

Celebration offers opportunity to learn about saving for college

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Gothenburg will be one of the sites for the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust NESTFest celebrations Saturday, Oct. 6.

The Nebraska Educational Savings Trust (NEST) and Gothenburg State Bank will host "NESTFest" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the bank on Lake Avenue, which will be blocked off from vehicular traffic.

NESTFest is a celebration of Nebraska's 529 College Savings Plans and an opportunity for families to learn more about how they can save for their children's futures.

Free for the whole family, NESTFest will include a petting zoo, photo booth, face painting, kids bingo, seat belt safety simulator, food, games, magic from the Amazing Arthur, local entertainment and much more.

As part of the NESTFest celebration, NEST is also offering each new customer a \$50 account bonus to jump start a college savings plan account. Representatives from NEST will be available to answer questions about the bonus, the NEST plans and saving for college.

"NESTFest 2011 was a wonderful, fun event that gave young families an opportunity to spend time together outdoors and, at the same time, learn more about how to save for college to ensure their children's educational futures. We are expecting a large turnout this year too," said State Treasurer Don Stenberg.

"We want families across Nebraska to know about our fine state-sponsored College Savings Plans that are available to them."

NEST has been recognized by national experts as one of the top college savings plans in the nation, according to Deborah Goodkin, managing director of college savings plans, First National Bank of Omaha, which is the program manager for NEST.

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“We’re extremely proud of the program and equally as proud of the commitment thousands of families have made to save for college and help create a bright future for their children,” she said. “NESTFest is an opportunity to celebrate Nebraska’s 529 College Savings Plans and the many opportunities ahead for Nebraska’s youth.”