

News from Nebraska State Treasrer Don Stenberg - December 2018

Thank You

As I prepare to leave office in January after eight years as your Nebraska State Treasurer, I want to thank you for signing up for our newsletter and following the business of this office.

In all my years of state government service as legal counsel to the late Gov Charley Thone, director of the Governor's Policy Research Office and the Department of Administrative Services, as Attorney General and now as State Treasurer, I have met many of you and visited your communities. I have enjoyed every exchange and valued every learning opportunity.



As a native Nebraskan, I have a deep appreciation for this state and its people. I thank you for your trust, encouragement, and support through these years. And I wish each of you well.

Don Stenley

Visit our New Personal Financial Planning Resource

Brush up on financial basics and learn about saving for college at a new personal Financial Planning resource on the Treasurer's website at https://treasurer.nebraska.gov. It's free and easy to access. No log-in required.

Choose from timely topics like Emergency Savings, Credit Scores and Reports, and Identity Protection. A convenient Monthly Budget Tool helps you identify ways to save.

Also, learn about saving for college for your children, your grandchildren, and even yourself with Nebraska's state-sponsored, tax-advantaged 529 college savings program, NEST 529.

Get started here https://nest.everfi-next.net/welcome/colleagesavings

Celebrating Summer Readers...



Briella Kastrup of Blair, a winner in the NEST Read to Win drawing, shakes hands with Treasurer Stenberg in the Capitol Rotunda. Each winner received a \$529 contribution to a NEST account.



Eight of the 15 Read to Win winners with Treasurer Stenberg and representatives of First National Bank and the Nebraska Library Commission at a ceremony in the Capitol.

https://treasurer.nebraska.gov/csp/scholarships/read-to-win/2018/winners-recognized/

. . . and Lovers of Farm, Ranch Life



Treasurer Stenberg and Rachel Biar, NEST 529 director, with winners in the NEST on the Farm photo drawing at the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair. Each winner received a \$1,000 contribution to a NEST college savings account.

https://treasurer.nebraska.gov/csp/scholarships/essay/farm/2018/winners-announced/



Treasurer Stenberg with the staff of the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, whose office is at 421 South Ninth Street in Lincoln.



Treasurer Stenberg with Troy Reiners, director of the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, and Marcia Scheinost, assistant director.

Take a Standing Ovation, *please*

Employees in the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center and their director, Troy Reiners, received the Nebraska Standing Ovation Award from the Western Intergovernmental Child Support Engagement Council.

The award is given annually at the WICSEC meeting to an entity or person from the host state in recognition of the honoree's significant contributions to the

child support enforcement program. This year's conference was in Omaha.

The award was given in October to Troy Reiners, director of the Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, a division of the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office. He accepted it on behalf of the center's staff who receive and distribute child support payments to more than 50,000 families monthly.

WICSEC is a non-profit organization of public and private child support agencies and professionals from states, tribes, and territories west of the Mississippi River. It strives to unite child support professionals and inspire excellence.

Awards and Recognition

Treasurer Stenberg receives Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA).

Staci Bolton, senior specialist in Treasury Management, and Jason Crisp, chief deputy of Information Technology, are among 108 State of Nebraska teammates to receive Excellence in Leadership Awards in a ceremony Oct. 24 in the Capitol.

• **Deputy Treasurer Jason Walters** and **Jessica Elliott**, specialist in Treasury Management, receive Member of the Year awards from the Lincoln chapter of the Association of Government Accountants.

Two of our NEST 529 plans received high rankings by savingforcollege.com, a popular website devoted to college savings. NEST 529 Advisor Plan was among the top five advisor-sold plans for 1-, 3-, and 5-year performance. NEST 529 Direct Plan was third for 1-year performance and fifth for 3-year performance.

The Unclaimed Property Division is set to finish the year strong. As of early December, more than 15,000 claims were paid in 2018 and more than \$12.7 million had been returned to owners.

Treasury Management, which is responsible for the core constitutional function of the Treasurer's Office, processed more than \$12.6 billion in state agency receipt transactions in fiscal year 2017-18. That includes incoming ACH payments, wires, credit card payments, and currency. Of that total, \$11 billion, or 87 percent, was processed electronically, saving money for the state.

Congratuations to Sen. John Murante of Gretna, who was elected State Treasurer in November and will take office in January. He succeeds Treasurer Stenberg, who is retiring.

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