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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2010

For more information, Call Tara Gillum at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer McKinney releases annual report for the State Treasurer's Office

Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney released today the Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report for the State Treasurer's Office. Record returns in Unclaimed Property, a year of accomplishments for state Bonds Services Division, and the success of the Learning Quest program were just a few of the accomplishments highlighted in this year's annual report.

"Reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, ensuring the sound management of the agricultural and housing loan programs, Learning Quest educational savings programs, and the proper distributions and depositing of state moneys in a efficient manor are just a few of our core functions summarized," said McKinney. **"This report highlights the results of the hard work performed by the treasurer's office staff."**

The report outlines initiatives and efforts made by the State Treasurer's Office to return Kansans unclaimed property, assist in saving for higher education, educate citizens about financial literacy, provide agricultural production and housing loans, and timely and efficient depositing of state monies.

A few of the accomplishments highlighted in the annual report:

- Kansas' Learning Quest higher education savings program rose from 17th to 16th place in assets under management as a state with less than one percent of the nation's population.
- Learning Quest ranks tenth in 76 college savings plans in average account balances.
- Processed a record number of unclaimed property claim forms from Kansans in Fiscal Year 2009.
- Of the total number of disbursements/items, 53% of those payments were made electronically, a more efficient payment method. This is the first year the number of electronic payments surpassed the number of warrants written.
- Advocated for SB41, passed by the legislature in 2009, which requires the state board of education to authorize and assist in implementation of programs teaching personal financial literacy.
- The Kansas State Treasurer's Office, Bond Services Division, serviced a record number of bonds in fiscal year 2009. Serving as the registrar and paying agent for 95% of the outstanding municipal bond issues in Kansas.

They FY 2009 report was created internally and distributed electronically. To view the complete report please visit

www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/2009annualreport.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2010

For more information, Call Tara Gillum at (785) 296-2565.

Remarks by State Treasurer Dennis McKinney

The following are the remarks of State Treasurer Dennis McKinney after taking the oath of office this afternoon in Topeka.

Thank you very much Judge Dixon for coming all the way from Kiowa County to help us here today.

Thank you also Governor Sebelius for having the confidence in me to allow me this opportunity to serve in statewide office. Thank you also for allowing me to continue as a liason between your administration and the City of Greensburg and Kiowa County for our rebuilding efforts.

I also want to recognize two special guests, the President of the Greensburg City Council, Gary Goodheart, and our Mayor, Bob Dixon, who have traveled the 250 miles from Greensburg to celebrate with us here today.

A special note: those of us from Greensburg know that we can not say thank you often enough. The term neighbor is defined in the Bible when, after telling the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus asked the young lawyer, "who was this man's neighbor?" The answer, of course, was "the one who showed him mercy." Those of us in Greensburg are proud to say that when a community in Kansas is in trouble the Governor, the Adjutant General, and 2.5 million other Kansans have been and will be your neighbors.

Leaving the House of Representatives is not easy for me. To serve here was an honor. To be in leadership here was an even greater honor. Legislatures never fare well in opinion polls. But I know that the quality of the people who fill these seats and the quality of the process put into action here are second to none. Whether you look at our progress over time or compare us to other nations, the evidence of history would show that we have done well here in the Peoples' House.

Moving into the Treasurer's Office I have become excited. I have learned that we have an excellent staff.

Many of the duties of the Treasurer may not be flashy but they are important and serious. The Treasurer performs duties in trust for the People of Kansas. Duties such as monitoring receipts, disbursements, and fund balances all point to a greater duty to be the watchdog for the financial integrity of the State of Kansas. Surely that is why the Treasurer's Office has its own seal, one with a watchdog planted firmly in front of the doors of a vault.

The Treasurer also holds in trust the unclaimed property of others and works to return this property to the rightful owners-a sign of the value we place on the right to ownership of private property in our capitalist free market system.

The Treasurer also encourages thrift, saving, and investment in education through the education savings program-a sign of the value we place on hard work and education as the primary means of opportunity by which we advance ourselves and our families. My hope is that we can expand the perception of the education savings program to have it understood as an avenue to technical education as well as college-as a means to many of the best career opportunities in our 21st century economy.

Perhaps most important are the leadership opportunities available to the Treasurer to partner with the Governor, the Legislature, city and county leaders, business leaders, as well as leaders from the nonprofit service organizations and faith based organizations to help people find long term opportunities to improve their families and communities. The Kansas Investment in Developing Scholars Program in which we match education savings investments for some of our poorest working families is an example of where we create opportunity by encouraging hard work and investment.

I look forward to the challenges of being State Treasurer in this new time. We will seek to fulfill the trust given to us by the people of Kansas. We will work with others to find new ways to grow businesses and jobs.

I start this job having learned an important lesson in the last year and a half. I was raised in a pull yourself up by your own boot straps culture. But one day my house was gone and I stood with the Governor in the school at Haviland and looked at an entire gymnasium full of my neighbors whose homes and community were gone. And we had to admit to ourselves and others that we needed help. From that lesson I gained a much greater appreciation of compassion and faith.

Our message to the people of Kansas in these challenging times is this: if we stand together as neighbors, keep our faith in God, and make our decisions with compassion, then we can say with the Apostle Paul that while we may be hard pressed we will not be crushed, we may be perplexed but we will not be in despair, we may be struck down but we are not destroyed, and we are moving to the stars through difficulties.

Thank you again.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2010

For more information, Call Tara Gillum at (785) 296-2565.

State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division celebrates 30 Years of service to Kansans

The Kansas State Treasurer's Office is pleased to be celebrating their 30 years of service to Kansas residents. The Unclaimed Property department was founded under the Unclaimed Property Act of 1979. Under then State Treasurer Joan Finney the Unclaimed Property division began collecting and returning Kansans unclaimed property and this division has continued under six subsequent State Treasurer's administrations.

"As one of the original consumer protection programs, our Unclaimed Property division has made incredible progress," said McKinney. **"It is not always easy to track down the rightful owners of property sometimes generations later. I commend them for their service to Kansans."**

In recognition of this special milestone the State Treasurer returned \$341.28 to Meggin Mattal of Topeka. The Treasurer also presented a plaque to office staff in recognition of their work.

The Kansas Unclaimed Property Department has just eight full-time staff members that work to look for and return unclaimed money and safe deposit boxes. Since inception more than \$132 million has been returned to owners and rightful heirs. The biggest amount returned to one owner was \$346,922.92 in 2007. It was 1997 when the State Treasurer's office first began offering the option to search for unclaimed property on the web. And in 2005 the option to claim property online became available.

"Kansans value private property rights, and as custodian of this unclaimed property we take the responsibility to reunite people with their assets very seriously," said McKinney. **"Our staff works hard to return as much as possible,"** McKinney explained.

Each year thousands of people lose track of their bank accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, refunds, royalties, safe deposit boxes and other property. People move and forget to furnish their bank, broker, employer or insurance company with a forwarding address. It is the Treasurer's charge to locate the rightful owners and heirs to the over \$209 million in unclaimed assets and more than 10,000 safe deposit boxes that are currently being held by the State of Kansas.

