



News Release
June 21, 2010

Contact: Ruth S. Intress
Communications & Media Liaison
804-371-0583 / rsintress@Virginia529.com

Richmond-area, Portsmouth Mothers Win \$529 VEST Accounts *Baby Prizes Part of Virginia College Savings Plan's 529 Day Events*

On Saturday, May 29, mothers around Virginia gave birth – and, in so doing, won a \$529 VEST account to start saving for higher education.

The event was part of the Virginia College Savings Plan's celebration of Virginia 529 Day College Savings Day, as proclaimed by Gov. Robert F. McDonnell. May 29 is celebrated by 529 plans nationwide to increase awareness of 529 college savings programs and the ways they can help families plan and save for college.

- Richmond-area and Portsmouth winners, whose infants were born at participating Virginia hospitals, are:
- Arlene M. Simfukwe, Henrico Doctors Hospital;
- Judith C. Post, CJW Medical Center;
- Bonnie Hawkins, Johnston-Willis Hospital;
- Shaquana Burrus, Chesapeake General Hospital.

“We want to thank Gov. McDonnell and participating Virginia hospitals – as well as their young patients and families – for helping us bring greater awareness to Virginians about the benefits of higher education and the many ways our agency can help them plan and save for it,” said Mary G. Morris, Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia College Savings Plan.

The Virginia Education Savings Trust (VEST) – one of four 529 savings programs offered by Virginia's 529 Plan – is open year-round with no age or residency requirements. Funds grow tax-free and remain tax-free upon withdrawal as long as they are used for qualified higher education expenses, including tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, textbooks, supplies and computers. VEST funds may be used at universities, community colleges and technical schools around the country and, in many cases, around the world.

The Virginia College Savings Plan is the largest 529 plan in the country. Its VEST and CollegeAmerica 529 programs are ranked in the “Best Five” by Morningstar Inc.

###