCS Training Center, 2410 17th Street NW, Suite 100 (Adams Alley) (Columbia Heights metro)

Housing Counseling Services' monthly Homeowner's Club.

Wednesday, May 21, 6:00-7:00 p.m. This month the club has invited the DC Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking (DISB) to share information on their programs and services. Come and learn how DISB regulates mortgage lenders and brokers, check cashing businesses, insurance companies, and other financial-service entities in DC.

Center for Entrepreneurship (CfE) Classes

at Southeastern University, 501 I Street SW (Waterfront SEU metro)

Nonprofit Fundraising (Free) Wednesday, May 28, 6:00-8:30 p.m. This seminar will introduce fundraising planning and creating a standard grant format. It will also cover the following topics: an examination of area donors, how to research potential sources of funding, tools needed to create your own standard grant format, and developing a grant calendar.

Property Management Certificate Program CfE is excited to announce they are currently accepting applications for scholarship opportunities for the Property Management Certificate program. Due to a new grant they have received for this program 20 women can obtain scholarships to take advantage of this excellent opportunity. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, please submit an application for review by contacting them at 202-478-8231 or by email at entrepreneur@seu.edu. The scholarship deadline is May 21, 2008 at 5 p.m.

Free Business Seminar

at 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE (Anacostia metro)

Women In Small Business (Free) Tuesday, May 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Seminar presented by the Washington Area Community Investment Fund, Inc. Please RSVP by emailing jkresge@wacif.org or calling (202) 529-5505.

DC Small Business Development Center Workshops

at OCP 441 4th Street NW, Room 1117 South (Judiciary Square metro)

Polish Your Professional Presence (Free) Tuesday, May 20, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Learn and unravel the mystery of etiquette and discover valuable techniques to sharpen your professionalism, corporate image, and business savvy to outclass the competition.



SPECIAL CAAB ANNOUNCEMENTS



Share Your Story

Do you have a great story to tell? CAAB is looking for great savers to share their inspiring stories. This summer we will launch our Savings Ambassador Program-providing public speaking training and coaching to help Savers tell their stories more effectively. Sign up and become a CAAB Ambassador today!



Do you want to tell your story but you're not sure you want to do it in front of a group? No problem! We are also looking for Savers who would be willing to be interviewed one-on-one for a profile on CAAB's website or other publications. You could be our next Saver of the Month!

For more information call Donna V.S. Ortega at 202-419-1440 ext. 105 or e-mail dortega@caab.org.



Name: CAPITAL AREA ASSET BUILDERS

Add a new friend to

facebook

Want to show your support for savings or just get regular updates on CAAB's programs? Search for "Capital Area Asset Builders" on Facebook. Sign up as a friend or support our CAAB cause today. We'll be sending invitations to Savers on Facebook this week. Accept our invitation and show your support for CAAB!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAAB will host a special event on June 26 to celebrate the CAAB savers who invested their savings and match money in an asset in 2007. We need your help to show our appreciation! Sign up today to make phone calls, stuff gift bags, or help out at the event. Call Donna at 202-419-1440 ext. 105 or e-mail dortega@caab.org to volunteer.

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