Making a claim is free and easy. There are no fees involved in searching for or claiming cash and property. To search, a last name is required and a first name is recommended. To search for unclaimed property please call the State Treasurer's office at 1-800-432-0386 or visit www.KansasCash.com.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2010

For more information, Call Tara Gillumat (785) 296-2565.

It's your Money - Take it Back! Treasurer McKinney takes to the road to help Kansans claim their lost or forgotten cash

Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney's office is currently holding over \$200 million worth of unclaimed property for their rightful owners or their heirs.

As a part of the Treasurer's "Route 36 Returns" tour, Treasurer McKinney and staff traveled through Concordia, Phillipsburg, Smith Center, Mankato, Washington, and Belleville talking about and searching for resident's unclaimed property.

"We encouraged everyone in the areas that we visited to stop by and check their name and the names of family and friends," said McKinney. **"In this economy everyone could use a little help and we feel it's important to be sure that these resources get back to the rightful owners. The Route 36 Returns Tour was a wonderful opportunity for us to connect Kansans with cash and property currently being held by our office,"** McKinney explained.

Unclaimed property includes inactive savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, stock shares and bonds, dividend checks, insurance proceeds, mineral royalties, and utility deposits.

In addition to cash, stocks and bonds, safe deposit boxes are also turned over to the State Treasurer's office on an annual basis. There are currently over 15,718 safe deposit box properties on file. Approximately 600 new boxes are turned over to the treasurer's office each year.

"It is my job to reunite Kansans with their unclaimed financial assets," McKinney explained. **"Reaching out to people in their hometowns is a great way to give back to Kansans what is rightfully theirs."**

Making a claim is free and easy. There are no fees involved in searching for or claiming cash and property. To search, a last name is required and a first name is recommended.

Kansans who aren't along Route 36 can call the State Treasurer's office at 1-800-432-0386 or log onto www.KansasCash.com to search for unclaimed property. The Treasurer is planning additional tours in other areas of the state.

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Dennis McKinney

KANSAS STATE TREASURER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2010

For more information, Call Tara Gillum at (785) 296-2565.

State Treasurer thanks Secretary of State for his service

The following is a statement from State Treasurer Dennis McKinney regarding the announcement from Ron Thornburgh that he is stepping down as Secretary of State:

"Ron Thornburgh's life is a public service success story. During his four terms as Secretary of State and before that working his way up from the mail room to the Deputy Secretary position, Ron has demonstrated a lifetime of public service for the people of Kansas. Secretary Thornburgh has partnered with the 105 county clerks and election commissioners to strive for efficient and fair elections. He has upgraded technology and streamlined the office's business regulatory function. I wish Ron all the best in his new endeavors and thank him for his leadership and friendship."

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2010

For more information, Call Tara Gillum at (785) 296-2565.

State Treasurer Dennis McKinney Reaches Agreement with Sprint: Uncashed Rebate Checks

A \$22 Million Multi-State Settlement to Get Rebates Back in the Hands of People Across the Country

Kansas and Thirty-five other states signed on to the \$22 million settlement with Sprint which was recently announced. As a result, thousands of people will be able to claim their rebate checks and put money back in their pockets State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced.

At the center of the suit was whether uncashed rebate checks are reportable under Kansas's unclaimed property laws and, if so, who is the proper party to report them to the State Treasurer. The Treasurer's Office runs the unclaimed property program to reconnect Kansans with their unclaimed property.

"The unclaimed property laws in Kansas were passed as strong consumer protection measures over 30 years ago," McKinney said. "As a Fortune 500 company based in Kansas, I applaud Sprint for its leadership in helping to ensure that Kansans are able to receive their rebates."

The lawsuit contended that either Young America or the retailer was responsible to report uncashed rebate checks to the Treasurer, making it possible for rebate holders to make a claim for their rebate check. The retailers contended that Young America was responsible, while Young America contended the retailers were responsible.

Sprint agreed to leave the disputed issues unresolved in order to avoid additional litigation and accomplish the settlement. Sprint denies any liability for the money claimed by the Treasurer and other states.

"This settlement will ensure that Kansans will be able to get the full value of any rebate checks issued by Sprint and processed by Young America from 1999 through 2002. In addition, Sprint has agreed to report all future unclaimed rebates annually," McKinney said. "Now we can go to work to find the rightful owners."

Sprint has taken the initiative to be a leader and responsible Kansas corporation by returning property to the rightful owners. We commend them on the efforts to step-up and do the right thing for their loyal customers and all of Kansas.

Each year thousands of people lose track of their bank accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, refunds, royalties, safe deposit boxes and other property. People often forget to furnish their bank, broker, employer, utility or insurance company with a forwarding address.

It is the Treasurer's charge to locate the rightful owners and heirs to the over \$209 million in unclaimed assets currently being held by the State of Kansas.

To search for unclaimed property please call the State Treasurer's office at 1-800-432-0386 or visit www.KansasCash.com.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2010
For more information, Call Tara Gillum at (785) 296-2565.

State Treasurer thanks the Kansas Legislature for passage of SB382

The following is a statement from State Treasurer Dennis McKinney regarding the passage of Senate Bill 382:

"I applaud the Kansas Legislature for passing Senate Bill 382 which will strengthen the Kansas Housing Loan Deposit Program. Cooperation by Kansas City area Homebuilders, Kansas Realtors, Kansas Bankers, Heartland Community Bankers, Community Bankers, and the Kansas Homebuilders Associations will help create good paying jobs and accelerate construction

These jobs are vital to the recovery of the Kansas economy. I want to thank the legislature for their good work in passing Senate Bill 382."

The Kansas Housing Loan Deposit Program is administered by the State Treasurer's Office.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2010
For more information, Call Tara Gillum at (785) 296-2565.

State Treasurer declares improvements to the Housing Loan Program will help grow jobs in Kansas

The following is a statement from State Treasurer Dennis McKinney regarding the signing of Senate Bill 382 today by Governor Mark Parkinson:

"Senate Bill 382 will help strengthen the Kansas Housing Loan Deposit Program. This cooperative effort by Kansas City area Homebuilders, Kansas Realtors, Kansas Bankers, Heartland Community Bankers, Community Bankers, and the Kansas Homebuilders Associations will help create good paying jobs and accelerate construction. These jobs are vital to the recovery of the Kansas economy."

The Kansas Housing Loan Deposit Program was created in 2008 and is administered by the State Treasurer's Office. For more information about the Housing Loan Program please visit http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/housing_loan.php.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2010
For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

May 29th marks 529 College Savings Day

As schools reach summer break and families prepare to enjoy the Memorial Day weekend, Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney encourages families to take time on May 29th to visit with each other about their educational goals.

Students with funds set aside for their higher education are seven times more likely to attend college than those without them.

"As school districts across the state wrap up their school year, opening a 529 account for your children or grandchildren and saving whatever you can afford is a great way to help finance their dreams."

May 29th is recognized as 529 College Savings Day which were created through Section 529 of the I.R.S. code. The section covers plans like the Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Plan, Learning Quest Advisor, and the Schwab 529 that are administered by the Kansas State Treasurer's Office.

The accounts work like an I.R.A. with tax deferred growth and a tax free withdrawal of earnings if spent on qualified higher education expenses at any traditional four year college, community college or technical college. Kansas taxpayers also get a tax deduction when they contribute to any 529 plan of up to \$3,000 for single filers or \$6,000 for joint filers.

