

SAVING FOR COLLEGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST



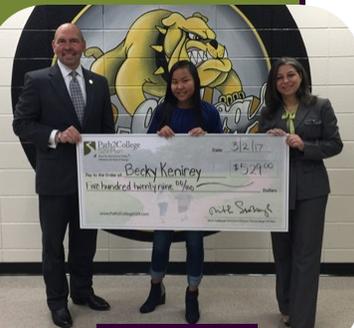
Atlanta



South Georgia



North Georgia



Macon



Valdosta



Columbus



Savannah



Albany



Augusta

Nine Georgia children were awarded contributions to their **Path2College 529 Plans** as winners of the **Saving for College Makes a Difference Essay Contest**. Each winner submitted an original essay describing how saving for college has made, or will make, a difference in their life, in a loved one's life, or in their families' lives. Each winner was awarded a \$529 contribution to a **Path2College 529 Plan**.

More than 1,000 essays were submitted from across Georgia, and essay contest winners included:

Atlanta: Kimberly Kilgoar's sons Aaron, an 11-year-old student at Praise Academy, and Evan, a 16-year-old student at East Paulding High School.

South Georgia: Stacey Perritt's daughter Jessica, a 16-year-old Ware County High School student.

North Georgia: Jennifer White's son Cole, an 18-year-old Lumpkin County High School student.

Macon: Margo Kenirey's daughter Becky, a 14-year-old Monroe County Middle School student.

Valdosta: Beverley Richardson-Blake's daughter Brittaney, a Valdosta State University student.

Columbus: Sandra Adams' five-month-old grandson Harper Adams-Claridge of Druid Hills.

Savannah: Jodie Crome's nephew Nathaniel Ivester, an 11-year-old student at Stephens County Middle School in Toccoa.

Albany: Patrick Dzedzic's son Cole, an 18-year-old Lee County High School student.

Augusta: Stephanie McCord's sons Colby, 13, and Keller, 11, students at Thomson McDuffie Middle School.

"We work year-round to educate families about the state's college savings plan and the opportunity Georgians have to save for college expenses. But sometimes hearing first-hand from someone who has benefited from saving or who is working hard to save for the future is what inspires someone to take that step and start saving for their loved one," said Mitch Seabaugh, executive director of the **Path2College 529 Plan**. "We have nearly 140,000 people who have **Path2College 529 Plans** for current or future college students, and we hope that by recognizing some of their stories we can reach other families who haven't taken the step to start saving yet."

Families have saved more than \$2 billion in the **Path2College 529 Plan**, doubling the amount invested in just five short years. Additionally, more than \$558 million has been withdrawn to pay for higher education-related expenses on behalf of more than 34,000 beneficiaries (as of 12/31/16).

"While these numbers are impressive, there are still thousands of children with no college savings," said Seabaugh. "We want to change that, and with as little as \$25 parents, grandparents, relatives and friends can open or contribute to a **Path2College 529 Plan** account."

For additional information about the **Path2College 529 Plan** or to open an account, please visit www.Path2College529.com.