



CollegeCounts, Alabama's 529 college savings plan makes it easy to help give the gift of a college education. To make it even easier, employees of Baldwin County Schools are now able to invest in a CollegeCounts 529 account through payroll deduction. The value of higher education is immeasurable, so don't wait!

On **September 24 at 4:30pm**, VALIC Financial Advisors will be partnering with CollegeCounts to host a saving for college seminar. The meeting will be held at **COS Auditorium: 1091 B Avenue Loxley, AL 36551**. Mr. William Shafferman – marketing coordinator for the program – will be discussing the benefits of 529 plans as a vehicle for college savings. Wherever you are in the college planning process, this informative and timely presentation is sure to be beneficial for you and your family. Please plan to attend the seminar to learn more. In the meantime, you can find out more about the plan by visiting the CollegeCounts website at [www.CollegeCounts529.com](http://www.CollegeCounts529.com).

## Program Highlights

### *Investment Options*

- CollegeCounts offers quality fund families including The Vanguard Group, T. Rowe Price, Fidelity and PIMCO
- Flexible and diverse portfolios including Age-Based Portfolios, Target Portfolios and Individual Fund Portfolios

### *Tax Benefits*

- Tax deferred growth and tax-free withdrawals for qualified college expenses<sup>2</sup>
- Alabama taxpayers are eligible for a state income tax deduction of up to \$5,000 per individual (\$10,000 if married filing jointly)<sup>1</sup>

### *Flexible Contributions*

- No required minimums for investing – invest the amount that meets your budget and savings goals!
- No enrollment or annual account fees for Alabama residents

### *Education Flexibility*

- Funds can be used nationwide at most accredited schools and some foreign schools
- Pay for qualified higher education expenses including: tuition, fees, supplies, equipment, books, and reasonable room & board (if the student is enrolled at least half-time).<sup>2</sup>

The CollegeCounts 529 Fund is a qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code that is offered by the State of Alabama, administered by the Board of Trustees of the ACES Trust Fund (the "Trust" and plan issuer), marketed as the CollegeCounts 529 Fund, and Union Bank & Trust Company serves as Program Manager. Accounts and investments under the CollegeCounts 529 Fund are not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC, the State of Alabama, the State of Alabama Treasurer's office, the Board, the Trust, the Program, Union Bank & Trust Company, or any other entity.

**Before investing, you should consider the investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses and tax consequences associated with the Program. All of this information is contained in the Program Disclosure Statement. Please read it carefully before investing. For a copy, call 866.529.2228 or visit [CollegeCounts529.com](http://CollegeCounts529.com).**

**If you or your beneficiary is not an Alabama resident, consider whether your home state or the home state of your designated beneficiary offers a qualified tuition program that provides a state tax deduction or other benefits to residents who invest in that program.**

<sup>1</sup>A deduction, not to exceed \$5,000 per taxpayer, is allowed as an adjustment to income on the Alabama income tax return for contributions made to the CollegeCounts 529 Fund or the PACT Program. The deduction may equal an amount up to \$10,000 for married taxpayers filing a joint return where both taxpayers are making such contributions into the CollegeCounts 529 Fund or the PACT Program (closed to new investors).

<sup>2</sup>Withdrawals used to pay for qualified higher education expenses are free from federal and Alabama state income tax. These expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for enrollment at a qualified institution of higher education. Room and board is considered a qualified higher education expense if the student is enrolled on at least a half-time basis. Please note that withdrawals for non-qualified expenses may be subject to state and federal income taxes as well as a 10% federal penalty tax.

**Not FDIC Insured | May Lose Value | No Bank Guarantee**