Nearly 55,000 Kansans have invested nearly \$581 million through Learning Quest to provide for future educational expenses for their children and grandchildren.

Learning Quest also has a matching grant program for low income families where the state will match the first \$600 invested by account owners with incomes less than \$44,100 for a family of four.

Learn more by visiting www.learningquest.com or www.schwab.com/529 or call us at 1-800-579-2203.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2010
For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

State Treasurer's Office Expands Patriots Property Program

Treasurer McKinney renews partnership with the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs to return unclaimed property to Kansas Veterans.

In honoring the service of our veterans and just in time for Memorial Day Treasurer McKinney has announced an expansion of the patriots property list.

The patriots property program was created in November of 2009 through a partnership with the Kansas State Treasurer's Office and the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs. The list contained the names of about 10,000 Kansas veterans with property totaling about \$4.5 million

Commanders of VFW, American Legions and other veteran's services should find this site to be a useful tool to help their members locate lost property. **"As we look forward to this Memorial Day it is important that we recognize the service of these veterans and help them find what is owed to them"** said McKinney.

The State Treasurer's office will continue to actively search for these veterans and try to re-unite them with their lost property. **"We are proud of our veterans and we want to make every effort to return the favor of the great sacrifice that they have made for our country,"** McKinney said.

Each year thousands of people lose track of their bank accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, refunds, royalties, safe deposit boxes and other property. People move and forget to furnish their bank, broker, employer or insurance company with a forwarding address. It is the Treasurer's charge to locate the rightful owners and heirs to the over \$209 million in unclaimed assets currently being held by the State of Kansas.

To search for patriots property visit www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/patriotsproperty. To search for general unclaimed property please call the State Treasurer's office at 1-800-432-0386 or visit www.KansasCash.com, to search for patriots property visit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

McKinney announces record year of unclaimed property returned

Nearly \$14.6M returned to nearly 54,000 claimants

For the second year in a row, the unclaimed property division of State Treasurer Dennis McKinney's office has worked to return a record breaking amount of money to Kansans. In the 2010 fiscal year 53,913 properties which was a 40 percent increase over 2009, totaling nearly \$14.6 million a 34 percent increase over 2009 was returned to its rightful owners. The average amount of a return was \$271. The largest return to an individual during that time frame was \$108,259.15 and over \$146,000 to a business.

Based on one of Kansas' first consumer projections laws enacted over 30 years ago, approximately \$25 million in unclaimed property has been turned over to Treasurer McKinney's office this year.

"With only eight full time staff members, we manage to do more with less. The staff in the unclaimed property division continue to come up with new and innovative ways to return to Kansans what is rightfully theirs," said McKinney. "I know that in this economy there are many families who need their money. We want to return these funds can put the money to work creating jobs and commerce."

In an effort to increase efficiency, Treasurer McKinney's office offers paperless filing for claims under \$2,000. Over 610,000 claims are eligible for paperless filings.

Since the inception of the unclaimed property program more than \$132 million has been returned to rightful owners with the largest single individual return of \$347,000. Currently the Treasurer is working to rightfully place as much as 1.2 million properties estimated in value of over \$200 million with the rightful owner

"I have made it one of my top priorities to identify the owners of this unclaimed property so this money can be put it to work creating jobs and growing the economy" McKinney declared.

There is never a charge to search for your unclaimed property. To see if you have unclaimed property, you can visit www.kansascash.com or call Treasurer McKinney's office at 1-800-432-0386.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Returning unclaimed cash and property to Kansas Businesses

Treasurer McKinney makes business property return a major focus

(Topeka, Kan.) - Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced today a new partnership with several local Chambers of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) to create the Back to Business program focused on returning thousands of dollars in unclaimed property back to Kansas Businesses and not for profit organizations.

"Our staff has worked hard to return over \$125 million since the program started and this year we are making a special emphasis on returning unclaimed property to Kansas businesses as part of our Back to Business program," said McKinney. "In these challenging economic times I am committed to do everything I can to return these resources to Kansas companies so they in turn can focus on job creation in our state."

A special website has been created to assist Kansas businesses and not for profit organizations to search for their unclaimed property - www.kansascash.com/back2business. On the website there are approximately 500,000 potential claims totaling about \$16.4 million. Each year businesses, utility companies, banks, and organizations turn over to the Kansas State Treasurer's office more than \$20 million in unclaimed funds that they are holding for individual Kansans and businesses in our state. In addition, nearly 600 lost or forgotten safe deposit boxes are sent to the state when banks can no longer find the owner of the contents.

"Kansans value private property rights, and as custodian of this unclaimed property we take the responsibility to reunite Kansas businesses with their assets very seriously," said McKinney.

"Our members are extremely pleased Treasurer McKinney has made it a priority to return unclaimed property to Kansas small businesses," said Dan Murray, state director of the NFIB/Kansas, the state's leading small business association.

"Small business is the backbone of the economy and the key to leading Kansas out of this recession," Murray said. "Treasurer McKinney's Back to Business program is helping to put resources back in the hands of small businesses where jobs are created."

The reporting of utility deposits, inactive savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, stock shares and bonds, dividend checks, insurance proceeds, and mineral royalties is required by state law under the Unclaimed Property Act. To date, the Kansas Treasurer's Office has over \$208 million worth of unclaimed property and over 12,000 safe deposit box properties on file.

Thousands of active and former business entities might have unclaimed property claims with a cumulative total of several millions

of dollars. Frequently business unclaimed property claims are created when a check was not delivered to a business due to an addressing error or a check may have never been cashed once it was received.

Treasurer McKinney's office publishes the owner's name on our website and performs outreach to reconnect the customers with their lost funds.

Making a claim is free and easy. There are no fees involved in searching for or claiming cash and property. Kansans may call the State Treasurer's Office at 1-800-432-0386 or log onto www.kansascash.com.

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, McKinney has worked to cut through bureaucratic red tape, set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, emphasized careful management of taxpayer's dollars, and reformed the state's housing loan program to promote new construction and good paying jobs for Kansas workers.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer McKinney returns budget savings to taxpayers

McKinney's staff maintains high level of service while reducing costs

With final tabulations completed for the recently completed Fiscal Year 2010, Kansas Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced today that his office came in under budget for the year, returning over \$65,000 to the State General Fund.

"During the past two years our office has emphasized the importance of doing more with less," said McKinney. "Our staff is full of smart, creative and dedicated public servants who have found ways to improve services while cutting overhead costs."

Faced with their own need to balance office budgets and save taxpayers money, McKinney's first official act upon taking office was to cut his own salary. Also he has reduced two full time equivalent positions from the treasurer's office and continued to implement new technology such as scanners and online claim forms for unclaimed property to reduce time and manpower spent on office functions.

Despite budget cuts to FY2010 budget, the State Treasurer's Office still managed to come in under budget while providing record setting service for the people of Kansas. Under his first full fiscal year, Treasurer McKinney's office spent less in FY10 than any of the previous three fiscal years.

During the fiscal year, the Treasurer's unclaimed property division had its second consecutive record breaking year returning property to its rightful owners. For FY 2010, McKinney's office processed nearly 54,000 claims and returned \$14.6 million to property owners.

