EDVEST best investment for future

When you think of your children or grandchildren’s education, college may seem like a distant dream. But turning that dream into reality will require some early planning and commitment today. Do you realize that college tuition has risen nationally at a rate five to ten times faster than household income over the past 10 years? Financial aid has shifted from 80 percent to less than 80 percent during the same period. The average student debt at graduation has risen to nearly $27,000 today and is increasing dramatically. Families are faced with a major expense, which is second only to buying a home. What should parents do?

EDVEST WISCONSIN, the state-administered college savings program, offers a good place to start. Through the program, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles may open an account for a child and invest as little as $25 monthly. Currently, funds are invested in government and corporate bonds. Additional investment options will be available starting February 2003.

The EDVEST program may be used for undergraduate and graduate tuition, fees, books and room and board at most public and private colleges and technical schools nationwide. There are many tax benefits, some of which are exclusive to EDVEST:

- Beginning January 1, 2001, parents may deduct from taxable state income up to $8,000 per year per child for deposits to an EDVEST account.
- Earnings are exempt from state income tax.
- Federal tax on earnings is deferred until funds are withdrawn, after which the student is taxed as ordinary income.
- Qualifying families may also use the federal HOPE and Lifetime Learning tax credits for additional financial benefits.
- Special gift and estate tax benefits apply.
- No income limits.

EDVEST WISCONSIN was created by the Wisconsin Legislature, signed into law in 1996 and recently expanded. The program is managed by the Wisconsin State Treasurer’s Office. It offers a flexible, tax-advantaged, reliable way to save for future college expenses. The EDVEST toll-free hotline is 1-888-338-3789, or you may visit their website at www.edvest.state.wi.us.

Distinguished Alumni Awards presented

Steve Kittleson

Kittleson received his bachelor of science in industrial education in 1970 and master of science in vocational education administration in 1974 from Stout, and has completed additional coursework at U-W-Milwaukee and Concordia University.

Throughout his career, Kittleson has held various positions at the Grafton Senior High School in Grafton, Wis., including teaching industrial technology education instructor and assistant principal. Recently, Kittleson accepted a promotion to principal of the high school.

Kittleson has also distinguished himself in his development of an alternative vocational tract for non college-bound students during his time at Grafton. This program provides an important bridge from high school to the world of work for these students by developing skills needed in later work, and providing co-op opportunities.

“During the last 30 years, Kittleson has developed a reputation as a caring, committed and hard-working educator who never gives up on a student,” said Grafton principal Edward M. Schmidt. “His successes as an educator are a result of his willingness to focus his total energy on a project and follow it through to completion.”

Her contributions to the profession have been recognized with other prestigious awards, including the Education Professions Development Act Award; Wisconsin Leadership Award; Honorary Life Membership in the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America; Laureate citation from Epilogue Pi Tau (The International Honorary Fraternity for Professions in Technology); the J.F. Ingram Award from the International Honorary Fraternity for Professions in Engineering; the J. F. Ingram Award from Iota Lambda Sigma, Epilogue Chapter (National Society for outstanding Leadership in Industrial and Technical Education); and the Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award from Auburn University.

Kruska is currently an associate professor at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., where her philosophy of teaching includes actively involving the students in their own education. “Teaching should be student-centered to serve culturally diverse learners at various ability and maturity levels effectively and efficiently,” she said. “Students should be actively involved in the teaching-learning process as well as in decisions related to and affecting their learning.”
Las Vegas

Flirting with the “king.” (l-r) Bill Albrecht ‘51, Elvis, Valerie Bloom Cornwell ‘53, Dean Cornwell ‘52.

Boston

Alpha Sigma Alpha reunion


Las Vegas


Stout grads gather for wedding


Boston

(l-r) Sue Pittman, Bob Collins ‘72, Pat Bril ‘91, Chancellor Sorensen, Seth Rankin ‘94, Pat Reisinger.

New York

(l-r) Mary Darnano BS ‘65, MS ‘67, Leo Chan, Phyllis Chan ‘75, Lana Francis BS ‘73, MS ‘76, Sue Pittman.