



Media Contact:
Lindsay Hebert
Devaney & Associates
410-296-0800
lhebert@devaney.net

For Immediate Release

The Maryland College Investment Plan Again Named One of the “Top” 529 College Savings Plans in the Nation by Morningstar Inc.*

Plan recognized for its affordability, tax advantages and management

BALTIMORE (November 9, 2011) – The College Savings Plans of Maryland announced today that the Maryland College Investment Plan, managed and distributed by T. Rowe Price, has been recognized as one of the top-rated college savings plans in the nation by Morningstar, Inc. for the second straight year. The Maryland College Investment Plan was one of more than 50 529 plans evaluated in this year’s survey and one of just six to be awarded Morningstar’s “Top” best-in-class rating.

In its report, Morningstar highlighted T. Rowe Price’s management of the Maryland College Investment Plan, as well as the plan’s reasonable price and the Maryland State income deduction on contributions of up to \$2,500 annually per account or beneficiary. According to Morningstar, “with this offering, you get not only a top-notch plan overall, but conscientious stewards.”

Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp, Board Chair of the College Savings Plans of Maryland, commented, “Once again, we are proud to be recognized for offering Maryland families a college savings plan that is among the very best in the nation. T. Rowe Price’s commitment to making the Plan affordable and flexible for participants, combined with a selection of portfolios recognized for the quality of their management, makes the College Investment Plan one of the best 529 choices in the country to help families save for college.”

The College Savings Plans of Maryland also offers the Maryland Prepaid College Trust, another Maryland 529 plan that gives families an opportunity to lock in tomorrow’s tuition at today’s prices and is backed by the security of a Maryland Legislative Guarantee. Prepaid tuition plans like the Prepaid College Trust were not included in Morningstar’s analysis.

Both plans offer attractive federal and Maryland State tax benefits and can be used at nearly any accredited college in the country. Enrollment for the Prepaid College Trust is open from December 1, 2011 through April 2, 2012, while enrollment in the College Investment Plan is open year-round.

Morningstar analysts reviewed 58 plans for its 2011 survey, of which 6 plans received a “Top” rating. Morningstar analysts reviewed 52 plans for its 2010 survey, of which 5 plans received a “Top” rating. Ratings for each plan are based on five factors: the quality of the underlying investment options; performance of those options; the skill of the managers of those options; the costs associated with each plan, and the stewardship practices of each plan’s program manager. Plans were then assigned ratings of “Top,” “Above Average,” “Average,” “Below

Average," and "Bottom." To earn a "Top" rating, a plan must be best-in-class across all five areas.

Please carefully read the Enrollment Kit which describes the investment objectives, risks, expenses, and other important information that you should consider before you invest in the College Savings Plans of Maryland. The Enrollment Kit is available at www.CollegeSavingsMD.org or by calling 888.4MD.GRAD. Also, if you or your beneficiary live outside of Maryland, you should consider before investing whether your state or your beneficiary's state offer state tax or other benefits for investing in its 529 plan.

College Savings Plans of Maryland, Administrator and Issuer T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc., Program Manager and Investment Advisor T. Rowe Price Investment Services, Inc., Distributor/Underwriter

**Morningstar is a trademark of Morningstar, Inc.*