The Treasurer's Bond Services division continues to service over 90% of local bond issues while McKinney's office also increased the number of Kansas families saving for their children's future educational needs through the Learning Quest higher education savings plan.

"I am proud of the staff in the Treasurer's Office," said McKinney. "They maintained a positive attitude and continued to provide outstanding service for all Kansans despite difficult budget challenges."

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, the team at the Treasurer's Office has set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property. McKinney also reformed the state's housing construction loan program to promote construction and job creation in Kansas.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer McKinney Promotes Need for Financial Education

McKinney testifies regarding services provided and challenges for the future

Lawrence - State Treasurer Dennis McKinney Testified today before the United States House of Representatives Financial Services Committee Subcommittee regarding Oversight and Investigations on financial education efforts offered by the Kansas State Treasurer's office and its partner organizations.

"As State Treasurer and as a parent, I believe financial education is a national priority. We partner with a number of private organizations such as credit unions to offer an in-school savings initiative and financial management workshops for grade school and middle school aged students. We also host financial seminars and on-line resources for adults," said McKinney. "These efforts are a great resource to Kansas teachers, students, and families.

"Our goal is to empower Kansas families to save, invest, and to create more opportunities to improve families and communities across Kansas," added McKinney.

McKinney's office offers a number of financial education outreach efforts including:

- Money\$mart, in partnership with Kansas Credit Unions, is designed to offer middle school students training in sound personal financial philosophies and practices in a fun environment that enhances leadership and teamwork skills.
- Save@School joins the State Treasurer's office, local financial institutions and schools with the common goal of teaching children so that they become educated consumers who will make responsible financial decisions in the future.
- LIFE reading list (Lessons in Financial Education) provides lessons on cost-benefit analysis, barter and exchange, having a job, work and human capital, having and earning money, and saving techniques for kids from preschool through high school. This list is designed to get kids to begin thinking about and engaging in dialog on some basic financial concepts.
- Kansas Investments Developing Scholars (K.I.D.S.) matching grant program will match the first \$600 that participants contribute to a Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program account each year that they are eligible. K.I.D.S. was developed for families with income less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
- The ABCs of Credit Card Finance is a program aimed at educating high school seniors and young adults entering college.
- Brown bag luncheons on personal finances to help Kansans maintain financial independence. Financial education empowers individuals or families to become more financially secure and independent.
- A strong partner on the Women & Money Coalition we sponsored an 8-week series for 90 women to gain control over their

finances. This training was developed by women for women of all income and education levels.

"With the demands increasing all over the state for financial education material, we need to continue to look for public/private partnerships to continue empowering Kansans to make their hard earned money work smarter for them," said McKinney.

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, McKinney has worked to cut through bureaucratic red tape, set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, emphasized careful management of taxpayer's dollars, and reformed the state's housing loan program to promote new construction and good paying jobs for Kansas workers.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer McKinney Celebrates Ag Program Anniversary

Over \$200 Million Loaned to Save Kansas Family Farms

Over 1485 loans have assisted family farmers during the last 10 years as part of the State Treasurer's Agricultural Production Loan Deposit Program.

"As a small business owner I know how tight some years can be due to many factors outside your control. Personally, I have experience drought and rapid declines in cattle prices" said State Treasurer Dennis McKinney. "This program helps Kansas' Ag banks and family farms continue our tradition of producing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world."

Authorized by the 2000 Legislature, the Kansas Agricultural Production Loan Deposit Program allows for up to \$55M in idle state funds to be loaned through Kansas banks at 2.0 percent below market rates to be used by agricultural borrowers with high debt to equity ratios. Currently 387 loans are outstanding for nearly \$49 million loaned to family farms.

"With over 20 percent of the jobs in Kansas related to agriculture, this highly successful loan program is the least we can do to help ensure the survival of family farms in Kansas while saving and creating new ag related jobs," said McKinney. "I want Kansas agriculture organizations, farmers and bankers to make full use of this program to do all we can to help Kansas farm families to create jobs."

"These are difficult and challenging times on the farm," said Steve Baccus, an Ottawa County farmer who serves as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "The State Treasurer's Agricultural Production Loan Deposit Program has proven to be a popular and valuable tool for many of our members in managing their operations."

"It's an extremely successful program and a wonderful example of a win/win situation" states Donn Teske, president of the Kansas Farmers Union. "These idle funds would be earning little otherwise and very often a couple of points of interest less can be the difference on a farm operations cash flow."

As one of the major pillars of the Kansas economy, this program has proven very successful for all parties involved. The state is able to earn a return on its idle funds. Local financial institutions are able to increase loan volume and circulation of currency in the local economy. Local farmers are able to use these funds as a source of capital typically during start up opportunities or difficult economic times.

For more information about the State Treasurer's Agricultural Production Loan Deposit Program please see:
<http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/agprod.php>

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, McKinney has worked to cut through bureaucratic red tape, set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, emphasized careful management of taxpayer's dollars, and reformed the state's housing loan program to promote new construction and good paying jobs for Kansas workers.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer McKinney Promotes Higher Education Savings

Over 55,000 Kansans have already invested over \$580M in their family's future

Topeka - State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced today that Kansas has joined other states in declaring September **"Higher Education Savings Month" to increase awareness about the importance of saving for our children's higher education expenses. "When Kansas families save for higher education they are investing in the future of the Kansas workforce,"** Said McKinney

"Our children deserve the brightest futures possible. That is why it is so important for families to start saving for higher education with a program like the Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Plan. Learning Quest offers a wide variety of investment options," said Treasurer McKinney. "Any Kansas taxpayer can invest in Learning Quest and deduct up to \$3,000 for individuals and up to \$6,000 for joint filers from their 2010 state taxable income."

Learning Quest also has tax incentives provided by the federal government. Earnings grow tax deferred and can be withdrawn tax free when used for higher education expenses. Parents, grandparents, friends, and others, can contribute to a Learning Quest account on behalf of the beneficiary.

"The Kansas Investment Developing Scholars (K.I.D.S.) Matching Grant Program provides additional incentive for working families with modest incomes by matching their contributions dollar for dollar up to \$600. These savings options enable families all over Kansas to put money toward their children's future education at any technical college, community college or traditional four-year university," added Treasurer McKinney. "I am proud of the state of Kansas for making these investments in the future of our children because they encourage families to save instead of relying on student loans for the ever increasing cost of higher education."

Higher Education Savings Month is a time for families all over Kansas and nationwide to consider the value of higher education. It is vital for parents to realize how much higher education can impact a child's life.

- It is estimated that by 2018, over 60% of jobs will require education beyond high school.
- Median family income in 2008 for those with a bachelor's degree or more was \$101,099, compared to \$49,414 for those with a high school diploma. [From College Board, Trends in College Pricing, 2009]

About 81% of youth with some of their own savings designated for school will graduate from a four-year college, compared to 68% who had an account but no money specifically designated for future schooling and 64% of youth who did not have an account.

- Savings over a period of years may raise a young person's educational expectations leading to increased academic efforts and achievement.
- Youth who have school savings are almost four times more likely to obtain higher education than youth with no account.

Treasurer McKinney added "Opportunities in the highly skilled technical fields continue to grow. That is why I urge students to consider the high tech programs offered by our community college and technical schools."

To learn more about saving for a higher education please see call 1-800-579-2203, or visit the Treasurer's website at http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/cs_main.php .

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, McKinney has worked to cut through bureaucratic red tape, set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, expanded the K.I.D.S. Matching Grant Program to help Kansans' with modest incomes save for higher education expenses for each of their children, emphasized careful management of taxpayer's dollars, and reformed the state's housing loan program to promote new construction and good paying jobs for Kansas workers.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer Dennis McKinney Reconnects Kansans with THEIR Property Greatest Lost and Found to be held at the Kansas State Fair

Estimated that several thousands of Kansans will be reunited with their lost property and cash in Hutchinson

Hutchinson - Many Kansans may leave the Kansas State Fair with more money than when they started after they stop by the State Treasurer's booth to check for unclaimed property for themselves and their families, predicted Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney. Over \$180,000 was returned during the State Fair time period in 2009 with more the \$221 million still available for more the 1.2 million properties.

"In these tough economic times I am committed to trying new methods to reconnect Kansans with unclaimed property and cash," said Treasurer McKinney. "Last year our average claim was \$271 and I want more of this money returned in order to help families pay for necessities such as school supplies. We also want this money back in circulation in the Kansas economy creating jobs and commerce."

Treasurer McKinney's Unclaimed Property team will be located in the Meadowlark Building from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day of the Kansas State Fair starting on September 11. Searching for property is free and there is never a fee to claim your funds.

"In Kansas we value personal property rights and I consider it one of my top priorities to safeguard these funds until they are returned to their proper owner," McKinney said. "Over the last two years we have set records amounts of returns and I am hoping we can break last year's totals of what was returned at the 2009 State Fair."

Those Kansans who are not able to attend the 2010 Kansas State Fair are encouraged to go online to www.kansascash.com or call (800) 432-0386 to see if they may have unclaimed property.

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, McKinney has worked to cut through bureaucratic red tape, set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, emphasized careful management of taxpayer's dollars, and reformed the state's housing loan program to promote new construction and good paying jobs for Kansas workers.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2010
For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer Dennis McKinney Announces \$529 Educational Savings Account Giveaway at the Kansas State Fair

Hutchinson - Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced today a special drawing for a \$529 Learning Quest higher education savings account for Kansas State Fair goers. 529 is the section of the Internal Revenue Service code which governs and provides for the tax advantaged way of saving money for future educational expenses.

“The State Fair is one of Kansas’ greatest traditions and one I have been proud to be part of since I was a kid,” McKinney said. “Couple that with Learning Quest as one of the largest and well run savings program in the country and I am proud we can provide this scholarship opportunity to help promote the importance of saving for your children’s future education needs.”

Learning Quest is a 529 educational savings plan designed to give families an opportunity to save for a higher education. Parents, grandparents, friends, and others, can contribute to a Learning Quest account on behalf of the beneficiary. Any Kansas taxpayer can invest in Learning Quest and deduct up to \$3,000 for individuals and up to \$6,000 joint filers from their 2010 state taxable income.

The Kansas Investments Developing Scholars plan provides up to \$600 in matching grants for working Kansas families. These benefits enable families all over Kansas to put money toward their children’s future education at a vocational-technical college, community college or regent’s university.

“The Kansas economy will require a more educated and highly skilled workforce in order to remain competitive in a global economy,” McKinney said. “Now is the time to start saving for that future \$1200 a year invested each year over 18 years at a 5% rate of return can total over \$35,000.”

To enter the drawing, fair attendees simply need to stop by the State Treasurer’s booth in the Meadowlark building. Information about Learning Quest and the KIDS program will be available at the booth including how small savings today can grow to large returns when one is ready to earn a higher education.

“Kansans can be proud of the over \$2.2 billion in educational savings currently invested with Kansas Post-Secondary Educational Savings Program,” McKinney said. “My wife Jean and I have taken advantage of this program for our one daughter who will soon be there.”

Over 53,000 Kansans currently use a Learning Quest account to save for higher education. With a wide variety of investment

options, low account minimums, and low program management fees Learning Quest has been recognized as a leader within the industry.

To learn more about saving for a higher education please see call 1-800-579-2203, or visit the Treasurer’s website at www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/learningquest

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, McKinney has worked to cut through bureaucratic red tape, set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, emphasized careful management of taxpayer’s dollars, and reformed the state’s housing loan program to promote new construction and good paying jobs for Kansas workers.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

McKinney provides valuable money saving tools

Treasurer stresses the need for money to work harder as part of financial education

Topeka -- Kansans now have a convenient one stop website to find a number of valuable ideas for stretching their money State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced today. As part of his office's role of providing financial education materials to schools and the public, McKinney has created a Penny Pincher's website to provide ideas on making your money work harder for you. This site can be directly accessed at www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/pennypinchers

"As a small business owner who has had to meet payroll and survive some pretty tough economic times I know the value of making every penny count," McKinney said. "Consumers can find valuable information they need to help save money on groceries, gas and traveling, home energy, health care, college tuition, back-to-school savings and more."

This one stop shop serves as the launching point for discounts and services available from the private sector, news organizations, and state and federal governments. Examples include:

- Gas – learn valuable ways to save money on gas, the total cost of vehicle ownership, and maintain fuel efficiency.
- Groceries – find out how to slash grocery costs using several easy methods of saving.
- College – use the resources provided to seek out scholarships, apply for the LearningQuest savings program, and learn advantages and disadvantages of many different colleges.

The site also provides several resources dealing with comprehensive energy saving techniques, public transportation, and car-pooling systems.

"I am dedicated to providing a diverse Penny Pincher's website that addresses many aspects of everyday Kansans lives," McKinney said. "Saving a little money here and a little there can make a real difference when trying to make ends meet. We are open to adding additional links for savings Kansans may wish to share with our office. "

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, the team at the Treasurer's Office has set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property. McKinney also reformed the state's housing construction loan program to promote construction and job creation in Kansas.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

McKinney Promotes Savings with Learning Quest Essay Contest

Historical figures focus of statewide essay with \$1,000 and \$500 awards

TOPEKA — Seventh and eighth grade students across the state of Kansas have the opportunity to show off their essay-writing skills and win prizes including money set aside for a higher education in the ninth annual Learning Quest Essay Contest.

“Learning Quest Higher Education Savings Program provides an excellent opportunity to invest in your loved one’s educational,” said Kansas State Treasurer and Learning Quest Program Administrator Dennis McKinney. “It is amazing how a little bit saved today can really add up in the future in helping cover the cost of a higher education.”

The Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program was created to help families invest for their child’s continued education after high school whether at a traditional four year college, community college or technical/vocational school. Learning Quest investors benefit from tax-free growth and tax-free withdrawals when used for qualified education expenses (tax benefits may be conditioned on meeting certain requirements). Kansas taxpayers can receive a Kansas tax deduction up to \$3,000 per child (\$6,000 if married, filing jointly) on contributions to Learning Quest. The Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program is Kansas’ state-sponsored 529 plan.

“The essay contest encourages kids to think creatively and helps them develop their writing skills,” said McKinney. “This year we’ve invited students to write essays discussing, ‘If you had the opportunity to choose any person in history to teach a class to you, who would you choose and why would you select that person?’”

The contest, open to all seventh and eighth grade students in Kansas, begins mid-August and all entries must be postmarked by October 15, 2010. To learn more and download participation materials, visit the contest web site at learningquest.com/essay.

Prizes include \$1,000 and \$500 Learning Quest education investments for one winner and one runner-up from each grade level. Winners will also receive a celebration party for their classroom. And, this year, one randomly selected participant will receive a \$529 education investment.

“The essay contest helps to draw attention to the importance of saving for future education needs and highlights the role that Learning Quest can play in helping students and their families to meet their education goals,” added McKinney.

Last year, more than 1,190 essays were received from 68 teachers at 56 schools across the state.

McKinney is a farmer, small business owner, and former legislator from Greensburg. Since taking office in January of 2009, McKinney has worked to cut through bureaucratic red tape, set records in consecutive years for reuniting Kansans with their unclaimed property, expanded the K.I.D.S. Matching Grant Program to help Kansans' with modest incomes save for higher education expenses for each of their children, emphasized careful management of taxpayer's dollars, and reformed the state's housing loan program to promote new construction and good paying jobs for Kansas workers.

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General information about Learning Quest is available by calling 1-877-345-8837 or by visiting learningquest.com. Investment professionals interested in Learning Quest Advisor should call 1-800-345-6488 or visit americancentury.com/ipro.

Before investing, carefully consider the plan's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This information and more about the plan can be found in the Learning Quest Handbook, available by contacting your financial advisor or American Century Investment Services, Inc., Distributor and Underwriter, at 1-877-345-8837 and should be read carefully before investing. If you are not a Kansas taxpayer, consider before investing whether your or the beneficiary's home state offers a 529 plan that provides its taxpayers with state tax and other benefits not available through this plan.

Notice: Accounts established under Learning Quest and their earnings are neither insured nor guaranteed by the state of Kansas, the Kansas State Treasurer or American Century Investments.

Administered by Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney.

Managed by American Century Investment Management, Inc. American Century Investment Services, Inc., Distributor and Underwriter.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2010
For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Kansas Treasurer's Office and Local Credit Unions sponsor Money\$mart Financial Management Camp

To teach students about the importance of sound personal financial practices the Kansas State Treasurer's office will be co-sponsoring a Money\$mart Financial Management Camp for Middle School Students this Friday, September 17 at the Bluestem High School in Leon, Kansas.

Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney believes in the importance of encouraging fiscal responsibility for all Kansans. **"One of the biggest advantages we can provide our children is a basic education in finances," said McKinney. "This outreach educates students on responsible use of credit, saving, budgeting, and cash management."**

Money\$mart is a financial management camp created in partnership with the Kansas Credit Union Association specifically for Kansas middle school students. Kelly Harker with Catholic Family Federal Credit Union has worked closely with Randy Rivers, Superintendent of Bluestem USD 205 to make this event possible. Sponsors for this event are: Bluestem Community Credit Union, Bluestem PTO, Central Star Credit Union, Catholic Family Federal Credit Union, Credit Union of America, Meritrust Credit Union, Mid American Credit Union, The South Central Chapter of Credit Unions, TECU Credit Union, White Eagle Credit Union, and Wichita Federal Credit Union.

Money\$mart Camp will be held on Friday, September 17 from 8am to 3pm at Bluestem High School. Participants in the Money\$mart camp will include 20 students in 6th, 7th, & 8th grades from USD 205 Bluestem and surrounding area home school children.

For more information about MoneySmart programs sponsored by the Kansas State Treasurer please visit our website at www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/moneysmart or you can contact Michelle Kaberline at 785-296-0645.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

McKinney Announces New Opportunities for Kansans to Save More for their Children's Education

Newest innovations also ensures fees in the Learning Quest Program will remain below national average

(WICHITA) Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced today new innovations in the state's three education savings plans administered by the Treasurer's office. These innovations will allow Kansans to increase their savings by earning credit through their purchases just like credit card points. In addition, family members are enabled to make gifts directly to the accounts of other family members.

McKinney and American Century Investments are partnering with Upromise Investments, a well known player in the educational savings market, to allow Kansans participating in the state's three education savings plans, Learning Quest 529 Education Savings plan, Learning Quest Advisor and the Schwab 529 College Savings Plan, to save even more toward their student's higher education through access to the Upromise® Rewards and Ugift®- Give College Savings programs.

"A great bargain for Kansans just got better. We're thrilled that our partnership with Upromise Investments will make it even easier for Kansas families to save money for their children's education. There is no better investment in their future or for the future of the Kansas workforce," said Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney, the Learning Quest Program Administrator.

Upromise Rewards lets members earn college savings on everyday activities, such as shopping, eating out, buying groceries, traveling and more. Now, Upromise members can link their account directly to their state educational savings plan and have the money earned at Upromise transferred directly to their educational savings plan.

Learning Quest account holders can sign up for Ugift – Give College Savings which will allow them to invite family and friends to celebrate occasions with gift contributions to a Learning Quest account in lieu of traditional gifts.

Both Ugift and Upromise will be free to Learning Quest account owners.

"The best part is none of these innovations will raise account owners' fees. Our savings plans will continue to offer lower-than-industry average program fees, a real bargain for Kansans. We are also lowering the starting amount for a Learning Quest account to \$100, making it easier for even more Kansans to save," said McKinney.

The Treasurer's office is also upgrading The Learning Quest Web website www.learningquestsavings.com to allow account owners to conduct transactions and access their account information online. The upgrade will also make it easier for financial advisors and employers to help families set aside money toward their child's higher education goals.

With these enhancements, we will also be extending American Century Investments' contract through 2014, lowering the investment management fee for the index age-based tack by almost 10 percent to .50% from .55%, lowering the entry point to a \$100 minimum investment and guaranteeing that fees plan-wide will remain below industry averages.

“These enhancements will ensure that our plans remain competitive for the over 55,000 Kansans that have saved towards their family’s higher education needs through our high quality and very well managed program with \$2.3 billion in assets under management,” said McKinney.

American Century Investments has been Program Manager for the Kansas 529 Education Savings program since the inception of the plan in 2000. The three Kansas 529 plans include the Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program, available directly from American Century Investments, Learning Quest Advisor, sold through financial advisors and the Schwab 529 College Savings Plan, available through Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

“We are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to help families save for higher education,” said Stacey Belford, Vice President, 529 Sales with American Century Investments. “With an improved online experience at the Learning Quest Web site and the new Upromise Investments relationship, families now have even more opportunities to make their everyday spending count toward their child's educational goals.”

For more information about Learning Quest, please visit www.learningquestsavings.com. To learn more about Ugift and Upromise, visit www.529.com and click on “Family & Friends.”

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1Upromise is an optional service offered by Upromise, Inc., is separate from the Learning Quest 529 Plans and is not affiliated with the State of Kansas. Specific terms and conditions apply. Participating companies, contribution levels and conditions subject to change without notice. Transfers subject to a \$25 minimum. Upromise, Inc. is affiliated with Upromise Investments, Inc.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

McKinney uses State Fair to return \$201,397

With a respect for private property rights, McKinney returns property to more than 979 Kansans

Topeka- Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced today that his Unclaimed Property Division may have returned over \$200,000 to nearly one thousand people during the time of the Kansas State Fair.

"It is my job to reunite Kansans with their lost financial assets," McKinney explained. "Reaching out to fairgoers is a great way to give back to Kansans what is rightfully theirs. I was pleased I was personally able to help one Kansan receive a property valued at over \$4,185 and help another person find a missing royalty payment of \$1,015."

During the 2009 State Fair week over \$188,000 in unclaimed property was claimed and paid out to Kansans. The Treasurer's booth was in the Meadowlark Building at the Kansas State Fair this year. Staff from the office worked each day of the fair searching for, and filing claims for people that found their unclaimed cash and property.

"Our staff works hard to return as much as possible and the State Fair is a wonderful venue for us to connect Kansans with cash and property currently being held by our office."

Each year thousands of people lose track of their bank accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, refunds, royalties, safe deposit boxes and other property. People move and forget to furnish their bank, broker, employer or insurance company with a forwarding address. It is the Treasurer's charge to locate the rightful owners and heirs to the over \$220 million in unclaimed assets currently being held by the State of Kansas. Since becoming Treasurer in 2009, the unclaimed property unit has found 70,000 possible claims valued at over \$53 million. Over \$140 million has been returned to Kansans over the lifetime of this effort.

Kansans who didn't make it to the State Fair may call the State Treasurer's office at 1-800-432-0386 or visit www.KansasCash.com.

Dennis McKinney took office as Kansas State Treasurer in January 2009. Under McKinney's leadership, the State Treasurer's Office has reduced expenses while setting records in returning unclaimed property to rightful owners, increasing participation in the state higher education savings plan and reforming its housing loan program to create jobs around the state. Responding to the state's budget crisis McKinney cut his own salary by 4% while the Treasurers team managed operations to not only absorb budget cuts but return over \$65,000 to the State in fiscal year 2010.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Fellow State Treasurers select McKinney for Foundation Board of Directors

McKinney selected for 2 year term by peers to help lead the NAST Foundation

Topeka- Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney recently was selected by his fellow State Treasurers to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) Foundation.

“It is a true honor to have the opportunity to be part of the leadership of the NAST Foundation. The work of the State Treasurer’s Foundation compliments Kansas’ efforts in financial education,” McKinney said. “I am very grateful for the support of my fellow treasurers in selecting me to serve in this important capacity.”

The NAST Foundation is an organization devoted to improving the understanding of public finance. The Foundation supports a wide range of initiatives from conducting professional development for state treasurers and their staffs to educating citizens about sound personal financial management. Recently the Foundation took over the responsibility of supporting the *tomorrow’s money* which is seen as one of the most comprehensive one stop information centers for adults interested in financial education.

http://www.treasurer.state.ks.us/prodweb/personal_finance/tomorrows_money.php

The NAST Foundation Board of Directors includes 10 members, nine of which are State Treasurers. Board members nominated by the NAST President and elected by the Treasurers at the Annual Business Meeting and his term will last for two years.

Programs and services of the Foundation include:

- **Financial Education Programs** provide a forum for the exchange of ideas related to state treasury financial education initiatives. It also builds partnerships with other organizations in order to make state treasurers aware of resources that can be employed in their personal finance programs for the public.
- **The National Institute for Public Finance** brings together state treasurers and other finance officials for an intensive five-day public finance curriculum, providing crucial insight into current public finance issues and developing the skills required for the future, free from commercial influence.
- **New Treasurers Symposium** brings together newly-elected state treasurers with veteran state treasurers for a comprehensive training focusing on all aspects of treasury management, preparing the participants for success as treasurer. During the peer-to-peer discussions provided at the Symposium, the newly elected officials become better informed about

proven programs and practices that will enhance the office of state treasurer in their state.

Dennis McKinney took office as Kansas State Treasurer in January 2009. Under McKinney's leadership, the State Treasurer's Office has reduced expenses while setting records in returning unclaimed property to rightful owners, increasing participation in the state higher education savings plan and reforming its housing loan program to create jobs around the state. Responding to the state's budget crisis McKinney cut his own salary by 4% while the Treasurers team managed operations to not only absorb budget cuts but return over \$65,000 to the State in fiscal year 2010.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer Dennis McKinney Announces Winner of the \$529 Educational Savings Account Giveaway at the Kansas State Fair

Parson - Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney announced the winner of one of two \$529 Learning Quest Education Savings Plan accounts today from entries received in a drawing at the Kansas State Fair.

Today in Parsons, McKinney presented Tara Smith with a \$529 Learning Quest Education Savings account that she can use to continue to save for her children's future educational needs.

"I have made encouraging Kansans to save for their family's future educational expenses one of my top priorities as State Treasurer. With the Learning Quest program, Kansans have a wide range of investment options with below industry program fee costs and top quality investment performance," McKinney said. "The Kansas State Fair is a great opportunity to communicate directly with Kansans about this tax advantaged method to save for the future."

Learning Quest is called a "529" plan because that is the section of the federal tax code that makes these accounts a tax advantaged way to save for qualified expenses at any traditional four year university, community college or technical college. Kansas taxpayers also receive a Kansas tax deduction for contributions to Learning Quest or any other 529 plan.

Learning Quest helps Kansas families provide opportunities for their children no matter what path they take after high school. Since McKinney took over as Treasurer, 3,000 additional Kansans have started to use a Learning Quest account to save for higher education, bringing the total to over 55,000. With a wide variety of investment options, low account minimums, and small overhead costs Learning Quest has been recognized as a leader within the industry. Currently over \$2.4 billion in educational savings currently invested by account owners from across the country with Learning Quest.

"The Kansas economy will require a more educated and highly skilled workforce in order to remain competitive in a global economy," McKinney said. "Now is the time to start saving for that future. \$1200 a year invested each year over 18 years at a 5% rate of return can total over \$35,000."

To learn more about saving for a higher education please see call 1-800-579-2203, or visit the Treasurer's website at http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/cs_main.php.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Treasurer McKinney, NFL and Visa Launch Statewide Rollout of Financial Football

New interactive game will improve financial management of Kansas Teenagers

Wichita – Tackling the problem of financial education among Kansas teenagers head-on, State Treasurer Dennis McKinney and Visa Inc. today announced the statewide rollout of an effort to improve the money management skills of high school and middle school students. This free educational video game and classroom curriculum called *Financial Football* was developed by Visa Inc.

Treasurer McKinney kicked off this new financial education campaign today at Wichita Heights. Treasurer McKinney and Matt Kelly, who is the Heights Assistant Football Coach and also teaches computer and tech classes, then lead student teams in a hard-fought, high energy game of *Financial Football*. Also joining in the activities were Carmen Donley who is one of the four pioneers developing the new financial education class for the Wichita Public School.

“Financial Football is an interactive way to get students interested in personal finances and give them a financial playbook they can use the rest of their lives,” said Treasurer McKinney. “This is a valuable program which promotes Kansas values of savings and responsible spending and is a great partnership between my office, Visa and the NFL.”

The centerpiece of Visa’s nationwide educational initiative with the NFL and NFL PLAYERS, *Financial Football* helps students and adults tackle their financial futures. This free, newly reinvented game is accompanied by a classroom curriculum and is being distributed by Treasurer McKinney to every public middle and high school in Kansas.

“Kids need to know how to make smart money management decisions early in life,” said Treasurer McKinney “It takes the combined efforts of parents, teachers and mentors within the community to give teenagers a strong background in personal finance.”

Youth financial education is a serious and growing issue. According to a survey by Visa Inc., 93% of Americans believe all high school students should be required to take a class in financial education.

Available online, at www.kansas.financialfootball.com, *Financial Football* puts students’ fiscal knowledge to the test in an online simulation game environment by combining the structure and rules of the NFL with financial education questions of varying difficulty. Visa also released the game as a free [iPhone](#) app on iTunes, along with an optimized HD [iPad](#) version.

The Kansas State Treasurer's office offers programs to educate students in personal finances. The Money\$mart program is designed for middle school students while the Tomorrows Money program assists high school and college students. We want to give students the personal financial skills that can help place them on the path to achieving their financial goals such as saving, investing, reducing debt or buying a house. kansas.tomorrowsmoney.org provides comprehensive, one-stop-shop browsing to help young people get a handle on their personal finances.

“For over a decade, Visa has been committed to promoting financial education and we are proud to assist Treasurer McKinney in his efforts to strengthen financial education throughout Kansas,” said Nancy Panter, Manager of Global Public Relations, Visa Inc.

Financial Football is part of *Practical Money Skills for Life* (www.practicalmoneyskills.com) a free, award-winning financial education program that reaches millions of people around the world each year. Launched in 1995, the program is now available in ten languages in thirty countries. At *Practical Money Skills for Life*, educators, parents and students can access free educational resources including personal finance articles, games, lesson plans, and more. Visa also runs *What's My Score* (www.whatsmyscore.org), a leading higher education consumer awareness program. The website guides college students through the ABC's of a FICO credit score, from factors that can lower a score to ways on improving it, at no charge.

This launch is part of a national educational campaign with Visa, the NFL and NFL PLAYERS, now in its sixth season. Since 2006, Visa has reached agreements with twenty-nine states to distribute “Financial Football” to every high school in those states, including Kansas. The other states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin. As part of this campaign, Kansas will also distribute the game to every middle school in the state.

About Visa Inc.

Visa is a global payments technology company that connects consumers, businesses, financial institutions and governments in more than 200 countries and territories to fast, secure and reliable digital currency. Underpinning digital currency is one of the world's most advanced processing networks—VisaNet—that is capable of handling more than 10,000 transactions a second, with fraud protection for consumers and guaranteed payment for merchants. Visa is not a bank, and does not issue cards, extend credit or set rates and fees for consumers. Visa's innovations, however, enable its financial institution customers to offer consumers more choices: Pay now with debit, ahead of time with prepaid or later with credit products. For more information, visit www.corporate.visa.com. Corporate

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

McKinney holds Lunch & Learn Session in Western Kansas

Brown bag lunch lesson focused on "Getting Organized: Tools for Your Cash Flow System"

Hays- During this difficult economic time many Kansas families are working hard to gain better control over their finances. With this goal in mind, State Treasurer Dennis McKinney's Office conducted brown bag lessons on personal finances to help Kansans maintain financial independence.

"Financial education empowers families," McKinney said. "We believe it is important for Kansans to make educated decisions to make their money work as hard as possible for them."

This was the fourth financial education brown bag session hosted by the Treasurer's office with previous sessions held in Topeka, Wichita, Manhattan, Lawrence, and Pittsburg.

The session was held on the campus of Fort Hays State University and Michelle Kaberline, Financial Education Director for the Kansas State Treasurer's Office presented: **"Getting Organized: Tools for Your Cash Flow System."**

The session focused on organizing financial records. Many people need some basic guidelines on what to keep and where. Discussions also included basic budgeting and some handy tools to consider in keeping it simple. Studies have shown that when financial management tools are kept simple, individuals are more likely to follow-up and stick with them.

Individuals who attended the session also received a free personal home inventory guide compliments of Insurance Commissioner's Office.

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2010

For more information, Call Kaelyn Seymour at (785) 296-2565.

Morningstar recognizes the Kansas Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Plan as one of the top options for investors

Newest improvements help Kansas 529 Plans stay at the forefront of customer service and affordable costs

TOPEKA, KS - A great bargain for Kansans just got better. Yesterday Morningstar released its annual ranking of education savings programs and only five of the 53 plans reviewed received a rating better than the Kansas Learning Quest 529 Education Savings plan. Morningstar specifically recognized the plan for having multiple age based options, a combination of both actively managed and indexed based mutual funds, blended portfolios with preset allocations, and reasonable fees.

“We know that investors have choices in the 529 marketplace and we are pleased to be recognized as one of the top performing plans,” said Dennis McKinney, Kansas State Treasurer and the Learning Quest Program Administrator.

This week Learning Quest has also been rolling out changes in its record keeping systems that will help the plan provide better customer service through a new relationship with Upromise Investments.

“We’re thrilled that our partnership with Upromise Investments will make it even easier for Kansas families to save money for their children’s education,” said McKinney. “I am proud that we were able to bring these enhancements to Kansas families while keeping our fees competitive with other 529 plans and making it easier for Kansas families to get started,” added McKinney.

Staff at American Century Investments, Upromise Investments and Charles Schwab & Co. spent thousands of hours pulling together the technical details of the largest changes in the program’s decade-old history which will bring investors greater access and improved options for tracking their investments.

With these improvements, Treasurer McKinney secured a 10% reduction in the investment management fee for the index age-based track and a lower minimum initial investment, while guaranteeing that fees plan-wide will remain below industry averages.

“Upromise provides a state-of-the art record keeping service for the 529 plan industry and we’re proud to have them as part of our team,” said McKinney. “Our relationship has gotten off to an excellent start thanks to months of planning and testing, culminating with several long hours this past weekend verifying that systems would be ready for account owners’ calls first thing Monday morning.”

American Century Investments has been Program Manager for the Kansas 529 Education Savings program since the inception of the plan in 2000. The three Kansas 529 plans include the Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program, available directly from American Century Investments, Learning Quest Advisor, sold through financial advisors and the Schwab 529 College Savings Plan, available through Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

“Our national distribution relationship with Charles Schwab & Co. required coordination to ensure that all three firms will have access to the data they need to serve our customers,” noted McKinney. “This month the Schwab 529 College Savings Plan also crossed a milestone by reaching \$1 Billion in assets as investors nationwide have chosen our plan to invest for their students' future.”

Current account owners are reminded to log one to either www.learningquest.com or www.schwab.com/529 to register their account for online services. Online they will also find new features for managing their accounts and access to Upromise Rewards to turn everyday purchases into additional investments for their student's future.

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1Upromise is an optional service offered by Upromise, Inc., is separate from the Learning Quest 529 Plans and is not affiliated with the State of Kansas. Specific terms and conditions apply. Participating companies, contribution levels, and conditions are subject to change without notice. Transfers are subject to a \$25 minimum. Upromise, Inc. is affiliated with Upromise Investments, Inc.

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